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GRAND LODGE was held on the 7th inst., and was presided over by SIR LUCIUS CURTIS, P.G.M., for Hants. Neither the G.M., the D.G.M., or the G. Wardens were present.

Bro. HAVERS, after moving the reception of the Report of General Purposes in a speech of some length, seemed anxious to prevent any one else from discussing the question. Though, since it depends upon the EXECUTIVE what clauses of the Report shall be moved for *adoption*, and what for *reception* only; and since, if once *received*, no clause can afterwards be discussed, unless they are pleased to move its *adoption*, it is obvious that independent Members of G.L. are at the mercy of the EXECUTIVE, unless they discuss the report on the question of its *reception* being put. The best justification of this course is found in the fact that both Bro. SAVAGE and Bro. SPIERS considered that the particular clause in the Report upon which the discussion was raised, ought not to have been put for adoption at all.

The question was simply this, whether the Board have the power to suspend a Mason, without the sanction of G.L.? The Book of Constitutions is clear upon this point where it states (p. 101) that the decision of the Board "shall be final," and that in case of suspension only, they are not even bound to report to G.L.

We are surprised that so eminent a jurist as Bro. HAVERS should indulge in such clap-trap as that "the Board ought not to have the power of suspending a Brother without the confirmation of G.L." The question was, had the Board the power according to the Constitutions? Bro. SAVAGE had the courage to maintain the law, and Bro. SPIERS to show what the practice had been.

The Brother whose case evoked this discussion has good reason to complain. The laws provide that such cases should be settled in the Provinces, by the Provincial authorities, and it was perfectly illegal for those authorities to remit the case to London.

It was of course to be expected, considering the origin and constitution of the present Board, that they would get all the power they could into their hands, alike regardless of the laws, and of the expense and inconvenience which necessarily accompanies all their schemes of centralization. But the injustice of the proceeding is clear.

IN SPITE of a protest from several Provincial Brethren, £275 was voted for the Decoration of the Great Hall, notwithstanding the uncertainty which surrounds the whole position of the Masonic buildings.

THE SUM of £70 was also voted to patch up the Organs in the Hall and Temple, though the Grand Organist stated his opinion that such an outlay would be entirely wasted. So long as country funds are at the mercy of a London Board, and a London Grand Lodge, this unprincipled waste of charity funds will probably continue to prevail.

WE ARE glad to notice that the EXECUTIVE intend issuing the minutes of G.L. as soon as possible after each meeting.

The GRAND SECRETARY too deserves credit for furnishing the W.M. of the Lodge of Economy, Winchester, with the statement of Provincial attendance in G.L.

PATRONAGE again. We considered in our last notice of this subject the case of the GRAND MASTER, and contended that his office ought to be terminable. Of course, even under the present system it is so in theory, virtually it is not. This, however, is not the case even in appearance, as regards the PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS, a body of gentlemen in whose appointment the Brethren in the Provinces are as much interested as in the appointment of the GRAND MASTER, and even more so. These appointments are the first important piece of patronage in the hands of the GRAND MASTER. But why should they be in his hands? Is it because he is most likely to know the

requirements of his Brethren in some "*ultima Thule*" of a Province that he never goes near, (and small blame to him for not going—he can't go everywhere), or in which if he even does go into it, he visits only the one town in which a foundation stone is to be laid, a Provincial Grand Lodge held, or some special ceremony to come off? We will suppose the case. The GRAND MASTER is actually coming. He is received in state, he assumes the throne for a minute, and pays a well turned compliment to the Pr. G.M., who returns it with interest. Divine service is attended, and a sermon is preached, in which most likely Free-Masonry is carefully identified with Christianity. The Pr. G. Lodge is closed, and then the serious business of the day commences. Dinner is served, carefully to the magnates, less so to the Brethren at large, champagne corks fly, probably at the expense of the Pr. G.M., and all is love and loyalty to both G.M. and his nominee of the Province. But not *then* is the discontent expressed. That oozes out afterwards. To pass from this subject, however, and return to that of appointments. The office of Pr. G.M. in this Province of one visit, falls vacant, and is of course in the patronage of the GRAND MASTER. The Brethren, perhaps, all wish for A., who is a kind-hearted, considerate, honest, English gentleman, and unanimously considered the man for the place. But a certain energetic P. Pr. G.W., say B., or some such person, has always given more decided, more reliable support to measures of the ministerialists, and has proposed the G.M. for re-election, who remembers, moreover, that in his Pr. G. Lodge, he made some very sound and sensible remarks in favour of a much desired scheme of the EXECUTIVE to which opposition was expected, which remarks brought up some votes from some present on that occasion, visitors as well as members. Who then so fit for the post? For he is now in selecting Brethren for promotion in the Provinces, to give the preference to those who vote on the right side, and so faithful adherents to the cause will be rewarded, others attracted, and the cause generally strengthened. And after all he may do very well, very passably, but what of the Brethren he is to rule? He may also, as many have done, not do so well; but may, as we know has been the case, when he has obtained the rank he—perhaps—cared for, omit to call a meeting of his Provincial Grand Lodge for a little matter of seven or ten years, and how is the Order likely then to flourish in his Province? We know of an instance in which, quite lately, seven years intervened between one Pr. G. Lodge and the next, during the latter four or five of which there was only one G. Warden, the other having died, and his place remained vacant. What encouragement is given, under this system, to any Masons in the Provinces to "work?" Having arrived at the degree of M.M., they know certainly that there is such a thing as the purple, but never having seen it bestowed but once, (viz.: on the day the champagne corks last flew), almost look upon it as a myth, certainly as an honor far above any of them, and wonder at the very sight of it in front of a stray visitor, who (belonging, perhaps, to a working Province), wonders in his turn at the rustiness and

rustiness with which the Brethren and the air seem alike infected.

However, there he is, this R.W. Pr. G.M. When he does appear, he makes a few re-appointments, one or two new ones, (with regard to which he has taken the advice of his Deputy, of course one of his own sort), and languidly expresses an amount of enthusiasm for which people did not give him credit before, and to which those who know him best, mentally reply with "a nose adapted thumb." But get rid of him they can't. They didn't want him, they wanted some one else. However, they got him and hoped the best, and soon found their worst fears realized. What is to be done? Why they must "grin and bear it."

Now this is a state of things which really ought not to be possible. What is the remedy? Obviously that the Provinces should have, at least, a voice, in the appointment of the Pr. G. MASTERS. It is so elsewhere. We will instance Canada as the last formed Grand Lodge, and one therefore likely (as having taken care to "be warned in time by others' harm,") to be the best ordered. There the Pr. G. MASTERS are elected by their respective Provincial Grand Lodges. The members of these bodies in England are at least as likely as the G.M. to know who is the fittest man in each case to preside over them. The G.M. himself, we presume, thinks more so, for he has conceded to the District (or Colonial) Grand Lodges, the privilege for which we are contending for the Provinces in England. Why did he do this, but that he saw that the time had come when the Colonies would know how to assert their right, and urge their claim to know far better than one living at a distance from them the particular merits of the several Brethren, eligible by position or otherwise, for the office of Pr. G.M.? The same argument applies to the English Provinces, many of which are almost as much an unknown land as regards the G.M. as our Colonial possessions. The G.M. must have a veto in some shape. We do not now wish to insist upon details, but to urge a general principle. Pr. G. MASTERS now have to satisfy the G.M. of England. If elected by their Provincial Brethren, they would be obliged to take some pains to satisfy them. Provincial Grand Lodges in place of shams, would become realities, with more respectable functions than eating and drinking on a larger scale than a private Lodge. Nor should we hear any more of motions displeasing to the Clique in London, being burked or shelved, by obedient Pr. G.M.'s.

The points then, for which we contend, are—

1. That the Provinces have a voice in the election of Pr. G. MASTERS.
2. That such election, be like that of G.M., (as urged in our last number), terminable.

Until we have the first of these points granted, we shall have at least some careless and inactive Pr. G. MASTERS.

Until we have the second, many of the leading county gentlemen of England, who now see that the Craft is clique ridden, and that they have no particular inducement to enter it, will studiously keep out of it, and refuse us their countenance.

When we have them both, the interests of the Order

will advance, in proportion as the interest of any one Clique will diminish. The present plan has been tried and has failed. It is for the Craft to apply a remedy. We again refer our readers to the Book of Constitutions, p. 23, §. 14, a passage which, though for their own interest, "Grand Lodge" seems heartily to dislike—a passage which we shall never tire of quoting.

THE Brethren of the Province of Hampshire are getting troublesome, and must be snubbed. They are actually of opinion that their Provincial Grand Lodge is constituted for other purposes besides drinking healths, and uttering stereotyped compliments. Even so respectable a functionary as the Mayor of Portsmouth seems to have become infected with the epidemic, and in place of confining himself to the regulation of harbour dues and bum-boats, has presumed to be of opinion that the Provinces are not properly represented in Grand Lodge. We may expect to hear next that the perpetual re-election of the same GRAND MASTER is injurious to the Craft, as discouraging other noblemen from interesting themselves in its affairs. In short we may expect to hear anything from persons so extremely ignorant of ancient and modern landmarks. For does not every one know that just as the stability of the Order depends upon our always having a Whig G.M., so that keystone of the Masonic arch rests upon the foundation of a monopoly of power by the London Brethren? And no one surely who loves our Society can object to such an equal division of labour, as the Provincials paying the taxes, and the Londoners spending them. What can be so unreasonable as for the Provinces to wish to have a voice in the appointment of the Board of General Purposes, when the GRAND REGISTRAR has been so kind as to take all the trouble of such an invidious task off their hands? Why, if the Board were elected by voting papers, so that London and the country were put upon an equality, we should, perhaps, have a large proportion of them returned from the Provinces; and they might be instructed to object to that liberal and generous distribution of their funds in all directions, which exemplifies the diffusive character of Masonry, and refutes the vulgar notion that it is mainly a charitable institution. And then Bro. HAVERS would be unable to reward his friends with annuities after a year's service, which it took other people thirty years hard work to obtain—and then Grand Lodge would come in time, perhaps, to represent England, in place of London—and then we should have no more cliques. And then, of course, must come the deluge. So that we hope nobody will ever attempt to disturb the *status quo* any more. But if their attendance at Grand Lodge, costs them as many pounds as it does pence to the Londoners, why it only gives them an opportunity of showing their zeal for

Masonry. And if they stay at home in consequence, why then they show their sense, and their zeal for their own firesides at the same time, and we are sure their wives will be pleased, and the Londoners will be pleased, and the Executive will be pleased, and every body will be pleased, except, perhaps, Bros. STEBBING, and PORTAL, and SHERRY, and such like, who have antiquated notions about fairness and the Constitutions, and whom, therefore, it is hopeless to please.

ONE undoubted advantage attending a quarterly publication like our own is that, though its views of Masonic policy must be patiently entertained for so long under the heavy fire firing from the Executive in G.L., and the hebdomadal skirmishing of their subsidized organ, the few remarks which it is our duty to offer to our readers from time to time are accredited to their notice as the expression of matured opinion, and are entitled to that consideration which may fairly be claimed by honest deductions from carefully digested premises.

It is not without unhesitating conviction that we dissent from the policy of the resolution passed in June by a large majority in G.L., on the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, to increase the salary of the GRAND SECRETARY. We will, as requested, assume Bro. GRAY CLARKE to be an accomplished gentleman. The incubus of epistolary duties is said to be heavy upon him. In the discharge of this function he is certainly not wedded with the devotion of a bigot to the style of Lord CHESTERFIELD, but would seem, from the published specimens of his art, to affect rather the school of JUNIUS, and this was evidently felt by Bro. HARRINGTON, the talented and zealous Masonic Reformer of Canada, in the important correspondence which has been perused by all who are interested in the welfare of our Order in foreign parts. "As regards myself," writes Bro. HARRINGTON, "your letter is very personal." Doubtless it was intended to be so. "The M.W. the GRAND MASTER," he continues, "is more likely to perpetuate disunion than to banish discord by instructing the GRAND SECRETARY to adopt the extraordinary tone of your last letter." Till the humiliating confession made by Bro. Lord PANMURE at the Special Meeting of G.L. in June we had thought Bro. HARRINGTON in error as to the author of the insults to which he was subjected. But the D.G.M. then said that, "though the letters were penned by the G. SECRETARY, they were letters written by desire of the G.M., letters of which the G.M. was substantially the author, and of which the D.G.M. also was cognizant." Of this new Patent Official Automaton Scribe we could not have imagined a Fox MAULE the motive power: nor, when the oracle in its utterance ignored the simple elements of courtesy,

could we have dreamed of a DUNDAS upon the tripod. No future critics on the Masonic literature of the period would, we are convinced, (but for Bro. Lord PANMURE'S assertion,) have ascribed these epistles to the now avowed authors, and we hope the majority of the Craft will share with us a feeling of disappointment at the discovery. But, the ground of originality in composition being thus cut from under his feet, and the pungent sarcasm having been thus laid bare as mere second-hand bluster, have the present G. SECRETARY'S few months of place entitled him to claim that which was earned as a good service pension by his predecessor after many long years of ministry? This was the question raised by the economists in G.L., and we make bold to think it was wrongly answered. In our judgment the Board was stultified and the brethren misled, and the transaction savoured of jobbery. Now, however, that the point has been decided, we will not add a word on the abstract question. May Bro. CLARKE, moderating his tone with experience, live to perform more gratefully the duties of his position, and to reap its emoluments.

That Bro. HAVERS, as President of the Board which last year recommended that no increase of salary should be made in this department, sacrificed, on the occasion to which we refer, the decencies of ordinary consistency to the divinities of nanceuvre, and trampled under foot his own matured convictions in the intoxication of a party division, will astonish few. Of his reply in this debate he must himself, on retrospection, be heartily ashamed. We will not condescend to argue against such a tissue of incoherent contradiction and insolence. His peroration, perhaps, he considered a model of Masonic expression and oratorical taste. "As to the only charge brought against the G. SECRETARY, I shall add to the words of the DEPUTY G.M. that, 'Harrington is to Canada what Portal is to England.'" That our astute cotemporary the *Mirror* softens this asperity of idiom proves that some one who breathes the upper air with Bro. HAVERS has blushed for him by proxy. Occasionally, however, even in corrected sheets, the vigorous Saxon facie are allowed to appear in their naked charms. "How about the Charities now?" is bellowed from the dais during a speech of a brother on the floor. "Who's your hatter?" or some other bloom of cabstand "*claff*," may be shortly expected from lips that so habitually degrade G.L. by gratuitous personalities.

Bro. HAVERS has been reported to have expressed regret and surprise that brethren of social position and rank do not interest themselves more in the affairs of the Craft and attend the Quarterly communications. Will somebody tell him in a friendly spirit that himself is a living answer to the enquiry? That, where gentlemen are at variance weapons may be used more refined than privileged invective, and shield more becoming than placeman's sneer. That it is no boast to English Masonry in the nineteenth century that the spirit of Thersites, vexed so long by the memory of its rough usage among barbarian Greeks, has at length found refuge and security near the throne of its august Parliament.

WE ARE glad to see that the P.G.L. of the Channel Islands is taking steps to prevent the initiation of persons in Lodges where they are unknown without a certificate of respectability from the Lodge of the place where they usually reside.

THE Pr. G.M. for HANTS., has, we regret to see, persuaded his P.G.L. not to entertain the question of the present monopoly of power by the London Brethren, but to refer its consideration to the Private Lodges. In accordance with which Bro. SHERRY has brought forward a series of sensible resolutions in an admirable speech, which seems to have met with universal approval in Lodge No. 90, Winchester. We hope the question will be generally taken into consideration throughout the Provinces.

The D. Pr. G.M. for SOMERSET has prevented his P.G.L. from considering the building scheme of the Board of General Purposes, though in Hampshire a Special P.G.L. was called for the express purpose.

Perhaps, when English Masons have obtained the same share as their Colonial Brethren in the appointment of their Pr. G.M., these scandals will be of less frequent occurrence.

STEADY PROGRESS is being made in the cause of the Charities throughout the Provinces, and the Boys' School is soon to be able to accommodate its members in the House.

We have before stated our conviction of the justice of placing all the boys upon an equal footing, so as to allow those who wish it to live at home, upon an allowance equal to what is expended upon the Boarders.

GRAND LODGE.

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The regular quarterly communication was held in the Temple, on Wednesday last, the 7th inst., the R.W. Bro. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M., Hants, presiding as Grand Master, supported by the R.W. Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn, Prov. G.M. for North Wales and Shropshire, as D.G.M.; Bros. Col. Browning, P.G.W., as S.G.W.; John Savage, S.G.D., as J.G.W.; Roxburgh, G. Reg.; the Rev. Wentworth Bowyer, G. Chaplain; W. Grey Clarke, G. Sec.; King, P.G.D., as S.G.D.; Slight, J.G.D.; Jennings, G. Dir. of Cers.; Pocock, G.S.B.; Daukes, G. Supt. of Works; Horsley, G. Org.; Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec. Bros. Havers, Scott, Hopwood, Potter, S. B. Wilson, J. N. Tomkins, T. R. White, Fouldle, and Phillips, P.G.Ds.; Bros. Walsmsley, Spiers, Philipe, Masson, P.G.S.Bs.; Chevalier Hebler, &c., &c.

The minutes of the last Grand Lodge having been read and confirmed, the Grand Secretary read the report of the Board of Benevolence, from which it appeared that in June, eight petitions were relieved by votes, amounting to £97 2s., and £30 recommended to be given to Bro. Noah Wardle, of No. 421, Marple; in July three petitions were relieved with £40; and August seven petitions, with sums amounting to £90 10s., and £30, recommended to be given to Bro. Wm. D. Lowe, of No. 95, Sunderland.

The report was received, and the two sums recommended, granted.

The report of the Board of General Purposes was then read.

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

"The Board of General Purposes beg to report, that on the 15th March last, on the complaint of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Sussex, they caused a summons to be issued to Brother Thomas Heward, of the Mariners' Lodge, No. 878, at Littlehampton, to attend and produce the Warrant and Books of the said Lodge; that failing to attend on the 19th April, he was peremptorily summoned to attend at the next Meeting of the Board; that on the 17th May he again failed to attend, but forwarded a communication, praying for further delay, which was granted; that since then he has neither attended nor taken any notice of the communications of the Board, and the Board have therefore felt it their duty to suspend him from all Masonic functions, and now report the same to the Grand Lodge.

"The Board also report, that it has been brought under their notice by the M.W. Grand Master, that the members of certain Provincial Lodges are in the habit of wearing embroidered on their aprons other emblems than those sanctioned by the Book of Constitutions; the Board have directed a communication to be made to the Provincial Grand Master of the Province, directing his attention to the circumstances, and requesting him to take the necessary steps for the discontinuance of a practice which is in violation of the law, p. 118.

"The Board further report, that they have received an application from Messrs. Elkington & Co., the Lessees of the Tavern, requesting the grant of a sum of money, to be expended in repairs of the Great Hall; that they have caused enquiry to be made under the authority of the Grand Superintendent of Works, who reports that the repairs necessary may be completed for a sum not exceeding £275, and that competent persons are ready to undertake the work. The Board therefore recommend that the sanction of Grand Lodge be given for such outlay.

"The Board also report, that they have caused the Organs in the Great Hall and Temple to be carefully examined, and an estimate made of the expense of putting them into an efficient state. The Board have reason to believe that the cost will not exceed the sum of £70, and they therefore recommend that they be authorized to expend that amount.

"Complaints having been made to the Board of the inconvenience to which Provincial Brethren may be put by the late period at which the Quarterly Communication papers are issued, they have made arrangements by which, for the future, such papers will be printed and circulated as speedily as possible after each Grand Lodge.

"The Board have much pleasure in recommending that the following Lodges, which have made the necessary returns, be removed from the lists of those which are summoned to shew cause at the next meeting of Grand Lodge why they should not be erased, viz:—Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love, No. 64, Arundel; Derbyshire Lodge, No. 143, Longnor, Staffordshire; St. David's Lodge, No. 474, Milford; Combermere Lodge, No. 880, Liscard, Cheshire; Peveril of the Peak Lodge, No. 940, New Mills, near Glossop.

(Signed)

JOHN HAVERS,

Freemasons' Hall, London, 22nd August, 1859.

President."

The President of the Board of General Purposes said it became his duty to move "That the report just read be received," and in doing so he felt it due to Grand Lodge to make a few remarks on two statements in the report which did not require confirmation. The report stated that it had been brought under the notice of the Board that the members of certain Lodges were in the habit of emblazoning on their aprons emblems not warranted by the Book of Constitutions. This was so directly opposed to the spirit and laws of Masonry, that the Board had called the attention of the Prov. Grand Master to it. The next subject to which he had to direct attention was, the future publication of the official reports of the proceedings in Grand Lodge. Complaints had been made by many members that they did not receive those reports until about ten days before the following Grand Lodge. These complaints appeared so reasonable, that the Board, having given their attention to the question, had made arrangements for issuing the report as early as possible after each quarterly communication. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. W. P. Scott, P.G.D., having seconded the motion—

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal rose to ask a question relative to the Lodge at Littlehampton, but was stopped on a point of order by Bro. Havers, who said that the only question before G.L. was the reception of the report, and that the particular point ought to be discussed when the clause relating to it was moved for adoption.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal was quite aware of that, but on former occasions it had been ruled that, where a clause in the report was not moved for adoption, discussion could only take place on the motion that the report be received. He was not aware that the clause in question required adoption, but, if such were the case, he was perfectly ready to assent to the reception of the report, and take the discussion subsequently.

The resolution having been put and carried,

The President of the Board of General Purposes said it now became his painful duty to move a resolution on the subject referred to by Bro. Portal. It was with great regret that he felt called upon to move a resolution asking Grand Lodge to confirm the suspension of Bro. Heward, of the Mariners' Lodge, No. 878, at Littlehampton, from his Masonic duties. The Board had received a complaint from the D. Prov. Grand Master that Lodge, No. 878, had neglected to make the usual returns. On enquiry they found that Bro. Cheriman had been the last Master, and that Bro. Heward had been the proprietor of the house at which the Lodge was held. The Lodge had fallen into difficulties, and Bro. Heward, who was the Secretary, had left the house, taking with him the charter and furniture of the Lodge. The Board summoned Bro. Heward to appear before them, when he wrote a very proper letter, in which he stated that the Lodge, consisting principally of the masters and mates of vessels, had fallen into difficulties during the Crimean War when the trade of the town was much interfered with, but that if time were given him he would call a meeting and endeavour to revive the Lodge. Time was given him, but nothing being done, a second summons was sent him by the Board, in May or June, when he again asked for time—promising to call a meeting in a fortnight. That he had not done, and since that time he had taken no notice of the communications of the Board of General Purposes beyond simply writing a letter acknowledging that he held the furniture and charter of the Lodge, by which he stated he had lost money. (Hear.) This was an instance among many of the great inconvenience which arose from allowing the master of a house where a Lodge was held to become the custodian of the charter and property of a Lodge. (Hear.) Whether Bro. Heward should even have been

appointed the Secretary of the Lodge was another question; but he held a letter in his hand from that brother, stating that he held the charter and regalia, and declining to give it up. He therefore would now move that the suspension of Bro. Heward be confirmed.

Bro. Roxburgh, G. Reg., seconded the resolution, thinking it most important for the interest of Masonry that the authority of the Board should be upheld.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal said there could not be two opinions with regard to the justice of suspending Bro. Heward; but he objected to the present motion upon two technical points. In the first place, he did not see the necessity of the motion at all, as all that the Board of General Purposes had to do, according to the Book of Constitutions, p. 101, was to report that they had suspended a brother; and Grand Lodge was not called upon to express any opinion upon the subject unless an appeal was made against the decision of the Board. In the second place it was laid down at p. 45, that all subjects of Masonic complaint against Lodges or individual brethren were to be heard and determined by the Prov. Grand Master or his deputy, and it was not shown why this case had been allowed to come to London, whilst the Prov. or D. Prov. Grand Master might much more easily have arranged it on the spot.

Bro. Savage, S.G.D., fully concurred with the last brother that the suspension was justified, and was of opinion that Grand Lodge ought not to be called upon to express an opinion unless an appeal was lodged against the suspension as laid down at p. 100 of the Book of Constitutions.

Bro. Spiers, P.G.S.B., stated that in a case which occurred in his province no report even of a suspension of a brother was made to Grand Lodge.

Bro. Stebbing was of opinion that this subject ought never to have been brought before Grand Lodge or the Board of General Purposes at all. It ought to have been adjudicated upon by the Prov. Grand Master or his deputy, when probably local interest might have been brought to bear upon the brother, and led to a conclusion which might have rendered the suspension altogether unnecessary. A great deal might be done through the influence of neighbours and friends which could not be effected through the Board of General Purposes.

Some further discussion ensued in which Bros. Gregory, Mason, Adlard, and Symonds, took part, and in which it was shown that the complaint was laid before the Board of General Purposes by the D. Prov. Grand Master, who had failed in inducing Bro. Heward to surrender the charter of the Lodge.

Bro. the Rev. J. S. Sidebotham moved that the matter be referred back to the Provincial Grand Master of Sussex.

Bro. Havers briefly replied, and contended that it had always been the practice, or ought to have been, to take the opinion of Grand Lodge relative to the suspension of a brother, and no such power should be allowed to exist in any but the supreme body. The Board of General Purposes had not, or ought not to have, the power of suspending a brother without the confirmation of Grand Lodge; and even if there not many precedents for the course now proposed to be taken, he would call upon Grand Lodge to make a precedent for the future, and thereby prevent the supreme power being exercised by other than themselves. With regard to what had been stated relative to the Provincial Grand Master, it was not until the Deputy Provincial Grand Master had done his best to secure the charter of the Lodge for the brethren, that he had remitted it to the consideration of the Board of General Purposes, whose power to deal with it could not be questioned.

The resolution was then put and carried.

THE HALL.

The President of the Board of General Purposes would, as an introduction to his next motion, read a paragraph from the report of the Board: "The Board further report that they have received an application from Messrs. Elkington and Co., the lessees of the tavern, requesting the grant of a sum of money, to be expended in repairs of the great hall; that they have caused inquiry to be made under the authority of the Grand Superintendent of Works, who reports that the repairs necessary may be completed for a sum not exceeding £275, and that competent persons are ready to undertake the work. The Board, therefore recommend that the sanction of Grand Lodge be given out for such outlay." He might mention that their house had cost them a large sum in repairs—in ten years grants having been made for the purpose to the extent of £1,500. It has been proposed by Messrs. Elkington and Co. that a grant of £500 or £700 should be made for repairing the hall. The question has been referred to the Grand Superintendent of Works, who had reported that the necessary repairs might be made for £275. He believed that the tenants were satisfied with what was proposed to be done, and he, therefore, moved that the sum be granted.

Bro. W. Pulteney Scott seconded the motion.

Bro. Masterman thought that the lessees ought to repair the house themselves. Were they not bound to do so under the lease?

Bro. Havers: They were not.

Bro. Masterman: Then they ought to be. The lessees got the benefit of the house, and the Craft had the benefit of paying for the repairs, which was no benefit at all. (Laughter.)

Bro. Stebbing rose to oppose the motion, as he thought it most ridiculous to expend £275 on the repairs of the hall, when they were on the eve of a discussion with regard to the future arrangement of the premises; which might make those repairs perfectly useless. He looked upon this as a most reckless expenditure of £275, abstracted from charity. (Cries of "No, no.") He maintained that it was so; for though the money was not avowedly subscribed for that purpose, whenever they had a surplus of money they transferred it to the funds of one of their charities. (Hear.) He thought on the eve of making alterations in their property, the expenditure most inopportune, and that the utmost they should be called upon to do before the whole question was taken into consideration should be to keep out wind and water. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was then put and carried.

THE ORGANS.

The President of the Board of General Purposes had next to bring forward a resolution, which he believed was to be opposed by one of his earliest friends. It was a question of which neither himself nor any member of the Board of General Purposes had the slightest personal interest, nor could have. It related to the organs. They had received from the Grand Organist an opinion that the present organs were perfectly useless, that he was opposed to all expenditure upon them. The Board had come to the conclusion to recommend that they should be repaired at an expenditure of £70, but they had not done so without the fullest consideration. He held in his hand a report from Mr. Bates—he believed he ought to say Bro. Bates, for he was a highly esteemed member of the Order—the organ builder, of Ludgate-hill, which stated that not only could he put them into serviceable repair, but that if properly looked to from year to year they would last for twenty-five years. He took the opinion of that gentleman as that of an upright man, and he

stated that he could efficiently repair the organs for £70, and guarantee to keep them in good order for £5 5s. a year; the reason they were out of order being, that they were not sufficiently used. Seeing that in Bro. Bates's opinion the organs might be made serviceable for twenty or twenty-five years at a moderate expenditure, and not believing that the organs which they had had in use but a comparatively short time could be altogether worn out so as to render new ones necessary, he would move that £70 be granted for the repair of the organs.

Bro. Dr. Hinxman seconded the motion. He had seen Bro. Bates, who assured him that he could keep the organs in good repair at an expense of £5 5s. per annum each (not £5 5s. the two), which sum should include every expense. The cost of repairing the organ in the temple he estimated at £40, and that in the hall at £25.

Bro. Horsley, G. Org. said he was sorry to intrude himself upon the brethren. Indeed this was the only subject upon which he would venture to address them. He had now had the honour to hold his office for nearly three years, and when he was first appointed he was asked to examine the organs. He did so, assisted by a most competent person, and he found them in such a state of rack and ruin, that the first thing he recommended was that they should discontinue the payment of £12 12s. a year for keeping them in repair. He sent his report to the Board of General Purposes, but whether it was received he had never heard. Last year another committee was appointed to examine the organs, on which were Bros. Roberts and Le Veau, and upon their consulting him (Bro. Horsley) he repeated that the organs were perfectly useless; and that to attempt to repair them would be to throw the money away. He recommended that they should have two entirely new organs, which might be obtained for about £300—£200 for the hall and £100 for the temple. No notice was taken of his report, and the first intimation he received of the proposed expenditure of £70 for repairs, was when he saw it on the printed paper of business—not having been at all consulted with regard to it. He had the greatest respect for Bro. Bates, with whom he had had business transactions, and knew him to be a gentleman of the highest honour and probity, but he was convinced from the rottenness of the materials that they might as well throw the money into the Thames as attempt to repair their present organs. He was convinced that they were utterly worthless, and he would recommend that they should either have new organs, or wait until the whole question of the property was under consideration. In the meantime he could manage to play a little on the organ in the temple, and when they met in the hall it would be better to dispense with the music altogether, or to hire an harmonium. He would move as an amendment that that part of the report which recommended an expenditure of £70 on the organs be not approved.

Bro. the Rev. J. S. Sidebotham seconded the amendment; considering that as the Grand Registrar was the legal adviser of the Craft, so ought the Grand Organist to be as regarded the organs, and they were bound to act upon his opinion.

Bro. Col. Browning thought it would be useless to expend £300 upon new organs, when they had the assurance of Bro. Bates that those they now had might be put in good repair for £70. As to the rottenness of any portion of the materials, that was for Bro. Bates to consider in making his contract, and not for them.

Bro. Jennings, G.D.C., said that the question of the organs had been fully considered by the Board, after placing them under the closest inspection. They had heard the opinion of the Grand Organist, that the organ in the gallery was utterly useless, and that in the temple worthless; but they must recollect that the Grand Organist was a player of extraordin-

ary skill and standing, and that he was in the habit only of performing on instruments of a character commensurate with his position in the profession, and great allowances ought therefore, to be made for his opinion, that nothing could be done with the present organs. They should also recollect that they had the organs inspected by a manufacturer, who stated that for every purpose of the Craft he could put them in repair, and guarantee to keep them so for twenty-five years, at an annual cost of £5 5s. each. When they considered the solemn silence with which they had opened their business that evening, and the entire absence of any attempt of the Grand Organist to produce any notes from their organ, it surely became them to make an effort to give better effect to their ceremonies if they could do so through an expenditure of £70. He (Bro. Jennings) had taken considerable pains to make enquiries on the subject, and he was authorized by Bro. Bates to say that, if he did not put the two organs in a satisfactory condition, he "would make no claim for payment." (Hear, hear.) If they were placed in such a condition that any ordinary player could perform upon them, how much more might they not expect from the skill of their esteemed Grand Organist. (Cheers.)

The amendment was then put and negatived, and the original resolution carried.

ERASURE OF LODGES.

The President of the Board of General Purposes had now the painful duty to move that seven Lodges be erased from their books; but, if any brother had anything to advance why in any case the erasure should not be proceeded with, the Board would willingly consent to its being held over to give an opportunity for resuscitation, though he looked upon the Lodges proposed to be erased as defunct. In the first place he should mention that, since their last meeting, five Lodges had been removed from the list proposed to be erased, simply on the ground that they have complied with the requisition of Grand Lodge, and made the necessary returns. And here he might be allowed to say that, in some instances, this had been done under circumstances highly honourable to the brethren in the provinces, who had come forward and paid the dues for a quarter of a century, in order to revive the Lodges; and he had great pleasure in omitting them from the resolution he had to move. He would now go through the list of those proposed to be erased, begging them to recollect that they would only put them in a position *sub judice* until the resolution was confirmed; and if anything could be done to resuscitate either of the Lodges in the meantime, there would be nothing to prevent its being taken out of the list at their next meeting. The first Lodge on the list was No. 49, Lodge of Concord, London, and was formerly held at the Turk's Head, in the Strand. The Lodge had not met for many years past, and ought properly to have been erased before. It had come to his knowledge within a few days that some zealous brethren were exerting themselves to recover the warrant, and resuscitate the Lodge. He wished them every success, and should have great pleasure if they enabled them on the next occasion to take it out of the list. The next Lodge was No. 366, School of Plato, Cambridge, which was reduced to three members—the warrant being in the hands of the junior member, who declined to hold a Lodge, and the Prov. Grand Master was of opinion it ought to be erased. He now came to No. 459, Lodge of Benevolence, Sherborne, regarding which he had a letter from Bro. Highmore, a most zealous and active Mason, stating there was no chance of resuscitating it. The Lodge had not met since 1851, and it was believed the warrant was in the possession of the widow of the last W.M., and would be recovered and

returned to Grand Lodge in a few days. The next was No. 751, Prince Edwin's Lodge, Eye, Suffolk. It had not met since 1852, and the remaining members had determined not to make any exertions to revive it, and the D. Prov. G.M., the W. Bro. Fleming, reported that it might be already considered as defunct. He then came to 765, the Roden Lodge, Wem, in the province of North Wales and Shropshire, the Prov. Grand Master of which (Bro. Sir Watkin Wynn) they had the pleasure of having among them that evening acting as D. Grand Master. The Prov. Grand Secretary reported that the Lodge was defunct, and that there was no prospect of reviving it. The next was No. 806, Castlemartin Lodge, Pembroke, South Wales, which the Prov. Grand Master (Bro. Johnes) reported as also defunct. He now came to the last on the list, No. 878, the Mariners' Lodge, Littlehampton, which had occupied their attention in the early part of the evening—the Lodge having fallen into difficulties and the warrant being in the hands of the Secretary who was the keeper of the house where the Lodge had been held—both the last Master of the Lodge (Bro. Cheriman) and the D. Prov. Grand Master recommended that under the circumstances the Lodge should be erased, as the only means of resuscitating Masonry in Littlehampton. The R.W. brother concluded by moving a formal resolution for the erasure of the Lodges.

Bro. Hopwood, P.G.D., seconded the motion, which was carried *nem. con.*

All business being ended, Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

SPECIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Thursday, June 23rd, 1859, an especial Grand Lodge was held, to proceed with the business proposed and intended for consideration at the last quarterly communication, but which time did not permit of being then brought forward.

The M.W. Grand Master, the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland presided on the throne; and among the Grand Officers present were the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Lord Panmure; Lord de Tabley, S.G.W.; Bros. Frederick Dundas, P.G.W., as J.G.W.; S. Tomkins, G. Treas.; Roxburgh, G. Reg.; W. G. Clarke, G. Sec.; Savage, S.G.D.; Slight, J.G.D.; Rev. Wentworth Bowyer, G. Chaplain; Jennings, G.D.G.; Woods, Assist. G.D.C.; Pocock, G.S.B.; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; C. P. Cooper, Prov. G.M., Kent; Col. Ramsay, Prov. G.M., Bengal; Col. Brownrigg, P.G.W.; Pattison, P.G.W.; W. H. White, P.G. Sec.; Rev. J. E. Cox, P.G. Chaplain; Havers, P.G.D., President of the Board of General Purposes; Wilson, P.G.D.; &c.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, and with solemn prayer,

Bro. W. Gray Clarke, Grand Secretary, read the notice convening the meeting, and then said—M.W. Grand Master, as the first business to come before Grand Lodge is personal to myself, I have to request permission to retire while the discussion is going on, as my presence might interfere with the freedom of discussion.

The M.W. Grand Master having granted the requisite permission, Bro. Gray Clarke withdrew.

THE GRAND SECRETARY'S SALARY.

Bro. Havers, President of the Board of General Purposes, resumed the debate upon the report of that Board, commencing with the following paragraph:—"The Board have had their attention directed to the present duties of the officers in the Grand Secretary's department, and they are of opinion that the salary of the Grand Secretary is inadequate, and is not a sufficient remuneration for a gentleman who, owing to the increase of work, is compelled to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office, and they recommend to Grand Lodge that the salary of the Grand Secretary be raised to £400 per annum. The Board further recommended that the salary of the second clerk (Bro. Buss) be raised to £150 per annum; and that such increase of salaries shall take place from the 1st January, 1859." Bro. Havers then moved, *pro forma*, that the Grand Secretary's salary be increased as recommended.

Bro. Smith, G. Purs., seconded the motion, and said—Before I state the reasons for this vote, I think it right to state that the Grand Secretary himself has been no party to this arrangement, in any way whatever. (Hear, hear.) He has not in any shape, influenced me, or any of the Brethren at that Board. On the appointment of Bro. Gray Clarke to this office, it was contemplated to increase his salary, and I was consulted on the subject. I thought it should come before the Board of General Purposes before it came before this Grand Lodge. I consented to bring it before the Board of General Purposes, and I did so. I moved for a committee of that Board something like two years ago, and on that committee were Bros. Dobie, Havers, John Harvey, S. Barton Wilson, White, and Henderson (Grand Registrar.) I found that the Grand Secretary did not receive the same salary as the late Grand Secretary, and I thought that if he was worthy to be honoured with the appointment, he was worthy also to receive the salary, and the committee agreed to a recommendation to that effect. Bro. Dobie, the President of that committee, thought £500 a-year would not be too much for the salary of the Grand Secretary of the Freemasons, but we eventually were unanimous in recommending £400. The matter was referred back to the committee by the Board of General Purposes, and two Brethren were added to it. We had a discussion again, and in bringing up the report the committee was not unanimous, some thinking it not prudent to make any such recommendation to Grand Lodge just then. However, when the report came to this Grand Lodge, it thought proper not to agree, and Bro. Farnfield and the junior clerk had their salaries increased, while Bro. Gray Clarke and Bro. Buss (two excellent Brethren) were passed over. The matter was again brought before the Board of General Purposes, and in doing so I showed that I thought a great act of injustice had been committed towards our Grand Secretary, seeing that our assistant Grand Secretary received a larger salary than the Grand Secretary. That I could not understand, although the Assistant Secretary's addition was made for long and faithful services. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps I may be told that although the present Grand Secretary receives only £300, while the late Grand Secretary received £400, that £100 of the £400 was a gratuity for lengthened services. (Hear, hear.) Still, it was nevertheless £400 for services rendered to the Craft; and if Bro. White had asked for £600 or even £800, he would have got it. (Oh! oh! "order," and "question.") What I mean is, that if he had wanted more he could have had it. Now we have not heard any Brother find fault with the present Grand Secretary, (hear, hear), and if he is worthy to fill the late Grand Secretary's office, he is worthy to have the late Grand Secretary's salary, although I fear we shall not be unanimous on the subject (hear, hear, and a laugh), because, owing to certain circumstances we have not been so unanimous lately as we might have been. He does not hold any other appointment; every one knows where to find him, for he is always at his post. As Masonry is fast increasing, so his labours have vastly extended, so that he has often to take some of his work home and go on with it till ten or eleven o'clock. Every Brother who has had occasion to call upon him must admit how ready he always is to give his assistance, and his time is greatly taken up by the calls which are made. I hope Grand Lodge will accede to this motion, although I could have wished that the matter had fallen into abler hands than mine. (Applause.)

Bro. Stebbing said he was sorry this matter had been brought forward so prematurely. He hoped Bro. Havers would withdraw the motion and not let them pay so poor a compliment to Bro. White, as to give to Bro. Gray Clarke, after eighteen months' service, the same salary which Bro. White had after thirty-five years. He was sure that the poorer brethren would see with regret such a motion passed, as it would consume a sum which would suffice for five annuities. As to Bro. Farnfield his salary had not been increased, but a gratuity of £100, in addition to his salary, had been granted him for lengthened service. He would have no objection to give Bro. Gray Clarke some extra salary when—he hoped the day would be very far distant—it might please the G.A.O.T.U. to take Bro. White. (Loud cries of "Oh, oh!") At any rate he ought to serve five or ten years, and then be rewarded; it was rather too early, after eighteen months, to ask for an increase of twenty-five per cent. on his salary; and if they granted it he thought they would excite great dissatisfaction, especially as Bro. Clarke took office on the understanding that £300 was the salary.

Bro. Symonds—Bro. Stebbing has not ventured to say that he thinks £400 a year to be too much for any gentleman who devotes the whole of his time to the duties of his office; his only argument is, that Bro. White received only £300 a year up to the point of his retirement. But he has not stated that Bro. White had another appointment, the Secretaryship of the Artillery Company. It was an appointment worth his holding, and of course it prevented his giving

the whole of his time to the duties of the Grand Secretaryship. Bro. Stebbing has urged that by adding this £100 to the salary of our Grand Secretary, we should be taking it from moneys which are devoted to charity; but our Bro. Stebbing, if he considered for a moment, must know that this is not the case, inasmuch as all the salaries are paid out of the funds of the Board of General Purposes, and not out of the funds of the Board of Benevolence. He urges also that Bro. Gray Clarke took office on that salary; but I believe it was never clearly explained to Bro. Clarke that he would have only £300 a year; I know that there were other Brethren anxious to be appointed to the office, and they thought that they were to receive £400 a year. But the question is, whether £400 is too much for a gentleman who devotes the whole of his time and attention to the matter, and not what, in times gone by, we have given as salaries to our officers. The business of the office has very much increased; for, whereas, in 1842, there were issued 1,403 certificates, in 1856 the number was 3,721. In 1842 the amount of money received was £2,774, and in 1856 it was £5,809. Now we must be well aware that there could not be that additional number of certificates and that additional amount of money, without involving a large increase of labour in the Secretary's office (hear); and it is on these grounds that the Grand Secretary has been required to give up his whole time to the duties of his office, and that he should not be allowed to undertake any other appointment. Under these circumstances, I cannot but think Bro. Stebbing's observations ill-timed. We must not consider how long Bro. Clarke has been in the office, but whether or not £400 is too much to give a gentleman who devotes his whole time to the duties of his office and to our service. I trust, therefore, that Grand Lodge will support the recommendation which the Board of General Purposes has felt it its duty to make. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. E. Purton Cooper brought forward as an analogous case the librarian of the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn, with respect to whom a similar question had recently been raised, and the result was, that they had increased his salary from £300 to £400, and they had had reason to be satisfied with the result.

Bro. Mason said, for thirty-five years Bro. White had only £300 a year. In fact, at the time of the union, the joint Secretaries only had £150 a year each, which, with fees, was increased to about £270 each; when, however, it was thought proper to pension Bro. Hartland, and do with one Grand Secretary instead of two, Bro. White had £300 a year. They must bear in mind also that although there had been an increase in the business of the office, there had at the same time been an increase in the staff. (Hear.) He had yet to learn that the duties of the office of Grand Secretary required so much talent and so much skill, or that so much talent and so much skill had been displayed, as to warrant the money now asked in addition. It was certainly not a pleasing task, but he felt it a matter of duty to move the following amendment—"That so much of the report as recommends the increase of the salary of the Grand Secretary to £400 a year, be not adopted."

A Brother, whose name we could not learn, seconded the amendment, on the ground that it was premature to raise the Grand Secretary's salary so short a time after his entrance upon the duties of his office; and that the present salary was sufficient, judged by what was paid elsewhere, such as to secretaries of clubs, who rarely get over £400 a year. In fact, he believed he was correct in stating that that was the highest salary paid to the secretary of a club, and the duties of the Grand Secretary's office had decreased instead of increasing.

In reply to Bro. Hearne, Bro. Havers said that the Grand Secretary received £50 a year as Grand Scribe E.

Bro. Le Veau—I feel sure that every member of this Grand Lodge, and every brother throughout the Craft, will agree with me when I say, that the responsible office of Grand Secretary to our important body, should be filled by one who is in every sense of the word a gentleman. (Hear, hear, and applause.) By those cheers I learn that in this point you agree with me. (Hear, hear.) My next point is, that the brother filling such a situation should be amply repaid for his services. (Hear, hear.) The proposer and the seconder of the amendment tell us that the duties of the office have not been increased, but that they have been decreased; but I think I shall be able to show you that such is not the fact—that not only have those duties not decreased, but that they have greatly increased. The gratuity of £100 a year to our late Grand Secretary was made partly for the lengthened services to the Craft, but partly also on account of additional labours devolving upon him. (Hear.) That gratuity was passed by a vote in 1838 or 1839; and has that vote ever been taken since? If not, how can it be said that the £100 did not substantially form part of the £400 a year? (Hear, hear.) Our late respected Grand Secretary also received £50 as Grand Scribe E., which made his salary £450 in 1839, when the Lodges were 669, and

all we ask is, the same allowance for Bro. Gray Clarke, in 1859, when the Lodges number 1,094, instead of 669, or nearly double. (Hear.) I will now call your attention to another important point, which entails great labour upon the Grand Secretary, and that is, that he answers every letter himself—(hear, hear)—be it long or short. (Hear.) In 1842, the first year in which they were numbered, 1,030 letters were received by post and by hand; but in 1858, the number was 3,384; and in the first six months of the present year, there had been received 2,147; and if they came in in the same ratio for the rest of the year, the number will be 4,294 for 1859. Now, I ask you, whether that does not entail a vast amount of labour. (Hear, hear.) I ask any brother here, who will sit down and answer four thousand and odd letters during the year, whether it is not a work of labour; and then the Grand Secretary has other letters to write by command of the Board of General Purposes, and other boards and committees connected with Grand Lodge. Then he has the minutes to prepare, and to give attendance upon the Grand Master, and on other parties connected with Grand Lodge, so that his duties engage him many an evening when he ought to be taking repose. Instead of his labours being confined to the office hours, from nine till five, he often labours at home for four or five hours in the evening. The Colonial Board has also added to his labours very materially, and therefore I feel sure that the brethren here will agree with me, that they would not wish any gentleman who gives up the whole of his time for the benefit of the Craft, and the promotion of its welfare, to work not merely during office hours, but also at home during the evening, without being amply repaid. I call upon you, therefore, in the name of justice, and in the name indeed of all that is honourable, to vote this extra £100 a year to Bro. Gray Clarke's salary, and to enhance the value of it by voting it unanimously.—(Applause.)

Bro. Binckes had not intended taking part in this debate—(laughter)—in fact he had fully determined not to do so. (Renewed laughter, and ironical "Hear, hear.") He was at a loss to understand the risibility of which he was the innocent cause (laughter), for he did not know that he had so far stultified himself as to render what he said unworthy of the attention of Grand Lodge. He admitted, in reply to Bro. Symonds, that the salaries were paid from the Board of General Purposes, and not from the funds of the Board of Benevolence; but at the same time they must not forget that it was from the funds of the Board of General Purposes that, rightly or wrongly—he could not then stay to inquire—£1000 had been granted to the Crimean Relief Fund, and £1000 to the Indian Mutiny Fund (hear, hear); and if any brother proposed, as he had a perfect right to do, that a contribution should be made from this fund to our charities, he would now be met with the objection that the Grand Secretary's salary had just been raised, and that, at any rate by £100 a year, the resources of the fund had been diminished. (Hear.) In 1858, the Board of General Purposes, in a report signed by Bro. Havers and Bro. Roxburgh, were against the salaries in the Grand Secretary's office being raised; and nothing had been shown to have occurred since that report which would justify the change of opinion which had taken place in that Board on this subject. He would be the last man in the world to grudge any man a fair reward for the work done; but this request was made prematurely and unjustly; when, however, the proper time came, he had no doubt but that Grand Lodge would unanimously award to the Grand Secretary some recognition of his services.

Bro. Stebbing next rose, but was assailed with loud cries of ("Spoke; spoke!")

Bro. Jennings—The brother has a right to speak to the amendment.

Bro. Stebbing—Eh?

Bro. Jennings—I said you have a right to speak to the amendment.

Bro. Stebbing—Of course I have. (Loud Laughter.) I have a right to speak on every resolution. It is absurd. (Renewed laughter.) The brother went on to say that Grand Lodge ought to be consistent in disposing of its funds, and they ought not to give to Bro. Clarke, after eighteen months' service, the salary they gave to Bro. White, after a service of more than a quarter of a century. It would have a bad effect out of doors, particularly amongst the poorer brethren.

Bro. Gregory said that the services of the Grand Secretary's office should be efficiently performed, and, being efficiently performed should be duly compensated. (Hear, hear.) They were told that Bro. White's salary was only £300 a year, and that the other £100 was merely a gratuity; but gratuity or salary, it was given year by year; and if they only gave Bro. Gray Clarke this £100 a year, he did not suppose he would care a great deal whether they called it a gratuity or an addition to his salary. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Let them not forget, moreover, the fluctuation in the value of money, £300, some years ago, was worth as much as £400 now. ("Oh, oh!" and hear, hear.) Even assuming that the business of the office has

not increased, the fact of their having underpaid Bro. White was no reason why they should underpay their present Grand Secretary, (hear, hear), especially when, from necessity or choice, he devoted so much more time to the duties of the office. When the poorer brethren came for charity, or any of the brethren for business, Bro. Clarke was always to be found at his post; and they knew how much more satisfactory it was to see the head of an office than to transact business with any of the subordinates. (Hear, hear.) The secretary of a club did not present an analogous case at all; for he knew how some of those gentlemen transact their business. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The duties of the secretary of a club are far inferior in importance to those of their Grand Secretary; and he had seen the secretary of his own club come quietly in at eleven o'clock in the morning, and when he looked for him at three or four o'clock in the afternoon, he was not to be found. (Hear, and laughter.)

A voice—What club is that? (Laughter, and cries of "Not fair.")

Bro. Gregory—Instead of looking to the clubs for a parallel case, Grand Lodge ought to look to the great commercial companies, and if they did this, they would find that £500 was about the minimum, and that the maximum ranged from £1,000 to £2,000. He asked those brethren who had alluded so eloquently to their own duties, whether they would like to discharge those of the Grand Secretary.

Bro. Stebbing—Yes. (Laughter and applause.)

Bro. Gregory—But not for £300 a year. (Hear, hear.) He had been connected from early youth with the administration of large sums of money, and the management of considerable numbers of men, and the result of his experience was, that if they paid men low, they would have bad services. However great the claims of charity may be, they ought not to lead us to forget what is due to those whose faithful services we enjoy. Nor was the fact that we have not acted liberally in the past, any ground for our acting unfairly for the future. (Applause.)

A brother whose name we did not learn, said the secretaryship of great commercial companies did not present an analogous case, inasmuch as the revenues of those companies were often immensely greater than that of Grand Lodge. £500 a year would be a far more gentlemanly salary (laughter), and on a future occasion they would probably find their Grand Secretary asking for that sum.

Bro. Cottrell (No. 14), said they had been told that they ought not to be generous before they were just—(hear)—still they might be just (hear). The majority of the members of Grand Lodge were incapable of judging of the work which the Grand Secretary had to do, but the Board of General Purposes was conversant with his duties, and it was from them that the recommendation for an additional salary had come (hear); and unless they had good reasons for a contrary course, which had not yet been brought forward, the recommendation of that Board ought to be adopted.

Bro. Whitmore agreed that the Board of General Purposes ought to be best able to judge as to what were the claims of the officers of Grand Lodge; but when he found that Board introducing in 1859 a recommendation quite opposite to that which they introduced on the same subject in 1858, he thought they had fair grounds for doubting their judgment. (Hear.) He knew the Grand Secretary, who some years since was a Past Master of a Lodge to which he belonged, and he had a very high respect for him; it was only therefore from a high sense of duty that he opposed the proposition before Grand Lodge, because the only circumstance which to his mind could justify the increase did not exist, viz., the request for an increase on the part of the Grand Secretary himself. (Oh!) The case of the librarian of Lincoln's Inn was not analogous, inasmuch as although the Grand Secretary required, and no doubt possessed, that average intelligence, gentlemanly deportment and manners, which constituted the chief requirements of his office, yet there was no need for that vast learning and varied ability required in such a post as that of the librarian referred to. Again, if they gave him this increase thus unasked for, they would prevent his getting it in a manner far more honourable to himself, namely, by coming up and asking for it, after he could plead, say, five years' service as justification for asking it. (Laughter.) He was glad to see the dryness of the discussion enlivened (hear, and a laugh), but if he did not succeed in making himself understood to Grand Lodge, he was thoroughly intelligible to himself. (Renewed laughter.)

Bro. Savage said the main point seemed to be somewhat overlooked; it was not what they had done thirty or forty years back, but—was the sum of £300 adequate or inadequate as the Grand Secretary's salary? (hear), that was the question. (Hear, hear.) He should, therefore, on this occasion support Bro. Havers, although it was sometimes his misfortune to disagree with that brother. [Bro. Barratt—"You'll never do so any more."] (Loud laughter.) The Grand Secretary was capable of all that Bro. Whitmore said, and more.

Bro. Whitmore—I never for a moment insinuated that there was any lack of information on the part of the Grand Secretary (hear hear); I merely spoke of the abilities required in his office.

Bro. Savage enlarged on the advantages they enjoyed by reason of the Grand Secretary's knowledge of continental languages, in addition to his mother tongue, by which means he was enabled to correspond with brethren in various parts of the world.

Bro. Wymne thought it would be much better to leave it to his lordship to make some such proposition at some future time. (Oh!)

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal—My lord, before this matter comes to a vote, I think it is very important that, if possible, we should arrive at an unanimous decision; because, if the matter is settled by anything like a narrow division. Bro. Gray Clarke will be robbed of a very great part of the gratification which such a vote ought to give him. (Hear, hear.) I am certain there is but one wish on the part of Grand Lodge, viz., to act kindly to Bro. Clarke; and I can assure those who have brought forward this motion, that Grand Lodge will not be anything like unanimous if it is pressed to a division. Bro. Savage has not put the point quite fairly when he says that the question for us to consider is, whether this £300 or £350 is a fair remuneration for a gentleman of Bro. Clarke's abilities and demeanour. The question is, whether, what was enough eighteen months back is not enough now? If the salary is insufficient, why did he accept it? (Oh, oh!) Is the Board of General Purposes to say, only one year ago, that after thoroughly investigating the nature and extent of the duties of the Grand Secretary's office, they are of opinion that it is neither "necessary nor desirable that any increase should be made in any of the existing salaries," and now to contradict it? They did not make that report in ignorance of the subject, but after careful investigation they reported that all the officers were sufficiently paid. What then has happened between that time and this which can justify them in now saying that Bro. Clarke is not well paid? Is there some newly discovered mine of efficiency in him, or some arduous duties not before thought of? I need not recall the past, but I may remind Grand Lodge that Bro. Clarke in his correspondence with Bro. Harrington, of Canada, so wrote as to induce that brother to reply—"Your letters to me are so personal as very much to embarrass matters." &c. (Hear, hear!) and cries of order, order! question, question!) This is the question—is it a proof of Bro. Clarke's efficiency that the only way in which he conducts a delicate correspondence is to offend those whom we ought to be solicitous to conciliate. (Cries of oh, oh! question, question!) This is the question, and I shall take care that it shall not be burked. (Laughter.) For myself, I attach more credit to the carefully drawn report of twelve months ago than to that of three months ago, and I shall put my confidence in the former rather than in the latter. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. McIntyre said it was unfair and unandid to oppose both these reports—that which said a year ago that the salaries ought to remain as they were, and that which now proposed to increase them. As to depriving Bro. Clarke of the opportunity of "asking" to have his salary raised, he thought it would not press very heavily on his feelings if they raised it now instead. (Laughter.) One brother who complained now of the increase as diminishing the funds available for charities, told them on the last occasion that they ought to be just before they ostentatiously gave their money to charities. For his own part, he would let their justice and generosity go hand in hand together.

Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Pamure, D.G.M., said—My lord, I am not going into the merits of this question, but I wish to notice one point which was raised by Bro. Portal. Every other brother has borne testimony to the high and honourable character of the Grand Secretary, and no one, with the exception of Bro. Portal, has attempted to cast any slur on the conduct of Bro. Clarke, in the execution of his duties. (Hear, hear.) I must say, that I am surprised at the grounds on which Bro. Portal has blamed the Grand Secretary. (Hear, hear.) He has blamed him for letters written in a controversy which is now, I am happy to say, dead and buried—(applause)—in a controversy in which, though the letters were penned by the Grand Secretary, they were letters written by the desire of the Grand Master himself (hear, hear); letters of which the Grand Master was substantially the author, and of which the Deputy Grand Master also was cognizant, and of which Bro. Clarke is no more to blame than the pen with which he wrote them. (Hear, hear.) If there is anything to blame in these letters, let Grand Lodge visit it on those who were the authors of them, and responsible for them. (Hear, hear.) Let the blame rest on the proper shoulders. Having made this explanation, I shall not enter into the merits of the case, though perfectly satisfied that the motion to increase Bro. Clarke's salary is not only a proper motion in itself in regard to the duties which he has to perform, but it is a motion by passing which Grand Lodge will be consulting its own dignity. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Havers, after the long and wearisome discussion which has taken place, I shall occupy your attention but a short time. We are accused of grave inconsistency in having stated our deliberate opinion that no change should be made in the salaries of the Grand Secretary's department. But having now examined most carefully into the matter, and taking into consideration another matter—to which, in the presence of our respected Bro. White, I need not more particularly allude—we came to the conclusion that if any increase of salary were made, the Grand Secretary should participate therein. We did report that it was not then desirable to charge the Grand Secretary's department with any further salary; but Grand Lodge overruled our decision, and took out of our hands that decision. (Hear.) By their decision to raise the salary of the chief clerk £100 a year, they relieved us from our decision. (Hear, and a laugh.) We were bound to bear in mind that these salaries were taken into consideration twenty-one years ago, (hear, hear), that the salary of the Grand Secretary was then fixed at what the Grand Secretary was receiving now, (hear, hear), that you then increased Bro. White's salary not merely for his extended services, "but in consequence of the increasing duties he will have to perform, and you have doubled the salary of the head clerk." (A voice—"Assistant Secretary.") Well, you have doubled the salary of Bro. Farnfield the Assistant Secretary; you have added a new clerk to the establishment, but you have left the Grand Secretary himself without any increase. (Hear.) We therefore come to the conclusion that it would be only fair and right to put the Grand Secretary himself in at least as good a position as the subordinates in his office. Bro. Whitmore has told us that ordinary intelligence, ordinary capacity, and ordinary politeness, will suffice for the Grand Secretary. But, with all deference to Bro. Whitmore, I think the Grand Secretary of a great, extensive, and most influential institution like ours, should be a gentleman not only perfectly acquainted with our work, capable of giving something more than mere out and dried replies to the letters addressed to him, but able by his skill and judgment often to prevent matters becoming grave and important (hear, hear); understanding the best method by which evil passions may be allayed in 1,090 Lodges, and amongst a membership of 100,000 Masons arranged under our banners. (Hear, hear.) I think we should have a gentleman who will devote himself entirely to our service (hear), body and mind being employed to keep our society working on its proper basis. (Hear.) Now do you remunerate a gentleman of that class, and can you secure his services at the sum of £300 a year? (Hear, hear.) It has been urged that doubling the salary of the Assistant Secretary was in payment for his past services; but is it a sufficient reason that because you pay one brother for his past services you should not pay another for his present services? (Hear, hear.) I do not ask you to give this as a matter of generosity, but of justice. Your head clerk receives £300 a year (justly enough after thirty years' service), and your Grand Secretary receives the same. But does not the Grand Secretary receive £50 from Grand Chapter? Yes; but your head clerk receives £60. (Hear, hear.) The duties now are double those of Bro. White, who, in addition to his salary here, had £210 and a house, as Secretary to the Hon. Artillery Company. He had as Grand Secretary £300 as salary, and £100 as gratuity; £50 from Grand Chapter; £210 and a house from the Artillery Company; total, £660. And surely there is no reason why £400 a year should be too much for Bro. Gray Clarke, whose duties take up all his time. Will you place him in a worse position than his clerks, or the late Grand Secretary? (Hear.) A brother has stated that the work of the Grand Secretary's office has not increased since 1856; it may not materially have increased since 1856, but it certainly has increased greatly since the year in which £300 a year was considered sufficient for the Grand Secretary's salary. It has increased largely year by year since that time, when the receipts of the Board of General Purposes were only £1,700, whereas last year they were £4,000. It was true there had been an addition to the staff, but that did not diminish the labours of the Grand Secretary in connexion with his letters, which are ever on the increase; and through his courtesy and kindness you have matters put to rights every week, which might have been fanned into a flame to the detriment of the Craft. I believe that the value of such services is incalculable to Masonry. As to this allowance diminishing the resources at your disposal for charity, I have told you that your surplus income is £2,500 a year; and do not be over generous to some charities, while you underpay your Grand Secretary. I shall make no appeal to your feelings in favour of Bro. Clarke; and as to the only charge brought against him, I shall only add to the words of the Deputy Grand Master, that Harington is to Canada what Portal is to England, and that but for these two men the question, now happily settled, would never have arrived at the height it did. (Cheers, and "Oh! oh!")

The M.W. Grand Master then put the amendment, which was lost

by a vast majority. The question for increasing the Grand Secretary's salary was then put as a substantive motion, and carried with less than a dozen dissentients.

INCREASE TO THE SALARY OF BRO. BUSS.

The President of the Board next moved, that the salary of Bro. Buss, who had been in the service of Grand Lodge some four years, be increased to £150 a year. He said—I shall not be doing my duty unless I pay Bro. Buss a tribute which is justly due to him. A more zealous and useful officer no body ever had than Bro. Buss.

Bro. Whitmore—I am happy to agree with the mover of this motion, and—

Bro. Havers—How about the charities, now? (Laughter, and cries of Oh, oh!)

Bro. Whitmore: From my heart I pity the brother who could make such an observation. (Oh, oh! laughter, and Order, order!) I was going to say that I have some opportunity of knowing that Bro. Buss is a faithful servant, inefficiently remunerated, and I have great pleasure in seconding the motion. Carried *nem. con.*

PROFESSIONAL AUDITORS FOR GRAND LODGE ACCOUNTS.

The President of the Board then read the next paragraph of the report, which was as follows:—"The Board have under their consideration a plan for simplifying and improving the system of keeping the accounts of the society, which they believe will be of advantage. Considering the magnitude of the accounts and the impossibility of carrying out any systematic or efficient audit under the present regulations, the Board are of opinion that (without interfering with the present audit by the Masters of Lodges), it would be desirable and advantageous that the accounts should be audited once at least in each year, by professional accountants, who should have free access to all such books and documents as they may require. The Board believe that brethren thoroughly competent to undertake such work may be found; and that a sum of twenty guineas per annum will be an adequate remuneration, they therefore recommend to Grand Lodge to empower the M.W. Grand Master to appoint two such professional accountants as auditors."

He moved a resolution in accordance with the above, except that he substituted the word "one" in the place of "two," on the ground that though twenty guineas might be enough for one good professional auditor, it would not suffice to secure two auditors of that standing and competency which the urgency of the case demanded. The present mode of audit was unique. (Hear, and a laugh.) The Masters of twenty Lodges in succession were invited to the Grand Secretary's office at seven o'clock, to audit the accounts, an immense mass of books was put before them, and they were told that supper would be ready at nine o'clock. (Laughter.) Twenty men could not audit the accounts at all, none could audit them in two hours. He proposed that the professional auditor should submit his statement and report to these twenty Masters, whom he neither wished to deprive of their privilege or their supper. (Laughter.)

Bro. Binckes said he seconded the motion with pleasure (laughter), well knowing from experience that the present audit was most inefficient.

Bro. Whitmore opposed the motion, and thought the present plan would work if they put off the supper till another occasion. He opposed the appointment of a professional auditor, believing that the present system might be so improved as to render it unnecessary; and though he did not suppose that such a case could occur whilst the Board of General Purposes was as pure as it was at present, he could conceive that a time might come when, with a less scrupulous Board, the accounts might be so cooked as to deceive the most experienced professional auditor. (Hear, hear, and "Shame!")

A Voice—Then you would only get them there on the supper night. (Laughter.)

Bro. Stebbing also objected to the motion on account of the £20 expenditure it involved. He thought "Grand Auditors" should be elected; the honour would be valued; but for £20 they could not secure the services of a first rate man. It was these reckless additions to their expenditure which raised up their Haringtons and Portals. (Oh, oh! and laughter.) He implored the Grand Master to let this be an honorary distinction, and then some worthy and distinguished Mason would do it for nothing, and would value a seat on that dais, which he (Bro. Stebbing) did not, and, if he did, he should never get it (laughter), at greatly more than £20, or £50, or even £100. (Laughter.)

Bro. Symonds supported the motion, and as to £20 being inadequate, he knew of his own knowledge that the accounts of the commissioners

of sewers, which were very voluminous, were audited by a thoroughly competent professional auditor for £15, although it occupied him three whole days. (Hear.)

The motion was put and carried.

THE SO-CALLED GRAND LODGE OF TURKEY.

The President of the Board called attention to this illegal Masonic body, with which, he regretted to say, that several highly respectable persons had connected themselves. It was stated that a Captain Atkinson, who was at Smyrna at the end of the Crimean war, said that he was (there is no proof that he was) in possession of an Irish warrant. He made twenty Masons, divided them into three Lodges, and they declared themselves the Grand Lodge of Turkey. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) A number of gentlemen had been innocently entrapped into joining it. The Master of the regular "Oriental" Lodge had done the best he could, and deserved much credit for the discreet and zealous manner in which he had acted, though he fell into some errors at first. Bro. Havers concluded by asking Grand Lodge to agree to a motion calling upon all regular Lodges to discontinue this so-called grand body, and to lead back its members into the right path by means provided for in the Book of Constitutions (page 77). Agreed to.

COLONIAL BOARD.

The report of this Board was taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The report was received, and ordered to be entered on the minutes

THE PRINTED MINUTES.

W. Bro. Frederick Binckes, P.M., No. 11, moved—"That it is inexpedient to publish the discussions in Grand Lodge in the minutes of proceedings of the quarterly communications as issued from the Grand Secretary's office." The reason Bro. Binckes wished to have the printing and circulation of these minutes discontinued, appeared to be—because some year or so ago, he had been, as he conceived, inaccurately reported in them. What Bro. Binckes was then (June 16, 1858) reported to have said was, that he "supported the motion and said that the report of the Board of General Purposes did not represent the report of the committee." Bro. Binckes would have been, it seems, content had the summary added the grounds on which he contended that the report of the Board did not represent the report of the committee, namely, "that he had been informed that the report of the committee bore testimony to the efficiency of the services rendered by the officers of Grand Lodge." Another point in the minutes, referred to by Bro. Binckes as being inaccurate, was in a subsequent passage, in which Bro. Havers is represented as having charged Bro. Binckes with saying, that the report in question was come to by a "narrow majority," which Bro. Binckes denies having said. He protested generally against what he called "the unfair and garbled manner in which those reports are presented to the Craft." The official reporter he believed to be a most able man, who had been connected with the *Times* for thirty years, and he felt that any report which he gave would be always fair and impartial. Without specifying any one by name, Bro. Binckes insinuated that some Grand Officer or Officers garbled these reports before they were sent out to the Craft. Having "vindicated his character," he said he should withdraw his motion.

In reply to Bro. Gregory, the Grand Master said it was not competent for Bro. Binckes to withdraw his motion without permission of Grand Lodge.

Bro. Havers said he had examined the report in question, and it contained not one single word which was not to be found in the shorthand writer's notes. (Hear, hear, hear). He hurled back upon Bro. Binckes the insinuation which he threw out of "garbling" with respect to these reports, on the part of the executive, as a base fabrication. (Sensation.) Neither himself nor any Officer of Grand Lodge, except the one who had charge of these reports, had at all interfered with them. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Whitmore—In reply to an unseemly interruption on the part of Bro. Havers, at an earlier stage of our proceedings, I said that I pitied him for the observation he had made: but now I would say, if it be not unmasonic, that I despise him. (Oh, oh! and loud cries of Shame! and Order!) If a brother gets up in this Grand Lodge, I have a perfect right to reply to his observations.

The Grand Master—Not unless you withdraw your unmasonic observations. (Cheers.)

Bro. Whitmore—May I ask your lordship if "base fabrication" be a Masonic observation? ("Hear.")

The Grand Master—Any assertion that cannot be substantiated, is unmasonic. (Cheers.)

Bro. Whitmore—And if I substantiate what I say, shall I be equally in order?

The Grand Master—You can never be in order in saying that you despise Bro. Havers.

Bro. Whitmore—If you say it is irregular, of course I withdraw it.

The Grand Master—I say it is more than irregular, it is disorderly and unmasonic. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Whitmore—I am quite sure his lordship gives me no indulgence, but as the expression is declared to be unmasonic, of course I withdraw it. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Whitmore then said, his own observations having been grossly misrepresented in the minutes alluded to, he should support Bro. Binckes, as he would rather have no report at all than a garbled one.

Bro. Roxburgh having been present on the occasion alluded to, and having read the passage to which objection had been made, declared that the report was fair and accurate, and that there was no garbling or misreporting whatever in the case. If they were to report all Bro. Binckes's observations, these minutes would fill volumes instead of sheets. (Laughter.) Such motions ought not to be allowed to be put upon the paper, unless it could be shown that the executive had in some way violated their duty.

Bro. Stebbing deprecated these gross personalities, which were highly discreditably to them in Grand Lodge, and would appear still more so when they got into print. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the authorities would consider the propriety of prohibiting any publication whatever of the proceedings of Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Lord Pamure, D.G.M.—My lord, I wish to make a few remarks on the motion of Bro. Binckes, and the speech of the brother who has just sat down. I am old enough to remember when the authoritative publication of our proceedings under the sanction of G. L. was first adopted by Grand Lodge; and I think, if my memory fails me not, it was adopted in consequence of garbled reports which appeared in spurious publications, giving rise to much internal disputation within the walls of Grand Lodge. It was then determined that a report, on the authority of Grand Lodge, should go forth of all its proceedings, and that that should be the means of rectifying any evil complained of by the Craft at large, viz., that they were in ignorance of what passed within these walls. I believe that up to the present time the plan then adopted has worked very well. If Bro. Binckes had taken the proper course, such a notice as this would have been unnecessary. The misrepresentations of which he complains took place, on his own showing, twelve months ago. (Hear, hear.) Now I apprehend, in the first place, it is not a very easy matter but a very invidious task, to curtail discussions in Grand Lodge so as to bring them within the compass of an ordinary paper to be transmitted into the country, but on no one occasion since this system existed has there been a well grounded complaint brought before Grand Lodge. Such a motion as this is not the manner in which the complaint should be made. The publication in question is sent forth by authority, and if any brother is misrepresented, his duty and business is to appear at the next quarterly communication in his place, and appeal to Grand Lodge on a question of breach of privilege. (Hear, hear.) That is the course the brother should have taken to state his complaint, and he would doubtless have met with ready redress at the hands of Grand Lodge. But to abolish the publication of these minutes, by means of which the brethren in the country can procure Masonic information in a Masonic manner, would cause great discontent. I hope, therefore, Grand Lodge will not agree to the motion of Bro. Binckes—(hear, hear)—and that for the future, if any brother shall have reason to complain of being misrepresented, he will come forward in a manly manner, and I am sure he will be heard with attention. (Applause.)

GENERAL APOLOGY TO GRAND LODGE.

Bro. Whitmore said that a few minutes reflection had convinced him that the observations which had escaped him were highly improper, and he begged to withdraw and apologize for them; he wished that he could come to the conclusion that the observations which provoked his were as regular as his expressions were irregular.

Bro. Binckes in reply said that he regretted deeply that anything he might have said should have been offensive to Grand Lodge. It was not his wish to attack or offend any brother. He wished he could hear Bro. Havers express himself as Bro. Whitmore had done.

Bro. Havers said that if anything had been said by him which was considered offensive either by the Grand Master or by Grand Lodge, he withdrew and apologised for it. If he had spoken with undue warmth in repelling what he believed to be an imputation on the honour of the executive, he regretted it; but brethren must bear in mind that it was not in human nature to be always forbearing, and that no opportunity was lost in Grand Lodge and out of Grand Lodge, in print and in writing, to impute unworthy motives or dishonourable conduct to the subordinate members of the executive. He endeavoured to guard himself from it, and regretted if he had used too strong an expression.

The M. W. Grand Master said he partly took the blame to himself for any inaccuracy in these minutes, it having been his custom to read them through before publication. He found them fairly and honestly written. He would not now shrink from the responsibility, though he had deputed the task to others. *Qui facit per alium facit per se.* (Hear). He was extremely sorry that these things should occur.

The motion was then put, and negatived unanimously.

Grand Lodge was then closed in ancient form, and with solemn prayer, shortly after eleven o'clock.

Foreign and Colonial.

VICTORIA.

FIRST PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT BALLARAT.

The first Grand Lodge of the Craft in Ballarat, was held on Thursday, March 17th, in St. Paul's school-room, under the auspices of the R.W.D. Prov. G.M., Bro. F. Thos. Gell, assisted by Bro. H. W. Lowry, Prov. S.G.W. Bro. Levick, Prov. G. Secretary, acting as Prov. J.G.W. Bro. the Rev. C. P. M. Barden, Prov. G. Chaplain, and the W.M.'s., P.M.'s., and Wardens of the Ballarat Lodges.

At twelve o'clock on the same day the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum was appointed to take place under Masonic auspices—men of all creeds and opinions joining in this truly charitable work.

The stone having been laid, the R.W. Deputy Prov. Grand Master addressed the assembly, and remarked that they were the only body who had preserved a ceremony for such an occasion as that; and it afforded him considerable satisfaction to have the opportunity to aid in the establishment of an institution which had for its object the relief of the poor and the distressed.

A collection was made during the proceedings amounting to thirty-eight pounds.

BAHAMAS.

A special meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Bahamas under the registry of England, was convened at Masonic Hall, on Thursday evening, May the 19th, for the installation of officers for the ensuing year. The following is a list of the present office-bearers:—P. Treco, R.V. Lodge, Prov. S.G.W.; N. French, R.V. Lodge, Prov. J.G.W.; C. R. Hinson, Forth Lodge, T.I., Prov. G. Reg.; J. A. Brook, R.V.L., re-elected Prov. G. Treas.; C. R. Perpell, R.V.L., re-appointed Prov. P. G. Sec.; J. H. Minns, R.V.L. Prov. S.G.D.; J. J. Musgrove, R.V.L., Prov. J.G.D.; C. Mardenbrough, R.V.L., Prov. G. Sup. Works; S. F. Rigby, Forth Lodge, T. I., Prov. G. Dir. Cer.; J. W. Webb, R.V.L., re-appointed Prov. G. Organist; A. Draper, R.V.L., Prov. G. Pursuivant.

Prov. G. Stewards:—W. Sawyer, R.V.L., re-appointed; H. Brown, R.V.L., re-appointed; Joseph Pinder, R.V.L., re-appointed; T. W. Finlayson, R.V.L.; Charles Harris, R.V.L.; A. J. Wynns, Forth Lodge, T. I.

Prov. G. Tyler:—O. M. Carmichael, re-appointed.

The ceremony of installation was performed by S. Dillet, D. Prov. Grand Master.

INDIA.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BENGAL.

A quarterly communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal, was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Monday, the 21st March, 1859, at which were present, the R.W. Bros. John J. L. Hoff, D. Prov. G.M., as Prov. G.M.; Philip W. LeGeyst, P. Prov. G.M.; Henry

Howe, P.D. Prov. G.M.; William Clark, Prov. S.G.W.; John B. Roberts, Prov. J.G.W.; Duncan Monteith, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Wm. J. Judge, P.P.J.G.W.; and the V. W. Bros. the Rev. Dr. F. F. Mazuchelli, as Prov. G. Chaplain; John Gray, Prov. G. Reg.; William H. Hoff, Prov. G. Sec.; W. Fredk. Jennings, Prov. S.G.D.; John G. Llewelyn (P. Prov. J.G.W.), as Prov. J.G.D.; Thomas Jones, Prov. G.S. of W.; Henry Frazer, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Thomas E. Carter, Prov. G. D. of C.; William Handford, Assist. Prov. G.D. of C.; George O. Wray, Prov. G.S.B.; Robert E. Ross, P. Prov. G.S.B.; and Joseph K. Hamilton, Prov. G. P.

Visitors and representatives were present from the Lodges St. David in the East, No. 371, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland; True Friendship, No. 265; Humility with Fortitude, No. 279; St. John's, No. 715; Lodge de Goedo Hoop, Cape of Good Hope; Star in the East, No. 80; Industry and Perseverance, No. 126; Marine, No. 282; Courage with Humanity, No. 551; Kilwinning in the East, No. 740; Star of Burmah, Rangoon, No. 897. A visitor of high rank, R.W. Bro. W. H. Read, Prov. G.M. of the Eastern Archipelago, was escorted in due form to the door of the District Grand Lodge, when the brethren rose, while the Deputy Prov. Grand Master advanced, greeted R.W. Bro. Head, and conducted him to his seat on the left of the throne. The brethren then saluted the distinguished visitor, in the usual manner, seven times.

The District Grand Lodge was opened in form, and with a prayer offered up by the Rev. Bro. Mazuchelli, and minutes of the quarterly communication of the 27th December, 1858, were read and confirmed.

The Prov. Grand Secretary read a correspondence from the Rev. and R.W. Bro. T. C. Smyth, regarding the representation of the Prov. Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago in the District Grand Lodge of Bengal, by the R.W. Bro. J. J. L. Hoff; and also the report of the Finance Committee on the audit of the Prov. Grand Treasurer's accounts. The accounts were examined and found to be correct.

It was proposed by R.W. Bro. Roberts, seconded by Bro. Spiers, and carried, that a committee be appointed, with power to expend a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,500, for the purpose of decorating and furnishing the Freemasons' Hall.

TRINIDAD.

On the 27th December, 1850, the foundation stone of a Masonic Temple, on Mount Zion, was laid by the then governor of the island, the Right Hon. Lord Harris, assisted by Bro. Daniel Hart, W.M. of Philanthropic Lodge, No. 585, and a numerous assemblage of brethren, and the gentry of the island. The building was built on shares between the members of the Philanthropic Lodge; and from the good feeling that prevailed, and the rapidity of the workmen, the brethren were enabled on the 24th of June, 1851, to consecrate and dedicate the same to Masonic purposes. It is a stone building of two storeys, 50 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 25 feet high, in the clear. The upper storey is used as the Lodge room, and is of the entire length and width of the building, besides a preparation room and lobby attached; the lower storey is set apart as a banquetting room, to which is also attached a pantry and spare room. There is a portico in front, 30 feet long by 12 feet wide, built in the Gothic style, with three arches above, and three below, with Corinthian pillars. The building cost the brethren £800 sterling, and is the sole property of the shareholders. By a compact entered into, the building can never be used for any other than Masonic purposes.

At Saufumando, a town twenty-eight miles from Port of Spain, there is also a Masonic building, which was in 1856 erected there by the brethren appertaining to Trinity Lodge; it is a plain, neat, and substantial building, with a Lodge room of 30 feet long, and 18 feet broad, with a lobby, pantry, and banquetting room attached, besides a gallery. The building cost £400 sterling.

At Port of Spain, besides the Philanthropic Lodge, there is the Lodge United Brothers, No. 251, under the registry of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The building stands on Mount Morial, and takes precedence of any other Masonic Hall in the West Indies, except Antigua. It was erected in 1803. It is built of stone; having a very commodious Lodge room of thirty feet long, and twenty feet wide, which is neatly decorated. There is also a banquetting room, lobby, pantry, and preparation room attached, with a fine open gallery to the front. It is the exclusive property of the members who remain faithful to the allegiance of the charter.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

At a quarterly communication of the Prov. Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, held on Wednesday, the 1st of March, Bro. Douglass B. Stevens, P.M. of Lodge No. 780, gave notice that at the next quarterly communication of this Prov. Grand Lodge, he would make the

following motion:—"Whereas, from the number of private Lodges in this province, and the great increase of their members, as also from the extent and importance of New Brunswick, it is due to the Craft in this province to be placed on an equality with their brethren of the neighbouring provinces, and therefore it is incumbent on this Prov. Grand Lodge to move in the matter; therefore be it resolved, that a memorial be addressed to the M.W. Grand Master of the fraternity of Antient and Accepted Masons of England, praying that he will be pleased to appoint by patent a resident Prov. Grand Master for this particular district."

This notice of motion was sent to all the Lodges in the province, and on the 1st day of June it was, at a quarterly communication of the Prov. Grand Lodge, brought before the body for consideration; also a notice sent to each Lodge, by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master that a piece of plate "ought to be presented to the retiring Prov. Grand Master, to be kept in his family as a testimonial of his past services, and a mark of respect entertained for him by the brethren over whom he presided; and as Bro. Keith is now ready to resign, for the purpose of elevating our order in New Brunswick, the D. Prov. Grand Master hoped that the several Lodges would extend their liberality towards a good and ancient custom, and thereby enable the committee to be appointed for that purpose, to present the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Keith, with a gift that would convince him that his services have been appreciated."

The question with regard to a resident Prov. Grand Master was carried in the affirmative. Next was brought up the candidates for that office; the first being Bro. Joel Reading, P. Prov. S. G. W.; next Bro. Alex. Balloch, D. Prov. G. M. On a division, the choice of the brethren fell upon Bro. Balloch by a majority of nine.

CANADA.

GRAND LODGE.

At the Grand Lodge held at Kingston, Toronto, in the early part of last month, two brethren were put in nomination for the office of Grand Master, the M.W. Bro. Wm. Mercer Wilson, the present Grand Master, and the R.W. Bro. Thos. D. Harington, formerly Prov. Grand Master for Quebec. Bro. Wilson had expressed his intention of retiring from the distinguished position he has held since the formation of the G.L., but from the strong representations made to him that it might prove injurious to the Craft in Canada, were he to retire at present, he consented again to assume the duties if re-elected. On the votes being taken, Bro. Wilson was re-elected by more than a hundred. Bro. Harington was elected Deputy Grand Master. The Right Hon. and Right Worshipful Bro. the Earl of Ripon, P.G.W., was appointed representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Grand Lodge of England.

The following are the other Grand Officers appointed:—Bros. F.W. Barron, S.W.; Stevenson, J.W.; T.B. Harris, Sec.; S.B. Harman, Reg.; D. Groff, Treas.; Rev. Jos. Scott, Chaplain; S. B. Campbell, S.D.; J. W. Thomas, J.D.; W. G. Storm, Supt. of Works; L. L. Levy, Dir. of Cers.; T. R. Ridout, Assistant Dir. of Cers.; G. Masson, S.B.; S. D. Blondheim, Purs.; D. G. R. Frupp, Org.; A. M. Munro, Asst. Org.

The M.W. Grand Master was pleased to confirm the nomination of the following brethren as District Deputy Grand Masters for their respective districts:—Central District, R.W. Bro. G. F. Leserre; Toronto District, R. W. Bro. F. Richardson; London District, R.W. Bro. Thompson Wilson; Prince Edward District, R.W. Bro. C. Frank; Montreal District, R.W. Bro. A. Morris; Eastern Townships Districts, R.W. Bro. L. H. Robinson; Ontario District, R.W. Bro. W. H. Weller; Wilson District, R.W. Bro. G. W. Whitehead; Hamilton District, R.W. Bro. Richard Bull. The rank of Past Grand Master was unanimously conferred on Bro. T. G. Ridout.

MAURITIUS.

The Masonic procession of the four Lodges of Port Louis took place on the 24th of June, and was conducted in the most satisfactory manner, and with the greatest *éclat*. St. James's Cathedral was crowned, and every one appeared to take great interest in the excellent sermon preached by Bro. the Rev. M. O'Dell. The service was further enhanced by the beautiful chanting in the choir, and the Lodges generally have to tender their heartfelt thanks to those ladies who so kindly lent their valuable aid on the occasion. The anthem "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," appeared especially to impress the

audience with its solemn harmony. The procession was highly imposing, and all the arrangements were admirably carried out.

After service the brethren proceeded to the Lodge "Triple Esperance," from whence they dispersed. The crowd that was assembled to witness the procession was one of the largest ever seen in Port Louis; there were no constables visible, and the utmost order prevailed. After the procession the brethren of the Military Lodge (deputations from the other Lodges being visitors) met for the installation of their officers, and to present to the Rev. Bro. O'Dell a handsome timepiece as a token of their regard. After the proceedings of the Lodge were concluded the brethren sat down to a substantial repast, during which many loyal toasts were given and responded to with the utmost cordiality. Amongst the visitors were Sir David Barclay, and another eminent Mason, Mr. Bosuson, recently arrived from Paris. Shortly after eleven o'clock the party broke up, and every one appeared much gratified with the proceedings from the commencement to the termination.

Mark Massey.

BIRKENHEAD.—*Joppa Lodge* (No. 5, S. C.)—The brethren of this Lodge held their usual meeting at the Park Hotel, July 27th, Bro. J. P. Platt, R.W.M., in the chair; there was a good attendance of the officers. The following brethren were advanced to the degree of Mark Masters:—Bros. J. B. Hughes, No. 864; Jas. D. Casson, No. 864; S. G. Broomhead, No. 245; T. J. Markham, No. 282; W. G. Pinchin, No. 310.

NEWCASTLE.—*Lodge of Mark Masters.*—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, August 24th, at Freemasons' Hall, Newgate street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. In the absence of the R.W.M., the chair was taken by the S.W., Bro. Septimus Bell, assisted by the rest of the officers. Bro. Penman having been balloted for some time previously and wishing to receive this degree, was admitted in due form, attended by the Deacons, Bros. A. Gillespie and C. I. Banister. The acting W.M. was very impressive in the performance of the ceremony. After the remaining business was completed, a candidate was proposed, seconded, and recorded, and the Lodge was closed at nine o'clock. The brethren adjourned to refreshment and spent a very happy hour.

Masonic Charities.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL

At a meeting of the General Committee on Saturday, the 1st of June, the following brethren were elected as the House Committee for the ensuing year:—Bros. William Henry Absalom; George Cox; Rev. J. E. Cox; A. J. Duff Filler; Benjamin Head; J. S. S. Hopwood; Rev. William H. Lyall; William Paas; Chas. Robinson; William Pulteney Scott; Thomas Waring; and William Young.

The following brethren were elected as the Finance and Audit Committee:—Bros. Henry Empson; George Haward; Peter Matthews; Algernon Perkins; John Symonds; and Henry George Warren.

The following children were admitted as candidates for the benefits of the school:—Thos. Henry Perrott, aged 9, father belonged to No. 45, Chichester; Harold George Weison, aged 8, father belonged to No. 196, Hampstead; and Henry Charles Gregory, aged 8, father belonged to No. 87, London.

Mark Keymer, of Colchester, was voted an apprenticeship fee of £5; and Walter Edward Jackson, of London (who lost his father when the cholera last afflicted London) £10.

£564 were voted to complete the alterations in the school building, which are to be completed so as to enable every boy on the Institution who desires it to be received into the school at Michelmas.

The treasurer's report showed that £600 stock had been purchased, making the amount of stock now standing to the credit of the trustees of the Institution, £14,100.

A letter from Bro. H. E. Francis, of Lodge 211, was laid before the committee, offering his gratuitous services to teach the boys in the school drawing; and referred to the House Committee for consideration.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The balance in hand on the 31st March last, was as follows—Male Fund, £674 17s. 7d. Female Fund, £295 10s. 10d.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Governors of this School was held at the offices, Great Queen-street, on Monday, July 18th, Bro. George Barrett, V.P., presiding.

The Treasurer's report was presented, showing that £600 had been invested, making the funded property £14,100.

It was resolved, that in future the Audit Committee should meet one week prior to the General Committee, instead of only two hours previously as hitherto.

It was also resolved, that all votes recorded for a candidate should be carried forward to his account, until he was either elected or became disqualified for admission to the school by age.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' SCHOOL FOR FEMALE CHILDREN.

A Quarterly General Court of this institution was held on Thursday, 14th July, at the office, 16A, Great Queen street, the W. Bro. J. Udall, P.G.D., V.P., in the chair. Present: Bros. Barnes, V.P.; Ernithwaite, V.P., G. Barrett, Du Pré, Hewlett, Hopwood, P.G.D., Levinson, Patten, P.G.S.B., Sheen, Singer, Symonds, Roberts, Taylor, &c., &c.

The quarterly accounts of the general expenditure of the institution, including salaries, wages, &c., up to Midsummer last, amounting to £549 1s. 5d., and also an account for erecting a garden wall, were directed to be paid.

The Treasurer was instructed to purchase £500 stock in the Three per cent. Reduced Annuities, and to add the same to the funds belonging to the institution.

On the motion of Bro. Symonds, and seconded by Bro. Hopwood, it was resolved that the following alterations be made in the by-laws:—

Rule 10—After the words, "the Chair is taken," and before the words, "at twelve o'clock," insert, "at four o'clock precisely, excepting when there is an election by ballot for the admission of children, when the chair shall be taken as heretofore at twelve o'clock."

Rule 23—Omit "twelve," and substitute "four o'clock."

Rule 12—Omit "one," and substitute "after the business of the General Committee is closed."

The effect of these alterations will be that the chair will be taken at four o'clock instead of twelve at future quarterly general Courts, excepting when children are to be elected by ballot; that the General Committees will meet at four o'clock instead of twelve on the last Thursday of every month; and that adjourned quarterly Courts will meet after the business of the General Committee is closed.

The Court declared six vacancies, to be filled up by election in October, occasioned by the following children leaving the Institution at the expiration of their terms.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----|--------------------------|------------|
| Fanny Freeman Smith, | .. | Father's Lodge, No. 357, | Taunton. |
| Emma Charlotte Hurrell | .. | " " No. 264, | London. |
| Julia Read | .. | " " No. 168, | London. |
| Sophia Reinhardt France | .. | " " No. 727, | Wakefield. |
| Mary Ann Brewster | .. | " " No. 109 and 49, | London. |
| Emma Cox | .. | " " No. 425, | Oxford. |

The following candidates, whose petitions had been examined by the General Committee, were recommended to the Court to be placed on the list of candidates for election in October, and were so placed accordingly:—

Emily Jane Nixon, daughter of the late Bro. John Nixon, surgeon, of the St. John's Lodge, No. 409, Wigton, Cumberland.

Mary Ann Campbell, daughter of the late Bro. Stephen Campbell, of the Silurian Lodge, No. 693, Usk, Monmouthshire.

Mary Ann Emma Williams, daughter of Bro. Wm. Williams, hatter, of the Angel Lodge, No. 59, Colchester.

Emily Ann Morris, daughter of the late Bro. George Morris, licensed victualler, of the Enoch Lodge, No. 11, London.

Alice Freeman, daughter of the late Bro. David Freeman, postmaster and tax collector, of the East Surrey Lodge of Concord, No. 680, Croydon.

Jemima Tomasin Laws, daughter of Bro. Geo. Laws, late licensed victualler and barge master, of the Lodge of Sincerity, No. 203, London.

Lavinia Watts, daughter of the late Bro. James Watts, stationer and printer, of the Amphibious Lodge, No. 322, Heckmondwick, Yorkshire.

Adela Annetto Gray, daughter of the late Bro. Charles Henry Gray, formerly a merchant in Liverpool, London, the East Indies, and China, of the St. George, No. 6, Corner Stone, No. 5, London.

Ann Kilpin, daughter of the late Bro. John Palmer Kilpin, tailor, of the Pomfret Lodge, No. 463, Northampton.

Bro. J. Udall gave notice of the following motion,—“That the number of children to be admitted to the school be increased from the present number, viz., 70, to 80.”

The proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to Bro. Udall for his conduct in the chair.

Provincial.

(From the "Masonic Mirror.")

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The R.W. Bro. J. J. Hammond, P.G.M., held a Lodge on the 31st of May. In the local fund of benevolence a balance of nearly £90 was announced, notwithstanding that considerable claims upon it had been promptly and efficiently met. Bro. Adams, Prov. G. Sec., brought forward two propositions, of which due notice had been given, namely, "That the committee of the fund of benevolence be empowered to grant the sum of five pounds, if the case before them be thought worthy;" and also, "That the R.W. Prov. Grand Master be entitled to grant three pounds on the recommendation of the said committee." After a short discussion, both of these received the sanction of the meeting. Bro. D'Allain proposed, in accordance with his previous notice, "That no stranger to the island should be initiated into Masonry by any Lodge in the province, unless a communication be received from the Worshipful Master of the Lodge situated in the town in which this stranger resides, in case there be a Lodge; and that he is of respectable character and of good reputation." Bro. Du Jardin proposed as an amendment, "That the matter be referred to the Committee of General Purposes." Bro. Le Couteur proposed as a second amendment, a direct negative. All these were of course duly seconded, and an animated discussion ensued, in the course of which, reference was specially made to the Book of Constitutions, by which it appeared to some that the provision made is so ample that no additional local restriction is necessary. As the result, Bro. D'Allain waived his proposition in favour of the amendment of Bro. Du Jardin, which thus became the substantive motion. On putting Bro. Le Couteur's amendment to the vote, it was lost, and the former received the sanction of the meeting. The Prov. Grand Master now proceeded to the appointment and installation of officers for the ensuing year, as follows:—Bro. Cross, D. Prov. Grand Master; Jas. Johnson, S.G.W.; Grimmond, J.G.W.; —, G. Chaplain; Durell, G. Reg.; Adams, G. Sec.; D'Allain, S.G.D.; P. Binet, J.G.D.; C. Johnson, G. Sup. of Works; Manuel, G. Dir. of Cers.; Orange, Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Wilcox, G.S.B.; Bridgeman, G. Organist; P. Marett, G. Pms.; Bros. Stark, Voisin, Mist, Le Neven, Perrot, Deveulle, G. Stewards; Plymen, G. Tyler.

The next business was the election of six brethren to serve on the local committee of general purposes, out of eleven, who had been previously nominated as suitable to perform the duties. This was done by ballot, the result of which was that the following were appointed:—Bros. Hocquard (president), Adams, Ainsley, Miller, Le Cross, Schmitt, Marett, J. Johnson. Bro. Du Jardin was elected and invited P.G. Treasurer; after which the P.G.L. was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to a banquet.

CORNWALL.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A P.G.L. was held on the 31st May, at Chacewater, which was presided over by Bro. Smith, M.P., D.P.G.M., the whole of the Lodges in the province being represented. The officers for the ensuing year were installed as follows:—Bros. Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., No. 82, Prov. G.M.; Augustus Smith, M.P., No. 415, D. Prov. G.M.; Richard Pearce, No. 142, P.D. Prov. G.M. and P.G. Treas.; Christopher Childs, No. 750, Prov. G.S.W.; W. H. Jenkins, Nos. 153 and 415, Prov. G.J.W.; Rev. Henry Grylls, A.M., No. 413, Prov. G. Chaplain; Reginald Rogers, No. 415, Prov. G. Sec.; James O. Mayne No. 415, Prov. G. Asst. Sec.; E. Trewbody Carlyon, Nos. 153 and 415, Prov. G. Reg.; John Moyle, Nos. 415 and 1000, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. G. Mason, No. 815, Prov. G. Asst. Dir. of Cers.; C. P. Charlton, No. 142, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Lieut. John Borlase, No. 142, Prov. G.S.B. (by proxy); Capt. Grylls, No. 400, Prov. G.S.D.; William J. White, No. 413, Prov. G.J.D.; Ninnis, No. 1000, Prov. G. Organist; Samuel Harvey, Nos. 153 and 415, Prov. G. Purs.; W. G. Powning, Nos. 415 and 1000, S. G. Moyle, No. 1000, William Toll, No. 750, and G. S. Denbigh, Prov. G. Stewards; and Sergeant-Major Wing, No. 153, Prov. G. Inner Guard.

Various sums were voted to decayed and indigent brethren of the province. A code of by-laws for the government of the Prov. Grand Lodge was submitted and approved. Bros. Pearce, Prov. G. Treas.; Rogers, Prov. G. Sec.; and E. Trewbody Carlyon, Prov. G. Reg., were nominated a committee to receive and report on future petitions for relief from the Prov. Grand Lodge. The Lodge being closed in due form, the brethren re-formed in procession and proceeded to the banquet, which was served in a spacious marquise on Bro. Welb's lawn, by Bro. Paull, of the Britannia Hotel, and was in excellent style, and to the satisfaction of the brethren.

WARWICKSHIRE.

CONSECRATION OF THE NEW LODGE AT STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—*Bard of Avon Lodge* (No. 1080).—On Monday, June 27, the ceremony of consecrating the Lodge at the Golden Lion Hotel took place, attracting a great number of spectators. The unfavourable state of the weather during the early portion of the day, doubtless, prevented a much larger concourse of persons being present on this interesting occasion.

The proceedings of the day commenced with the ceremony of consecration, which was performed by Colonel Vernon, the Prov. G. M. of Staffordshire; the appointment and investiture of the W.M. and officers of the new Lodge, and the initiation of several candidates.

About half-past two o'clock, the Prov. G.M. of the Lodge, and lord lieutenant of the county (Lord Leigh, of Stoneligh Abbey), accompanied by Col. Vernon, the Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire; Bro. the Rev. W. Riland Bedford, Prov. G. Chaplain; Bro. the Rev. Granville Granville, vicar of Stratford-on-Avon; Bro. the Rev. — Molony, sub-vicar of Stratford-on-Avon; attended by the usual officers of the fraternity, bearing their appropriate insignia of office, together with such of the members of the Craft as had then arrived, numbering in the whole between sixty and seventy persons, the whole wearing their respective badges, as also the aprons, scarfs, &c., of the Order, and bearing the regalia peculiar to the Masonic brethren, assembled at their Lodge, where, having formed in professional order, they proceeded up Bridge-street, along High-street, Chapel-street, Church-street, and the Old Town, to the church of the Holy Trinity, attended by the band of the Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry. The sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. W. K. Riland Bedford, Provincial Grand Chaplain.

At the end of the service the procession was re-formed, and, after retracing their steps as far as the Corn Exchange, High-street, where the members halted for about half an hour, during which time the band played several airs outside the building, they proceeded to the Town Hall, and the Banquet which took place was in every way worthy of the occasion.

KENT.

CONSECRATION OF THE WELLINGTON LODGE, NO. 1086.

DEAL.—The Wellington Lodge, for which a warrant or charter of constitution had been obtained, was opened on Saturday, June 18. The brethren met at the Walmer Castle Hotel, and proceeded thence

in procession to the Assembly Rooms, where the ceremony of opening and consecrating the Lodge was fixed to take place, under a dispensation from the R.W. the Prov. G.M., instead of the Walmer Castle named in the warrant. The Lodge was opened by Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, Pro. G.D., the officer appointed by the Grand Master for that purpose, the presence of the R.W. Bro. Charles Purton Cooper, Prov. G.M.; Bro. Harvey Boys, P.S.G.W., as D. Prov. G.M., Bro. T. Hallows, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. G. O. Phipps, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. B. Jones, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Bro. Saunders, Prov. G. Treas.; Bro. Chas. Isaacs, Prov. G. Sec.; Bro. S. Beeching, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; and several other Prov. Grand Officers; Bro. Edwin Ransford, P.G. Organist; Bro. Sir Jas. Fergusson, Prov. G. M. for Ayrshire; Bro. Hyde Pullen, D. Prov. G.M., Isle of Wight; Bro. Major Burney, and several brethren of the different Lodges in the province.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the brethren of this province was held on Friday, June 17th, in the Freemasons' Hall, Watford; present the R.W. Bro. William Stuart, of Aldenham, Prov. G.M.; Bros. Thomas Abel Ward, D. Prov. G.M.; and George Francis, Prov. G. Reg., and P. Prov. D.G.M. of Surrey; the W. Bros. T. S. Barringer, Prov. S.G.W. and Henry Miles, Prov. J.G.W.; Bros. H. H. Burchell Herne, C. H. Law, and Algernon Perkins, P. Prov. S.G.W.'s; Bro. Thomas Rogers, Prov. G. Treas.; Bro. John Sedgwick, Prov. G. Sec., and several others.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form; the minutes of the preceding Grand Lodge were read and confirmed, and the Treasurer's accounts were passed.

Bro. Thomas Rogers was unanimously re-elected Prov. G. Treas. The Provincial Grand Master then appointed and invested the officers for the year ensuing, viz., Bros. Thomas Abel Ward, D. Prov. G.M.; F. M. Shugar, of No. 742, Prov. S.G.W.; Griffin, of No. 657, Prov. J.G.W.; the Rev. E. Gambier Pym, of No. 657, Prov. G. Chaplain; George Francis, Prov. G. Reg.; John Sedgwick, Prov. G. Sec.; Charles Davey, Prov. S.G.D.; Russell, Prov. J.G.D.; Finch, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; J. How, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Burton, Prov. G.S.B.; Henry Isaacs, Prov. G. Org.; Humbert and W. Rogers, Prov. G. Stewards. Thomas Rogers, the Prov. G. Treas., and Thomas, the Prov. G. Tyler, were also re-elected.

In pursuance of the notice in the summons, Bro. Burchell Herne moved "That the sum of ten guineas be subscribed out of the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge to the Freemasons' Boys School, and a like sum of ten guineas to the Girls' School." This motion was seconded by Bro. Ward, D. Prov. G.M.

Bro. Francis suggested that the amounts were too large, taking into consideration the state of the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and moved, "That two guineas to each of the schools be subscribed, which they might continue to increase in future years."

This motion was seconded by Bro. Sedgwick, and Bro. Algernon Perkins recommended it as being really more beneficial to the charities.

The amendment was then put, and lost by a majority of one, consequently the original motion was carried. An opinion was expressed that next year a similar vote should be made in aid of the Aged and Distressed Masons and the Widows Funds.

The code of by-laws, as prepared by the committee, were then read by the Prov. G. Sec. and adopted.

All business being ended, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed at five o'clock, and the brethren re-assembled at the banquet; the Prov. G.M. being surrounded by about forty brethren, chiefly of the Watford and Berkhamstead Lodges.

SURREY.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Monday, July 11th, at the Angel Hotel, Guildford, under the presidency of the R.W. Prov. G.M.; Bro. Dobie, P. G. Reg.; who was supported by Bros. Dr. Harcourt, D. Prov. G.M.; G. White, Prov. S.G.W.; G. Price, Prov. G. Treas.; Greenwood, G. Secretary; C. Beaumont, S.G.D.; W. J. Meymott, J.G.D.; Francis, P.D., Prov. G.M.; W. H. White, P. Prov. G. Sec.; &c., &c.

The Lodge having been duly opened, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed; after which the Treasurer's account was read, showing a balance in hand of £77 18s. 8d., out of which £20 was voted to the widow of the late Bro. David Freeman, of Croydon.

Bro. Price was re-elected Grand Treasurer; and the following officers appointed for the ensuing year:—Bros. Dr. Harcourt, D. Prov. G.M.; Elkins, S.G.W.; Moates, J.G.W.; Greenwood, G. Sec.; Rev. Lawrence W. Till, G. Chaplain; Meymott, S.G.D.; Baillie, J.G.D.; Masterman, G. Dir. of Cers.; C. J. Smith, G.S.B.

The recommendation of the committee on the propriety of establishing provincial committees, to aid the funds of the two Masonic schools, was agreed to, with the addition that the committee should act on behalf of all the Masonic charities, viz., the Girls' School, the Boys' School, the Aged Masons' Annuity Fund, and the Widows' Annuity Fund.

The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned for about an hour, when they re-assembled at a very elegant banquet, presided over by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, supported by the D. Prov. Grand Master, his officers, visitors, and other brethren.

DUDLEY.

On Wednesday, July 6th, the usual re-union of the brethren of the four Masonic Lodges in Dudley took place at Hagley Park, the beautiful seat of Lord Lyttleton, lord lieutenant of the county.

KENT.

MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT MARGATE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of this province was holden on Monday, July 18th, at the Assembly Rooms in Cecil square.

The R.W. Bro. Charles Purton Cooper, Prov. Grand Master, presided; and there were also present Bros. S. B. Wilson, P.J.G.D.; Else and Davies, Past Grand Stewards; James Delmar, Prov. S.G.W.; W. Saunders, Prov. G. Treas.; Batchelor, Prov. G. Chaplain; Cooke, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Thos. Harvey Boys, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Chas. Holtman, P. Prov. S.G.W.; H. Stock, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Charles Isaac, Prov. G. Sec.; Cruttenden, P.M., No. 741; Day, P.M., No. 741; Currie, P.M., No. 235; Vanderlyn, P.M., No. 223; Hoad, W.M., No. 816; Wreford, P.M., No. 34; Duke, P.M., No. 35; H. W. Moore, P.M., No. 20; George Gore, P.M., No. 709, and upwards of a hundred other brethren.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at high twelve, after which the minutes of the last Prov. Grand Lodge were read and unanimously confirmed. The brethren then proceeded to the election of Prov. Grand Treasurer, and that office was again conferred upon Bro. William Saunders, who has filled the post for many years past. Bro. Saunders was duly invested, after a few complimentary remarks from the Prov. Grand Master.

The Prov. Grand Master said that during the seven years which had passed since his appointment to rule that province, he had remarked that many brethren upon whom the purple had been conferred, had never attended to perform the duties of their respective offices. For himself, he did not speak—he was aware that no personal disrespect was intended to him—he had always endeavoured to rule with the mild authority of a father, and he was bound to say that he had invariably been treated with almost the affection of sons by the Kentish Masons. He hoped that they should not again be called upon to remark upon carelessness or inattention to the duties of the respective offices, and that the new Prov. Grand Officers might be found punctual in attendance and efficient in their working. He should proceed to the appointment and investment of the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year, and called upon the Provincial Grand Secretary to read the patent of appointment of Bro. Harvey Boys to the rank of Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The following brethren were re-appointed and invested:—Rev. Bro. Batchelor, Prov. G. Chaplain; and Charles Isaacs (P.M., No. 20), Prov. G. Sec. the new appointments being Brs Brook Jones, No. 155, Prov. S.G.W.; Hodge, No. 621, Prov. J.G.W.; Thorpe, No. 1,011, Prov. G. Reg.; Feakins, No. 149, Prov. S.G.D.; Green, No. 184, Prov. J.G.D.; Gifford, No. 20, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Everist, No. 91, Assist. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Hoad, No. 818, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Reynolds, No. 34, Prov. G. Org.; Vanderlyn, No. 235, Prov. G.S.B.; G. Everist, No. 91, Prov. G. Purs.; and the following as Prov. G. Stewards: Bros. Philcox, No. 376; Snowden, No. 621; Thorne, No. 149; Philpott, No. 235; Rahles, No. 621; and Havecott, No. 741. Bro. Hoad, the newly appointed Prov. Grand Superintendent of Works, is, we were informed, a builder at Folkestone.

The Prov. Grand Master, at the request of the brethren of the Union Lodge, then presented an elegant jewel, as a mark of their respect and esteem, to Bro. Hayward, P.M., of that Lodge, and the

actual Master of the recently consecrated Lodge at Deal. Bro. Hayward returned thanks in a short but feeling speech, in which he alluded to his having been initiated in that room twenty-five years ago.

The circular of the Grand Secretary recommending the Charities to support of the brethren having been read.

The P.G.M. proposed that the Prov. Grand Secretary should forward to the V. W. Bro. Gray Clarke a return of the sums contributed by the province of Kent to the various Masonic charities; and that in his opinion would be a sufficient answer to the letter of the Grand Secretary. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution to that effect was put and carried.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form.

CUMBERLAND.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT MARYPORT.

The annual meeting and festival of the brethren of this province has held at Maryport, on Wednesday, the 27th July, when, although they number but six Lodges, about one hundred and twenty of the brethren assembled to celebrate the occasion.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened in due form at high twelve by the R.W. D. Prov. G.M., Bro. W. T. Greaves, who stated that twelve years had elapsed since a Prov. Grand Lodge had been held in Maryport, when only two members were on the list to represent the Lodge at Maryport; last year the number was but three; but on this occasion sixteen appeared to represent its increased strength which was a good augury that it would shortly take rank with some of the stronger Lodges of the province.

The minutes of the previous Prov. Grand Lodge meeting were then read and confirmed, and the D. Prov. G.M. having expressed his regret that the late Prov. G. Sec. had left the province without having discharged the duties annexed to his office, proceeded to appoint the Prov. Grand Officers for the ensuing year as follows:—Bros. Robinson, No. 424, Prov. S.G.W.; Capt. Spencer, No. 138, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. B. Porteus, No. 424, and Rev. S. J. Butler, No. 424, Prov. G. Chaplains; M. Rimington, No. 424, re-elected Prov. G. Treas.; Lemon, sen., No. 409, Prov. G. Reg.; W. Kirkbride, No. 424, Prov. G. Sec.; Nicholson, No. 508, Prov. S.G.D.; Jackson, No. 138, Prov. J.G.D.; J. Dees, No. 138, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Hodgkin, No. 138, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Watson, No. 424, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; A. Routledge, No. 409, Prov. G.S.B.; Walker, No. 424, Prov. G. Org.; F. Hayward, No. 389, Prov. G. Purs.; Davis, No. 138, Prov. G. Tyler; Atkinson, No. 424, Smith, No. 138, Shaw, No. 508, Lemon, jun., No. 409, Gibson, No. 138, and Yeates, No. 138, Prov. G. Stewards.

A procession was then formed, and preceded by an excellent band from Whitehaven, the brethren proceeded to attend divine service in the parish church. Prayers were intoned by the Rev. Bro. Butler, vicar of Penrith, assisted by the accomplished organist and choir of St. James's church, Whitehaven. This part of the service was very effective, and most admirably performed. An eloquent and most impressive sermon was preached by the same rev. brother, from 1 Thess. iii., 12, 13, dilating upon the excellence of the principles of the society, and exhorting the brethren not to confine them to their intercourse with one another only, but to practise them generally with the world at large. The discourse was attentively listened to by the brethren and a large congregation from the town and neighbourhood.

The procession re-formed and returned to the John-street school-room, where, the Masonic business of the day being completed, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form.

In the afternoon the brethren re-assembled at the Athenæum, and dined very comfortably. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given from the chair, then followed the customary Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured.

NORFOLK.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT NORTH WALSHAM.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Norfolk was held on Friday, the 5th August, at North Walsham, and was attended by about a hundred of the brethren of the province—a large number, considering that there is no railway communication with the town.

Upwards of sixty brethren assembled at half-past eleven in the National School-room, where the Grand Lodge was opened by the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell; Bro. Baker, P.

Prov. S.G.W., officiating as Senior Warden for Sir Henry Stracey (who did not arrive till the afternoon); all the other Officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge being present.

The minutes of the last Prov. G. Lodge, at Yarmouth, were read by Bro. W. Leedes Fox, Prov. G. Sec., and confirmed.

The Prov. Grand Lodge, on the recommendation of the Finance Board, voted a donation of 10*l.* 10*s.* to the Boys School, 10*l.* to the Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, and 10*l.* to the Benevolent Institution for Freemasons' Widows.

The various officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge were re-appointed by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, and Bro. Barwell was unanimously elected Prov. Grand Treasurer. The Prov. Grand Master stated that the next Prov. Grand Lodge would be held at Lynn, and in the following year (1861) at Norwich.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in ancient and solemn form.

The brethren then adjourned for a short time, and having re-assembled at the school-room, formed a procession in the usual order, and walked to the parish church, the members of each Lodge being ranged under their respective banners. An excellent sermon was preached by Bro. Titlow, P.G.C., and the collection made after the Reverend Brother's earnest appeal amounted to 18*l.* 10*s.*

At four o'clock nearly one hundred brethren partook of an excellent dinner at the King's Arms, provided by Bro. Chapman. Several brethren were unable to obtain admission, and had to be accommodated in another room. The banquet was not restricted to Masons, though only a few strangers were present; and some dissatisfaction was expressed at their admission; but the eminent success which usually attends those festive gatherings, where at any rate ladies are present, inclines us to think the plan a very desirable one.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Oundle, on the 20th July. The Board of Management of the Provincial Benevolent Fund assembled at twelve, and examined and audited the accounts of the previous year.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Town Hall, and opened at one o'clock, in accordance with the summons, under the presidency of the D. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Thos. Ewart, who ably sustained the duties of the chair in the unavoidable absence, through illness, of the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, the Marquis of Huntley. The Lodge having been opened in due form the minutes of the preceding Grand Lodge were read and duly confirmed.

Bro. G. M. Fox read a statement of the present condition and progress of the Provincial Benevolent Fund, which elicited the warmest approbation. The motion that the accounts be passed was carried unanimously.

The offices of Secretaries to the Benevolent Fund having become vacant, Bros. G. M. Fox and J. Marshall were unanimously re-elected joint Secretaries for another five years.

The office of Prov. Grand Treasurer having also become vacant by the lamented death of our respected Bro. Christopher Markham it was proposed by Bro. Higgins, and seconded by Bro. the Rev. G. Robbins, that Bro. Henry Markham, assisted by Bro. Boeme, be appointed Prov. Grand Treasurer, and also Treasurer to the Benevolent Fund; which motion was carried unanimously.

The sum of ten guineas was voted to the Masonic Girls' School, to constitute the D. Prov. Grand Master a governor of that institution for fifteen years.

The sum of ten guineas was also voted to the Masonic Boys' School, to constitute the Prov. Senior Grand Warden a life governor to that institution.

The sum of ten pounds was voted to the widow of our late Bro. Beresford, of the Socrates Lodge, Huntingdon, she having been left in a very distressed condition.

A donation of ten pounds was given to Bro. James Marshall, an old and worthy member of the Pomfret Lodge, Northampton, who had fallen into poor circumstances.

The sum of five pounds was also given the widow of the late Bro. Hapler, of the St. Peter's Lodge, Peterboro'.

Bro. G. M. Fox gave notice that he should, at the next provincial meeting, propose for consideration the propriety of altering the present mode of subscriptions to the Prov. Grand Lodge, substituting a certain sum per head for each member of a Lodge, in lieu of the present system of each Lodge paying two pounds.

The Grand Lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form, and the brethren, being placed in order by Bro. Inns, Director of Ceremonies, walked in procession to the Talbot hotel, where an excellent dinner was served by Bro. Wright, and the remainder of the day was spent in a very agreeable manner.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting was held at Glastonbury, on Tuesday, July 26th, that day being also appointed for the consecration of a new Lodge, "The Pilgrim," No. 1074, the warrant for which had been granted some months since by the M.W. Grand Master. A neatly fitted up Lodge room was prepared at the Pilgrim and George hotel, which presented a striking and beautiful appearance, being adorned with the banners of the various Lodges in the province in exceedingly good taste by Bro. Platt, of Beaufort buildings, London, to whom the general arrangement of furnishing the Lodge was confided. The splendid banner bearing the device of the "Pilgrim," manufactured by that brother, under the immediate direction of Bro. Dr. Pope, elicited the approbation of all present. The Pilgrim and St. George's Inn was formerly the Abbey hospitium, and it was here the newly constituted Lodge met to receive the Prov. Grand Lodge, which was opened by Bro. J. W. Randolph, D. Prov. G.M., who was supported by the following brethren:—H. C. Vernon, Prov. G.M., Worcester; H. Shute, Prov. G.M., Bristol; S. J. Vigne, P. Prov. S.G.W., Somersetshire; R. E. Peach, Prov. S.G.W.; White, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Welsh, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Ashley, Prov. J.G.W.; Oakley, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Oliver, P. Prov. S.G.D.; W. Robinson, P. Prov. S.G.W.; T. Cave, P. Prov. J.G.W.; R. W. Falconer, Prov. G. Treas.; Rev. R. Thomas, Prov. G. Chaplain; Bluet, Prov. G. Org.; H. W. Levett, P. Prov. G. Supt. of of Works; W. A. F. Powell, D. Prov. G.M., Bristol; Harris, Prov. G.S.W., Bristol; G. Chick, P. Prov. S.W., Bristol; J. A. Page, Prov. G.J.W., Bristol; J. A. Clark, Prov. G. Reg., Bristol; W. Heal, Prov. G.S.B., Bristol; Henry Bridges, P. Prov. S.G.D.; C. Halliday, P.M., No. 367; W. Walkley, P.M., No. 367; J. K. Gundry, P.M., St. Augustine Lodge, No. 885, New Zealand; C. Milsom, W.M., No. 61; E. Horwood, W.M., No. 221; W. Salvan, W.M., No. 357; Clapcott, S.W., No. 412; Platt, J.W., No. 168; A. Walkley, J.D., No. 367; J. B. Invertee, J.W., No. 48; J. J. Claperton, S.W., No. 412; F. C. George, I.G., No. 48, &c., &c.

Assisted by his officers and the brethren present, Bro. Randolph proceeded to consecrate the Pilgrim Lodge, No. 1074, and invest the officers named in the warrant and others as follows:—Bros. Dr. Pope, P.M., No. 367, W.M., T. S. Howe, S.W.; Captain H. P. Crampton, J.W.; T. H. Roach, S.D.; J. Cornwall, J.D.; T. Robinson, I.G.

The ceremony of consecration by the D. Prov. G.M. who officiated in the regretted absence of the venerable Prov. G.M., Colonel C. Kemeys Tynte, was very impressively performed according to ancient custom, the Prov. G. Chaplain reciting the several prayers during the ceremony.

This installation of the first W.M., Bro. Dr. Pope, succeeded the consecration, but was much curtailed in consequence of his having already passed the chair of No. 367; and in investing him with the W.M.'s collar, the D. Prov. G.M. said, that he had it on good authority, on which he could rely, that he (Dr. Pope) was an excellent working Mason, and that no brother performed the ceremonies of the Craft more skilfully.

These ceremonies ended, the visitors and brethren, not being members of the Prov. Grand Lodge, retired, and the business of the province was proceeded with, viz, the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the previous Prov. Grand Lodge, and the presenting of the report of the Prov. Grand Treasurer.

A grant of 20*l.* was voted to the widow of a brother of No. 327, and the following brethren were appointed and invested Prov. Grand officers by the D. Prov. G.M.:—Bros. P. H. Crampton, No. 1074, Prov. S.G.W.; Charles Milsom, No. 61, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. R. J. F. Thomas, No. 412, Prov. G. Chaplain; R. W. Falconer, No. 528, Prov. G. Treas.; C. Babbage, No. 157, Prov. G. Sec.; J. G. L. Bullard, No. 1074, Prov. G. Reg.; T. H. Roach, No. 1074, Prov. S.G.D.; J. J. Clapcott, No. 412, Prov. J.G.D.; J. Lovibond, No. 157, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; W. Smith, No. 61, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Frederic C. George, No. 48, Prov. G. Asst. Dir. of Cers.; T. Meyler, No. 327, Prov. G.S.B.; R. Mitchell, No. 327, Prov. G. Purs.

Bro. Peach, P.S.G.W., wished to bring forward a resolution condemnatory of the proposed alterations in the property of the Craft in Great Queen-street, so as to give greater accommodation for the

transaction of Masonic business, on the ground that it would be a misappropriation of the funds of the institution, but the R.W.D. Prov. Grand Master refused to allow it to be put, on the ground that the Prov. Grand Lodge was not asked to give an opinion on the matter, the circular of the Board of General Purposes having been sent to each private Lodge, where the members had had an opportunity of expressing their opinions.

After some further business was transacted, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in ample form. At four o'clock the brethren re-assembled at a banquet, distinguished alike for its elegance and abundance, and the kind attention given by Bro. Poachey to the assembled guests.

The usual Masonic toasts were given and drunk with enthusiasm. Among them was that of Bro. Dr. Pope, the W.M., and founder of the Pilgrim's Lodge, which was received with rapturous applause, and drunk with Masonic honours.

WALES, SOUTH.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT NEATH.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Neath, on Friday, the 5th August, under the presidency of the R.W. Prov. G.M. Colonel C. K. Kemeys Lynte, supported by Bros. Dr. Bird, D. Prov. G.M.; M. Moggridge, Prov. S.G.W.; J. W. Russell, P. Prov. G.W.; R. F. Langley, Prov. G. Reg.; N. B. Allen, Prov. G. Treas.; Geo. Allen, Prov. G. Sec.; R. Jones, Prov. J.G.D.; F. D. Michael, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Wm. Cox, Prov. G. Org., and other provincial officers and brethren.

The Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened in solemn form, the minutes of the proceedings of the last Provincial Grand Meeting, at Brecon, were read by the Prov. G. Sec., and duly confirmed; after which the Prov. G. Treasurer's accounts were received, audited, and passed.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master then called the attention of the brethren to a letter from the Grand Secretary on the subject of the Masonic Schools, in which the R.W. brother appeared to take a strong interest; he urged the claims of these institutions forcibly and earnestly, and recommended the establishment of provincial committees for the purpose of assisting and extending the advantages of these excellent charities. From the appeal made by the R.W. Prov. G.M., we doubt not that at the earliest opportunity the several W.M's. in the district will bring the subject before their respective Lodges, and will endeavour to co-operate in this good work.

The usual votes for charitable purposes were then agreed to, viz., the annual subscriptions to the Masonic Schools for Boys and Girls; to the Swansea Deaf and Dumb Asylum, &c.; also a donation to the Neath Schools. After which the R.W. Prov. Grand Master appointed his officers for the ensuing year, in the following order:—Bros. Alexander Bassett, Prov. S.G.W.; R. S. Langley, Prov. J.G.W.; Theo. Mansel Talbot, Prov. G. Reg.; Geo. Allen, Prov. G. Sec.; Robt. Jones, Prov. S.G.D.; Edward J. Morris, Prov. G.J.D.; P. H. Rowland, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; F. D. Michael, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Jas. Gawn, Prov. G. Org.; Blunt and Donaldson, Prov. G. Stewards.

Bro. N. B. Allen was unanimously re-elected Prov. G. Treas.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master, accompanied by his officers and the members of the Prov. Grand Lodge, then visited the Neath Lodge, which was held in the new and extensive school-rooms adjoining the Masonic Hall, kindly lent for the occasion, and where the members of the various Lodges of the district were assembled in goodly numbers. The R.W. Prov. Grand Master was warmly greeted, the brethren, under the direction of Bro. F. D. Michael, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., giving the customary salutes of welcome in good Masonic style. The R.W. Prov. Grand Master having acknowledged the compliment in a very feeling and eloquent address, the brethren formed in procession and proceeded to the parish church, to attend divine service. The sermon was preached by the rector, the Rev. John Griffiths.

At the conclusion of the service, the brethren returned to the Lodge-rooms in the same order, (preceded by the excellent band of Mr. Hallam, of the Forest Tin Works, who had kindly placed their services at the disposal of the brethren for the day), passing through the principal streets, which presented a very lively appearance, the windows and balconies being filled with ladies and interested spectators.

The usual collection for charity was then made, and the amount liberally contributed was, at the suggestion of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, placed at the disposal of the rector for the poor of the town. After which the R.W. Prov. Grand Master and his

officers returned to the Provincial Grand Lodge, which was closed in ancient and solemn form.

The brethren re-assembled at the Castle hotel, at four o'clock, when about ninety sat down to partake of the excellent fare provided for them by Bro. Hancock; and during the dinner the band played several choice selections, contributing much to their gratification.

The greatest praise is due to Bro. P. H. Rowland, W.M. of the Neath Lodge, for the excellent manner in which everything was arranged for the convenience of the brethren, which gave complete satisfaction. The brethren separated at an early hour, having passed a most agreeable day.

The next Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at Aberdare.

DORSETSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT BRIDPORT.

On Thursday, the 11th August, the Right Worshipful Bro. Joseph Gundry, Prov. Grand Master of Dorset, held his first Grand Lodge since his appointment to this distinguished office, for the purpose of re-organizing the various Grand Offices of the provinces, which had been some time in abeyance, owing to the decease of the late Prov. Grand Master, Bro. H. R. Willett, and latterly had only been under the charge of Bro. Roxburgh, the Grand Registrar of England.

The Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened in ancient form, a Board of Installed Masters was first held, at which the Prov. Grand Master was duly installed. The Prov. Grand Lodge was then opened for the admission of the brethren of the several Lodges, who inscribed their names on entering to the number of upwards of one hundred.

After attending divine service at Allington church, the brethren returned to the Townhall, when after the transaction of a variety of business, including approbation of the Grand Treasurer's accounts, which that functionary stated showed the funds of the province to be in a more flourishing condition than ever before had been the case during his term of office, the Prov. Grand Master made the following nomination of Grand Officers, who were all called up to the dais and invested by Bro. the Rev. Thomas Pearce, No. 543, D. Prov. G.M., viz.:—Bros. Thos. Coombs, W.M. No. 605, Prov. S.G.W.; Phippard, W.M. No. 542, Prov. J.G.W.; the Rev. J. St. John, Prov. G. Chaplain; Hannen, No. 694, Prov. G. Treas.; F. Cosens, W.M., No. 1009, Prov. G. Reg.; J. Maunders, W.M. No. 199, Prov. G. Sec.; W. Parr, W.M. No. 160, Prov. S.G.D.; R. N. Howard, J.W. No. 199, Prov. J.G.D.; J. Soppit, No. 542, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Godden, No. 903, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; T. Rawlins, No. 405, Prov. Asst. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Manley, S.W. No. 1009, Prov. G.S.B.; Robinson, No. 605, Prov. G. Org.; Bosworth, No. 199, Prov. G. Purs.; Prov. Grand Stewards—Bros. E. Colborn, No. 640; W. Godwin, No. 694; J. P. Gundry, No. 1009; R. Phillips, No. 640; Lovelace, No. 605, Prov. G. Tyler. The venerable and respected Prov. G. Tyler, Bro. Fairie, having—from infirmity and advanced years—been obliged to tender his resignation; as an acknowledgment of his long and faithful services, a gratuity of 5*l.* was granted him.

The thanks of the Prov. Grand Lodge were voted to the Vicar of Allington for the use of his church; to the Rev. J. B. Ferris for officiating; to the Mayor for his grant of the use of the Town Hall; to Mr. Case and the choir for their services, and most especially to the Rev. Henry Rawlinson for the truly Masonic sermon he had preached.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then, after the transaction of the remaining business, closed with all due formality.

The banquet took place at four o'clock, at the Bull hotel, where Bro. Knight provided an excellent dinner.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT STAFFORD.

On Tuesday, the 9th August, the brethren of this province met in Prov. Grand Lodge, at the Shire Hall, Stafford: upwards of one hundred brethren were present.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened in ancient and solemn form at high twelve, by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon, assisted by his Deputy and the Provincial Grand Officers.

The gratifying announcement was made that during the past twelve months the Freemasons of Staffordshire had nearly doubled their number, and now counted about six hundred. The official

appointments for the year were made as under :—Bros. Ward, D. Prov. G.M.; Hon. G. Vernon, Prov. S.G.W.; F. A. Edwards, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. J. Downes, Prov. G. Chaplain; Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Prov. G. Asst. Chaplain; William Lloyd, Prov. G. Treas.; D. Peacock, Prov. G. Reg.; F. Dee, Prov. G. Sec.; J. Butterworth, Prov. S.G.D.; C. H. King, Prov. J.G.D.; Major M'Knight, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; S. Hill, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. B. Hayley, Prov. G. Asst. Dir. of Cers.; J. Ford, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; E. Shargool, Prov. G. Org.; J. Lowndes, Prov. G. Purs.; Carlo Bragazzi, Prov. G. Standard Bearer; H. Bagley, Prov. G. Tyler; and Bros. J. Duke, Samuel Hughes, W. Homer, H. Gillard, J. Collis, and R. Lowe, Prov. G. Stewards.

The Provincial Grand Lodge has sanctioned such an appropriation of its funds as will ensure for the Benevolent Institution, and for the Boys' and Girls' School, the sum of 50*l.* each, being an amount which will entitle the Provincial Grand Master to act as a vice-president and one of the committee of management of each institution. This has been done by capitalizing 150*l.*, and ensuring the life of the Provincial Grand Master for 157*l.* 10*s.*, the annual premium of which amounts only to 6*l.* 4*s.* the payment of which will secure the capital and render it available for a like purpose in case of the death of the assured. This is setting a noble example to other provinces which many of them will not be slow to follow, and thus materially add to the financial resources of the charities.

The business of the day having been completed, the R.W. Prov. G.M. proceeded to close the Lodge in due and solemn form.

The brethren then walked in procession to St. Mary's Church, where prayers were read by the Rev. Bro. Lowe, Provincial Grand Steward, and an excellent sermon preached by the Provincial Grand Chaplain the Rev. Bro. Downes.

After the sermon a collection was made, amounting to 11*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, during which the offertory passages were read by the Rev. Bro. Dew, assistant chaplain at the county gaol. It was ordered that the collection should be applied as follows:—Five guineas to the Staffordshire Infirmary, and the remainder to the Rector of St. Mary's, Stafford, in aid of his new schools.

The brethren afterwards dined at the Shire Hall, which was hung for the occasion with banners and emblems; the latter were very tastefully and artistically executed, and consisted of Masonic devices. From the three galleries, which were filled with ladies, were suspended banners belonging to different Lodges in the province.

WILTSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT CHIPPENHAM.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Chippenham, on the 23rd of August, by the Right Hon. Lord Methuen, R.W. Prov. G.M., who was supported by Bro. D. Gooch, Prov. G.S.B., and D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. Weaver, Prov. S.G.W.; S. Gunning, Prov. J.G.W.; Furman, Prov. G. Reg.; W. F. Gooch, Prov. G. Sec.; F. Webber, Prov. S.G.D.; C. W. Hind, Prov. J.G.D.; C. F. Marshall, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; W. Biggs, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Allan, Asst. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Sylvester, Prov. G.S.B.; Bradford, Prov. G. Purs.; Roberts, P. Prov. G.W.; the Hon. James H. L. Dutton, Prov. G.M., Gloucestershire; Milsom, Prov. J.G.W., Somersetshire; Dr. Tunstall, P. Prov. G.W., Somersetshire; Oliver, P. Prov. G.W., Somersetshire; Henry Bridge, P. Prov. G.W., Surrey, and a number of other Past Grand Officers of this and other provinces.

Bro. W. F. Gooch read a report, which stated that a meeting of the Charities Committee was held at Chippenham, on the 25th of January, when it was resolved—

1. That the committee for the permanent management of the Charity Fund shall consist of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, the R.W.D. Prov. Grand Master, the Prov. Grand Wardens, together with the Worshipful Master and immediate Past Master of each Lodge.

2. That the committee shall meet on a Wednesday in the month of July in each year, at Chippenham, for the purpose of auditing the accounts, distributing the money, and preparing the report to be submitted to the Provincial Grand Lodge.

3. That the Prov. Grand Secretary be requested to act as Secretary to the committee, and that he shall give seven days' notice of the meeting.

4. That the following scale of payment towards the Charity Fund be made by each Lodge and Chapter:—

For each member, two shillings per annum.

The W. Master, on his being installed into a chair in the province, ten shillings and sixpence per annum.

The Senior Warden, on his being installed into a chair in the province, five shillings per annum.

The Junior Warden, on his being installed into a chair in the province, five shillings per annum.

Each chair in the Chapter, five shillings per annum.

Each other Officer, two shillings and sixpence per annum.

Each candidate on his initiation, five shillings.

The above payments to be made at the end of each year to the Provincial Grand Treasurer, at the same time as the dues to the Provincial Grand Lodge are paid. The Treasurer to open a separate account for the Charity Fund.

5. That for the year 1858, the dues from members only be paid from the 1st of January, 1859.

The Provincial Grand Lodge voted at their last meeting 20*l.* per annum towards this fund.

6. That it be a rule for the guidance of the committee, that they shall arrange the gifts to the charities, so that the various Lodges in the province may be made life governors thereof, and that the Lodges be taken in the order of their amount of subscription.

7. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to each of the Lodges and Chapters in the province, with a request that they will embody them in their respective by-laws.

In reply to these resolutions, three of the Lodges out of the seven existing in the province had made returns, which, with the 20*l.* voted from the Provincial Grand Lodge funds, placed 32*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* at their disposal. The three Lodges which had made a return were—No. 453, Swindon; No. 420, Chippenham; and No. 915, Trowbridge. As it had been agreed that the fund should be distributed in proportion to the subscriptions of the Lodges, it had been arranged by the Committee that No. 453 should be made a life governor of the Boys' and Girls' Schools; and No. 420 of the Royal Benevolent Institution.

The D. Prov. Grand Master had great pleasure in moving that the minutes and recommendations of the Charities Committee be adopted.

Bro. Wheeler, acting Prov. S.G.W., seconded the motion.

The report was then adopted, leaving the exact distribution, as we understood, to the committee.

The report of the Clothing Committee was next brought up, and dress aprons for the various Provincial Grand Officers ordered to be purchased at the expense of 25*l.*, out of the available funds in hand of 61*l.*

The various Lodges of the province being called, and it appearing that all were represented excepting No. 856, Elias de Derham, Salisbury—that lodge was under the by-laws ordered to be fined 4*s.*

Bro. Sheppard having been unanimously elected P.G. Treasurer, the R.W. Prov. Grand Master proceeded to appoint and invest his officers for the ensuing year as follows:—Bros. D. Gooch, D. Prov. G.M.; Major Goddard, Prov. S.G.W.; Collings, (Past Master, No. 7), Prov. J.G.W.; Sheppard, Prov. G. Treas.; W. F. Gooch, Prov. G. Sec.; Biggs, Prov. G. Reg.; Commons, Prov. S.G.D.; Stancombe, Prov. J.G.D.; Marshall, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Bradford, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Trig, Prov. G.S.B.; Spencer, Prov. G. Purs.; and Bros. Chandler, J.E.S., Bradford, T. Chandler, Tyler, and Burrows, Prov. G. Stewards. The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet.

HAMPSHIRE.

WINCHESTER.—*Lodge of Economy* (No. 90).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, adjoining the Black Swan Hotel, on the evening of Wednesday, the 29th June.

Bro. Sherry said,—Since our last Lodge meeting, the Grand Lodge of England have assembled to elect the Board of General Purposes, the ministers of the Craft, to conduct the affairs for the ensuing year. At our last meeting, the regular business paper from Grand Lodge was presented here, accompanied by a printed form, being a copy of a letter from Bro. Roxburgh, G. Reg., to Bro. Gray Clarke, G. Sec., complaining of Bro. Whitmore's motion. This was a matter which took us rather by surprise. The cause of complaint had been the proceedings of the Grand Registrar of England, who had taken upon himself (contrary to the usual custom) to summon a party of Grand Officers and others, to his private residence or chambers, for the purpose of selecting a number of brethren for recommendation to Grand Lodge, as those to conduct affairs as ministers of Masonry for the next year. He believed the Grand Registrar had erred in judgment only, and that he was not aware at the time that he was arrogating to himself the selection of men for such important purposes as conducting the affairs of the whole body of Masons. He had no doubt the Grand Registrar had acted with the purest motives, and that it

had been a mistake, not thinking of the consequences it would entail upon him. But the Grand Registrar could not be allowed to think and act for us. If so, it would be like selecting Her Majesty's ministers for conducting the affairs of the nation entirely and exclusively from London members of parliament, without including any representatives from the provinces. Indeed, it appears that the list of names selected at the Grand Registrar's meeting was exclusively chosen from London Lodges. All members of Grand Lodge in the provinces were summoned to attend when the Board of General Purposes were to be elected, and to give their votes in accordance with their own views. But it must be recollected that some of these provincial members had three or four hundred miles to travel if they did attend, and therefore the necessary expenses were so great that they could not do so, though some from shorter distances did attend. Many lived at a much greater distance from London than himself. He had managed generally to attend of late years, and had given his votes as he conceived for the best interests of Masonry; but not one tenth of the provincial members did or could attend, in consequence of the inconvenience he had already mentioned. What was the use, then, of the provincial members being summoned to London nominally for the purpose of electing the officers of the Board of General Purposes, and other such important business; and then those few who did attend to find when they got there, that the business had been pre-arranged. All members of Grand Lodge in the provinces (and those in London too) should, in his opinion, have the privilege of voting by proxy. Then there would be a chance of some provincial brethren being taken into the Board of General Purposes. He believed there were as good men in the provinces as there were in London, and men quite as experienced in Masonry. At the same time, he wished it to be understood that he had little fault to find with the London brethren, for he believed there were very good men among them, and he was ready to admit that the officers selected were Masons fully capable of properly conducting Lodge affairs. It was not the brethren personally he objected to, but the system under which they were nominated for office. He considered it was quite clear that Bro. Roxburgh had no right to summon a party to his own residence to nominate officers, unless he summoned an equal, if not larger number of provincial brethren also; as it was well known the provincial members were by far the most numerous. The metropolitan district took in those Lodges only within ten miles of London; and the effect was that six or seven hundred provincial Lodges were, to a certain extent, shut out from expressing their opinion on the elections. Bro. Stebbing, the only provincial Mason put in nomination, had polled only forty-two votes, from causes he had already explained; and this showed the unjustness of the present mode of proceedings. There was not a better Mason in England than Bro. Stebbing, and why should such brethren be excluded? Were the system different, and had voting by proxy been introduced, he was sure Bro. Stebbing would have been elected. The view he was led to take of the matter was, that the London brethren were determined to keep the management of the affairs of Grand Lodge in their own hands, those in the provinces being excluded from all else but paying to the funds; and he hoped that some system of voting by proxy would be introduced, so as to give the provinces a fair share in conducting Grand Lodge business. Bro. Durant, P.M., said the information conveyed to him in Bro. Sherry's speech had struck him with astonishment; he could not have supposed that the Grand Registrar had so wrongly acted. Every Mason must know that it was improper for the chief officer to summon certain members to a private meeting, and there make a selection of them and others to constitute the Board of General Purposes. Bro. Newman made a few observations, expressing his regret that such a course of proceeding should have been adopted. Bro. Sherry (in reply to Bro. Oakshot, P.M.) pointed out that by the Book of Constitutions the Grand Master was in possession of the power of electing the President of the Board, and ten others, which, added to the Grand Officers, gave the Grand Master the presumed support of seventeen votes, against the fourteen annually elected in June by Grand Lodge. Bro. Carter, P.M., regretted that anything like jealousy should have arisen between the London and provincial brethren. The provincial brethren, if they went up to London and attended the meetings, could outvote the others, though he admitted the difficulty of their attendance. He discerned a disposition on the part of the London Lodges to hold fast that power which they had so long exercised. After some little further discussion, Bro. Sherry moved the following resolution:—"That this Lodge very much regrets the late proceedings of the Grand Registrar, though it excuses him from any party motives." Bro. Durant, P.M., seconded the motion, which was put to the Lodge and carried unanimously. Bro. Carter, P.M., moved another resolution to the effect that, "In the future selection of Officers of the Board of General Purposes, a fair share of provincial brethren should be

nominated." This was seconded by Bro. Everitt, P.M., and unanimously agreed to.

SOUTHAMPTON.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT SOUTHAMPTON.

On Tuesday, the 19th July, a very numerous meeting of the Freemasons of the province of Hampshire, took place at the Freemasons' Hall, in Bugle street, Southampton. This was the annual gathering of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The last annual meeting was held at Basingstoke, and next year the Grand Lodge will meet at Aldersholt.

The Grand Lodge was close tiled at an early hour in the morning. There were many distinguished members of the Craft in attendance, the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., presiding; supported by Bros. Thomas Willis Fleming, Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight; Wyndham S. Portal, P.G.W. of England; Hyde Pullen, D. Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight; G. E. Deacon, D. Prov. G.M. of Hants; Rev. G. R. Portal, Prov. G. Chap.; W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. S.G.W.; W. C. Humphrys; Henry Ford (mayor of Portsmouth); J. R. Stebbing, Prov. G. Sec., *pro tem.*; also F. Perkins, R. Hulbert, G. W. Clarke, A. Fletcher, R. Parker, H. Abraham, H. Clarke, T. Falvey, G. Lungley, C. Sherry, J. Naish, C. Copeland, Lisle (Prov. G. Purs.), &c., and many others from various parts of this county and other more distant parts.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

Bro. Stebbing called the attention of the Grand Lodge to the resolutions already adopted in respect to the formation of a charities' committee. There had been two resolutions moved, opposed to each other. The question had been whether the Master of a Lodge should act on the committee, or a special member of each Lodge in addition. The number originally proposed for the committee was seventeen, and the resolution carried by the Lodge of Emergency made it up to thirty-one. It was, however, thought the larger number was too many for good working, but the strongest discussion was directed to the point, whether the W.M. or a specially appointed member shall serve.

Bro. H. Ford, W.M., No. 391, and mayor of Portsmouth, said, having proposed the motion that had been carried at the Lodge of Emergency, he now begged to move that such part of the proceedings of the Lodge of Emergency be confirmed. His motion had been as follows—"That approving generally of the suggestions contained in the report of Bros. Lyall and Synonds, it is resolved that so much of it as recommends the appointment of a special number from each Lodge, to be called the charity steward, as an addition to the committee, be adopted; and that the committee be instructed to guide themselves by the general spirit of the recommendations of the report in question, and that the R.W. Prov. Grand Master be respectfully requested to act on the committee." The effect of this would be, to adopt the larger number, thirty-one, on the committee; not only having the W.M. as a charity member, but also appointing a delegate from each Lodge.

Bro. Beach, Prov. S.G.W., said, for the purpose of arriving at a practical decision on the question, he would move as an amendment that the smaller number be adopted in forming the committee. The smaller number, he considered, would be found the most practical and efficient in working, and were the much easier to be got together.

After some discussion, the R.W. Prov. Grand Master put the question, when there appeared on a division to be twenty-three for the motion, and ten against it. The resolution of the Lodge of Emergency was therefore confirmed.

GRAND LODGE AND THE PROVINCES.

Bro. Ford, W.M., No. 391, and mayor of Portsmouth, said he wished to make a proposition to Grand Lodge, but in consideration of the great heat of the day, and the probable anxiety of all to adjourn to another place, he would not detain them with any lengthened observations. His wish was neither to provoke a long discussion nor to give rise to any acrimonious feeling, but he knew there existed considerable dissatisfaction as to the representation of the Provincial Lodges in the Grand Lodge at London, and he much wished something could be devised to place matters on a better footing.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master: We cannot interfere with the appointments of the Grand Master.

Bro. Ford continued: If, Right Worshipful sir, you think that is intended, I fear you do not exactly understand what my motion is. He (Bro. Ford) did not in the least way propose to interfere with the

functions or privileges of any of the Grand Officers of England or the Provinces. The fact was, there existed a growing desire in that province that the country members should have some better representation in Grand Lodge. To give effect to that wish he did not see that it was necessary to trespass upon any of the rights of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. Such a thing would be unmasonic, and he should shrink from it. The resolution he wished to have put was as follows:—"That a committee of this Prov. Grand Lodge be appointed to consider and report to a future meeting as to the best mode of improving the representation of the provinces in the Grand Lodge of England." He would most respectfully represent that this resolution did not interfere or trespass upon the privileges of the Grand Master. On the contrary, if such a suggestion were adopted, all little feelings of unpleasantry would vanish, and things would besides be placed upon their proper footing.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master said he did not think he could receive the resolution.

Bro. Stebbing, addressing the Lodge, said, he begged to submit that a similar course to that now asked for had just been adopted in respect to the subject of charities, and that on a point of order, the P.G. Master was justified in receiving the motion of the worshipful brother if he thought fit. One of the effects of that motion would doubtless be to suggest that as every member of Grand Lodge was entitled to attend quarterly communications, the notices now sent only to the Masters of Lodges a few days before the meeting, should be sent, with particulars of business to be done, direct to every brother so entitled to attend; and then, he would engage to say that one hundred and fifty members of Grand Lodge, from that and a neighbouring province of which few now saw a notice, would regularly attend, and that great Masonic senate would not then be practically the Grand Lodge of London alone, as it now was, but of the provinces also; and he might add, that from the great talent and energy existing amongst Masons in the provinces, great good would come of their more frequent association in Grand Lodge. The motion, also, might very properly be proposed in that province where no discord had ever existed, and were nothing unseemly ever occurred. (Loud cries of hear, hear.) He sincerely hoped the R. W. Prov. Grand Master would allow the proposition to be submitted to the meeting, and he was convinced that the report of such a committee would be invaluable, and that Grand Lodge would be unanimous in passing the proposition. (Loud cheering.)

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, Prov. G. Chaplain, said, he felt it to be due to his office to lay before P.G.M. his reasons why the motion should be received. The time had come when brethren must speak out. We know (said the rev. brother, addressing the chair) that you, Right Worshipful Sir, are no party man, and that you hold the balance equally between the highest and the lowest; but the fact is, a great number of provincial Masons are not satisfied with the share they have in the transaction of business in Grand Lodge. I took the trouble to ascertain on the occasion of the last election of Grand Master, the attendance of London and provincial brethren, when there were forty-six only from the provinces, and two hundred and fifty London brethren present. The small attendance of the provincial brethren did not arise from any want of interest in the proceedings; but the distance from London and the want of personal notice of the intended business of Grand Lodge, and other difficulties. All that is now wanted is, to appoint a committee to make suggestions for some improvement in the arrangements. Perhaps it will be suggested to pay members from Lodge funds, so as to ensure their attending Grand Lodge, and taking part in its affairs. It will be for the R.W. Prov. Grand Master to say, when the committee have drawn up their report, whether it was proper or not; therefore, I trust the motion will not be refused. Though you, Right Worshipful Sir, may disapprove of the recommendation, still we may lay our heads together for improvement.

Bro. Deacon, D. Prov. G.M., said their proceedings had hitherto been marked by perfect unanimity, and as this motion might possibly interrupt the same, he did not wish to see it carried. The Worshipful Master, the two Wardens, and the Past Masters were all members of Grand Lodge, and if they did not attend it was their own fault. If members had no funds for necessary expenses, let their Lodge provide such for them. He hoped brethren would not adopt Bro. Ford's suggestion, and he was inclined to think that Bro. Ford himself had not fully considered the bearing of the motion he held in his hands.

Bro. Ford said he was sure the brother who last spoke had no grounds for imputing to him hasty or ill considered motives. He quite adhered to the words and the full import of the motion he had introduced; and he again most respectfully asked the R.W. Prov. Grand Master to take it into his consideration. He begged most distinctly to deprecate in the most powerful words, any improper

intention, or any wish to bring about discord in any way whatever. (Hear.)

The R.W. Prov. G.M. observed that the W.M.'s, the Wardens, and the P.M.'s of all Lodges were members of Grand Lodge and expected to attend. If it was required, and Lodges thought proper to remunerate certain brethren for giving their attendance at Grand Lodge, he did not know anything in the Book of Constitutions to prevent their so doing, as long as they paid up their dues to Grand Lodge. If Lodges sent representatives and remunerated them, they would then have that power in their own hands which they now complained of not possessing. He thought that the question having reference to the attendance of the W.M.'s and Wardens in Grand Lodge ought rather to be brought before private Lodges than the Provincial Grand Lodge, and therefore he could not receive the resolution.

Bro. Stebbing and others then expressed their readiness to submit to the direction of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, and the subject dropped.

TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. STEBBING.

Bro. A. Fletcher, W.M. of No. 462, here rose, and addressing the chair, said,—Right Worshipful sir, by your kind permission it has to day been assigned to me, as a most pleasing duty, to make this presentation, and although it might have been more effectually performed by others who, for a longer period than myself, have had the pleasure of the acquaintance and friendship of the worthy brother to whom we wish to do honour, yet no one more highly appreciates his excellence than I do. His valuable services have at all times been cheerfully and ably rendered for the good of our noble and glorious institution, an institution venerable for its antiquity, sacred in its character, and benevolent in its purposes. In compliance with the request of the officers and brethren of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, I have now the honour, in the capacity of W.M. of that Lodge, of presenting to our worthy Bro. Stebbing, P.M., a testimonial from them.

Then, addressing himself to Bro. Stebbing, Bro. Fletcher said:—

Bro. Stebbing,—I am commissioned by the brethren of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, to beg your acceptance of that portrait as some testimony, though a very humble and inadequate one, of their affectionate regard for you as a man and a Mason; and we sincerely hope you will allow it to grace this hall as a token of the estimation in which you are held, and as a proof of the entire approbation of your conduct, and a grateful remembrance of the numerous benefits you have conferred on the Craft. We feel assured that your untiring effort in promoting the benefits of Freemasonry will receive its honourable reward, and we always rejoice in the opportunity of hailing you, Bro. Stebbing, as our parental adviser. (Hear, hear.) We earnestly pray that you may always be enabled to carry out those noble principles which you have ever so ably advocated, and illustrated by precept and example. Three years since there was scarcely sufficient number of members to enable the Lodge to be opened; but you took office, and the Lodge at once sprung from its obscurity into prosperity, like a Phoenix from its ashes. New vigour was imparted to it, and your success was perfect and complete. (Hear, hear.) It has acquired now a strength of over sixty members, and to you we feel ourselves indebted, and beg, therefore, to express our gratitude by the presentation of this beautiful portrait, which may serve to convince you of our sincerity. I, myself, can safely say that you are in heart a true Mason, and that to you every child of sorrow is a brother, self only being forgotten. (Hear, and cheers.) I have said too little to satisfy my own personal feelings. I am deeply convinced of my inability to do justice to the sentiments of my brethren or my own, but at the same time I pray you to excuse the imperfection of my address, and trust you will receive what I have said in the same spirit as it is offered. I dare not trust my feelings any farther; delicacy forbids me to say more, but truth and justice will not allow me to say less. (Hear.) In conclusion, I sincerely implore the protection of the Supreme Architect of the Universe on our excellent Bro. Stebbing. May he long continue with us here, and be crowned in his future career with every earthly blessing; and when his mortal race is run, may he be received into that immortal Lodge prepared for all good men in Heaven above. (Loud cheers.)

The portrait, which hung immediately over the head of the respected brother, was seen to be a most effective and striking likeness. It represented, at full length, the worthy brother in the attitude of addressing a Lodge meeting, he being in full Masonic costume. The talented artist was Bro. Gaugin, upon whom the work of art reflects great credit. Upon the pedestal, the following inscription appeared, at the lower part of the picture—"Presented to Brother

Joseph Rankin Stebbing, W.M., No. 1087, P. Prov. S.G.W., P. Prov. G. Sec., P.M., Nos. 152, 462, and 555, at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire, held at Southampton, 1859, by the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 462, of which he was W.M. in the years 1856 and 1857."

Bro. Stebbing, on rising to respond to the compliment, was very warmly received by the whole of Grand Lodge. Evidently deeply affected by the proceedings, he then addressed the assembly, and gave vent to his almost overpowered feelings in the following eloquent, manly, and straightforward speech:—Saluting the chair, Bro. Stebbing said—I am most deeply gratified with the distinguished mark of respect thus generously presented to me by the members of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, of which I have now been a subscribing member for upwards of sixteen years. It is quite true, that for some years, the Lodge being formerly held at Romsey, I had not taken any very active part in its proceedings; but I should not be doing justice to those to whom it is due if I did not say that in the Lodge's greatest difficulties Bros. Miles, P.M., and Adams, P.M., laboured very hard and kept the members together. When, however, shortly before the removal of the Lodge from Romsey, I was asked to take the chair of the W. Master, and endeavour to raise it from its apathy, I did not for a moment shrink from the task, and I must say the offer came under circumstances most flattering to myself. Then, with the able assistance of the brethren, all of whom were equally entitled to credit, we gradually made progress, and, in four years, a Lodge of only five members increased to one of sixty. Our success was then established, and I must say now that I hardly at that moment knew which was most gratifying to myself, the revived and increased prosperity of the Lodge, or the high and generous compliment that was paid to me. I am now extremely anxious to acknowledge, with becoming gratitude, the great kindness of the R. W. Master, in allowing the business of this day to be interrupted for the purpose of this presentation; that Sir Lucius has permitted the formality to take place at a gathering so important and numerous as the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Hampshire; and that before the Grand Officers of the province, with whom I have so long and so agreeably acted as Prov. Secretary, I should be thus so highly honoured and distinguished by this most valuable token of regard—the spontaneous kindness of a private Lodge. I very cordially agree with the complimentary proposition that the portrait shall remain on the walls of this Masonic Hall, where I have passed some of my happiest hours, and where I hope the Great Architect of the Universe will grant me the privilege of enjoying many more; and I take this opportunity of acknowledging that the mode in which the members of my Lodge have sought to do me honour, is essentially agreeably to my feelings. I cannot possibly hope for any form of compliment more flattering than that adopted by my brethren. I only trust, that whilst I live this portrait will continue to be regarded as a friendly recollection of myself, and be allowed to remain here to a long future in testimony of the well intentioned services of the humble individual who has on this and some other occasions been so kindly distinguished by his brother Masons. In this hall I ardently desire the portrait to be preserved. I, who have formed so many valued friendships, and have spent so many happy hours within its portals, can but be delighted that it may always remain in a building dedicated to Masonry; and I humbly hope and trust that when the Almighty is pleased to remove me hence, it will serve occasionally to remind you of my attachment to Masonry, and my constant desire to cultivate the brotherly love and practical benevolence taught to the votaries of our noble Order, and ever conspicuous in the true and faithful student in the Craft. (Cheers.) To Masonry I have been devoted; I have endeavoured to learn some of its pursuits, and practice some of its principles—(hear)—and I know that Masonry has made me a better man, and tended to render me more useful in the class of life to which it pleased God to call me. I feel I have very imperfectly carried out the high and noble principles which are inculcated in the ancient and honourable institution, so admirably represented by the brethren assembled here this day; but I know full well that the more I devote myself to the principles of Masonry, the happier and more useful I become; the institution which teaches its members to be true to each other, inculcates the duty of helping every object of distress, and of aiding the poor and needy in every part of the world, of every class, and every clime. Masonry, it is true, has its quaint ways and its old customs, its traditions, and its old unchangeable associations. Some of these are both admirable and useful, and some are not altogether such as would be instituted in the present age; but it has, with all this, the undeviating and unceasing charity that gives permanence to the Masonic institution, and that practical benevolence which is ever doing good. Masonry warms the hearts of its faithful followers, and expands the narrow views of

bigotry, so that it looks beyond the prejudices of society, and the narrow limits of mere acquaintance, to recognize in every brother a friend, and in every country a home, giving an injunction to the initiate to be, on the one hand, obedient to the laws of any country that affords him its protection, but never to lose sight of the allegiance due to the sovereign of his native land. These principles and these truths have impressed me long since with the excellencies of Freemasonry, and I have become an ardent follower in its ranks—and having spent more than half my life amongst Masons, I was thus probably placed in a position enabling me to gain this gratifying mark of the regard of the Order. I feel utterly unable to thank you for the very great distinction this day conferred upon me; my overpowered feelings will not allow me to express all I feel, but with a very grateful heart I can assure you all I shall never forget your kindness, or the many acts of friendship and brotherly love bestowed upon me on so many occasions. It is impossible I can ever forget your many acts of good nature. In conclusion, I beg to thank the Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, Bro. Alexander Fletcher, for the very friendly and eloquent address with which he has presented the testimonial; and I also beg to tender my warmest expression of satisfaction and obligation to Bro. P. Gaugain, the able and talented artist brought from London to paint the portrait. I hope, in future years, the picture might be looked upon with respect and kindness, and if so, as far as Masonry is concerned, I shall feel I have not lived in vain. Bro. Stebbing then resumed his seat amidst the warm applause and general congratulations of the assembled brethren.

The interesting fact was mentioned that Bro. Gaugain was the oldest living Past Master of the Royal Gloucester Lodge, and celebrated in his numerous professional engagements for never failing in a likeness.

The remaining duties of a routine character having been completed, the final business of the Lodge was proceeded with, namely, the appointment by the R. W. Prov. Grand Master of his subordinate officers for the ensuing year, as follows:—Bros. Deacon, D. Prov. G.M.; F. Perkins, No. 152, S.G.W.; H. Ford (mayor of Portsmouth), No. 319, J.G.W.; Woolley, No. 319, and Portal, No. 90, Grand Chaplains; Heather, G. Treas.; G. H. Clarke, G. Sec.; Barnes, No. 428, G. Reg.; Lungley, No. 555, S.G.D.; King, Nos. 319 and 887; J.G.D.; Dawes, No. 1025, G. Dir. of Cers.; G. P. Perkins, No. 152, Asst. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Smith, No. 462, G. Sword Bearer; G. P. Klitz, Nos. 152 and 462, G. Org.; A. Fletcher, No. 462, G. Purs.; W. Ranger, Nos. 555 and 152, G. Supt. of Works; Bannister, Nos. 717 and 428, G. Standard Bearer; Huggins, No. 90, Williams, Parrott, and White, No. 1025, How, No. 995, and Feltham, No. 428, G. Stewards; Lockyer, No. 152, and H. Grant, No. 90, G. Tylers.

When conferring the collar of office upon the new Prov. Grand Secretary, Bro. G. Clarke, the Prov. Grand Master expressed his hope and belief that, although young for so important an office, Bro. Clarke would follow in the steps of his excellent predecessor (Bro. Stebbing), and earn the goodwill of all with whom he might officially be brought in contact.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed in ancient and solemn form.

WINCHESTER.

WINCHESTER.—Lodge of Economy (No. 90.)—The ordinary monthly meeting of this Lodge took place on Wednesday evening, August 31st, at the Masonic Hall, adjoining the Black Swan Hotel, when there were in attendance the W. M. (Bro. J. L. Hasleham), Bros. F. La Croix, S.W.; G. Oakshott, P.M., (J.W. pro tem.); S. Everett, P.M.; C. Sherry, P.M.; G. Durant, P.M.; W. Russ, P.M.; J. Withers, P.M.; W. Cowen, P.M.; G. P. Jacob, P.M.; and Bros. Elson, Snary, Butcher, Gerrad, Huggins, Smith, Waterman, &c.

Grand Lodge and the Provinces.—Bro. C. Sherry, P.M., rose to address the Lodge in introducing the motion of which he had given notice at the last meeting, and in the course of his preliminary remarks, he said most of the brethren present would remember what he had advanced upon this subject at former assemblies, and therefore there was no necessity for his going at any length into details

upon the present occasion, especially as those brethren who might not have been present had the opportunity of reading the reports of their meetings in the *Magazine*. The motion of which he had given notice for this evening was as follows:—"That a memorial be presented to the Board of General Purposes, asking them to take into their consideration the present representation of provincial Masons in Grand Lodge, with a view of affording them a fair share in the election of all Boards connected with the Order, and requesting them to bring the subject before Grand Lodge." Bro. Sherry proceeded to argue that it would be seen, on application to the Book of Constitutions, that the provincial Masons had not that share (under present circumstances) in the representation of Grand Lodge to which they were duly entitled. In the "Regulations for the Government of the Craft," (at p. 16), occurred the following:—"The public interests of the fraternity are managed by a general representation of all private Lodges on record, together with the Grand Stewards of the year, and the present and past Grand Officers, and the Grand Master at their head. This collective body is styled the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England, and its members rank in the following order," &c. The Book of Constitutions also, in the course of its general directions, provides that the Grand Master and Grand Treasurer, the Board of General Purposes, the Colonial Board, and the Committee of Benevolence, are to be annually elected by Grand Lodge, that is to say, by the Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of every Lodge on the English register. In practice, however, (said Bro. Sherry) these elections are really in the hands of those members of Grand Lodge (greatly predominating in the attendances) who happen to be resident in or near London, whilst those at a distance are, for the most part, precluded, by the expense of the journey and the claims of their business occupations, from being present in London and exercising their franchise. Under these circumstances a very great injustice is inflicted upon a large portion of the provincial Masons, indeed, on all those whose homes are at any distance from the metropolis, who, nevertheless, are so numerous as to constitute a vast majority of the members of Grand Lodge, and from whom the greater part of its funds are derived. The consequence is, that the virtual charge of the finances of Grand Lodge is thus invested in the power and management of those parties in whose appointment to office the chief contributors to those finances have practically no voice. The only means by which this widely felt grievance could be remedied, in his (Bro. Sherry's) opinion, was the issue of voting papers (hear, hear) to the Masters of all Lodges, to be filled up in open Lodge by those members entitled to vote were they present in Grand Lodge; and this in place of obliging the said members to poll in London if they exercise their privilege at all. Then, and then only, the brethren of every Lodge would have the opportunity of exercising their full share in the elections, as provided they are entitled to in the Book of Constitutions, (p. 66, clause 24), where it says, "The majority of the members of a Lodge, when congregated, have the privilege of giving instructions to their Master, the immediate Past Masters, and Wardens, before the meeting of the Grand Lodge; because such officers are their representatives, and are supposed to speak their sentiments." Having held the views he had expressed on the subject, he had lately made an application to the Grand Secretary in London, and that officer had kindly sent him down some particulars, which showed the great distinguishable difference in the attendance of the London and the provincial brethren at Grand Lodge during the last two years. The returns he had received gave him the following details in this respect:—

| Quarterly Meetings. | No. of London Brethren present. | No. of Provincial Brethren present. | Total. |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1857—June 3 | 150 | 11 | 161 |
| September 2 | 191 | 7 | 198 |
| December 2 | 196 | 59 | 255 |
| 1858—March 3 | 178 | 42 | 220 |
| June 2 | 148 | 30 | 178 |
| September 1 | 104 | 11 | 115 |
| December 1 | 212 | 40 | 252 |
| 1859—March 1 | 213 | 46 | 259 |
| June 1 | 130 | 42 | 172 |
| Totals.. | 1522 | 268 | 1790 |

These figures showed that the attendance of the London Masons had been four-fifths more than that of the provincial brethren. He thought it was quite time something should be done to ensure to all an equal voice under equal opportunity of exercising it, such as vote by proxy would create, and for the purpose of bringing the question into the proper course of discussion, he had prepared the following memorial, which he would read to the Lodge:—

"To the Board of General Purposes,—

"The memorial of the Worshipful Master, Past Masters, Wardens, and brethren of the Lodge of Economy, No. 90, in open Lodge assembled,—

"Sheweth—That, according to the Book of Constitutions, 'the public interest of the fraternity (of Free and Accepted Masons) are managed by a representation of all private lodges on record,' with the addition of a Grand Master, Grand Officers, &c., and that this collective body is styled 'The United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.'

"The Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge are held in London, where the general business of the society is transacted, and the various Boards of Management are from time to time elected.

That, while in theory such representation is 'general,' it is proved in practice to be only 'partial,' the proportion of the London brethren constituting more than four-fifths of the total attendance.

That this inequality arises from the difficulties caused by distance and expense under which the members of country lodges labour as compared with brethren resident in the metropolitan district.

"That, though of late years these difficulties have been partially obviated by the facilities afforded by extension of railway accommodation, yet the expenditure of time and money still presents a serious obstacle to such an attendance of provincial brethren as is desirable.

"That various plans have been devised with a view to promote such regular attendance, but the circumstances alluded to, and others which may be adduced, have only been attended with limited success.

"That your memorialists are of opinion that, in the election of the various Boards of Management, some scheme should be introduced by which the entire English Craft shall be fairly represented in Grand Lodge. They would, therefore humbly suggest that 'voting by proxy' be adopted.

"Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully urge upon your Worshipful Board to take this subject into your consideration, and also to submit the same to Grand Lodge. And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

"Dated this 31st of August, 1859."

Bro. Durant, P. M., said he begged to second the motion, and he could not conceive that any opposition could be offered to it either on the part of the M. W. Grand Master, or any of his officers. He thought the memorial was worded in such respectful terms that they could not take umbrage at it; and more than that, he fancied they would be glad to have the opinions of more of their brother Masons from the country, under the means proposed, to share in the management of the affairs of the Craft. He thought the memorial, with any little clerical error that may be apparent, corrected, should be sent to the Board to which it was addressed.

Bro. F. La Croix, S.W., asked how proxy papers would be managed, supposing the system were adopted?

The W. M. said, in case the idea was received and adopted, the working of it would not be difficult under the superintendence of the officers duly appointed to the task.

Bro. Sherry said when they went to London under the present system, papers were put into their hand with certain names on them. They in Winchester could recommend any one of themselves for instance. Each member voting in the elections scratched out all the nominated names above the number for election, leaving the fourteen he individually approved of for office. They might have proxy papers sent down upon the same principle. He certainly did not wish to assume himself the prescribing of any exact rule, but (as in the wording of the memorial he had sought to express) he wished to have some system adopted under which proxy votes could be received in London from provincial members; and at the same time the metropolitan members of Grand Lodge could exercise the same privilege.

Bro. Oakshot P.M., said he must confess that he fully concurred with the motion then before the Lodge. He did really consider that—extending as the body was every year—it was absolutely necessary every member should have a voice in the affairs of Grand Lodge as far as possibly could be managed with fairness, and he could not conceive any measure better calculated for that purpose than the one suggested in the memorial. It was throughout most respectfully worded, and offence could not be taken with; at least if such a thing should arise there would be no reason for it. All the provincial Masons wanted was a fair share in the doings of Grand Lodge, and they were not asking too much when they demanded it, when it was considered what heavy expense and inconvenience they were put to to be present at the time of Lodge meeting, compared to the advantage of metropolitan members. They thought the best and fairest possible means for putting all on an equality was, allowing country Masons to vote by proxy. When they asked for that they were only asking for what they had a perfect right to expect. Since they sent a large sum of money every year towards the general fund they had a right to ask how it was expended, as well as to have a vote in its outlay. It was the case with subscribers to any public institution to have a vote regarding the general expenditure, and they in the same way, had a right to join in the regulation of the Masonic disbursements. He was very much pleased to see Bro. Sherry take so much trouble and show so much energy in regard to the affair; he sincerely hoped the subject would be met in a proper spirit by Grand Lodge and he trusted that body would say all had a right to vote by proxy.

Bro. La Croix, S.W., called attention to what he thought must be a clerical error in the memorial. He alluded to the word "universal."

The Worshipful Master remarked that it would be necessary for brethren to confine their observations strictly to the matter before the Lodge. The memorial referred to members of Grand Lodge voting by proxy in the election of the Boards of Management.

Bro. Russ, P.M., also observed upon the wording of the memorial. He supposed it was intended to ask for the privilege of voting either by personal attendance or by proxy.

The Worshipful Master explained that there was merely a slight error in the transcription of the memorial.

Bro. Jacob, P.M. observed that the system of voting by proxy was already adopted in the election of recipients of the charity benefits, a branch of their affairs which commanded a great deal of interest. By adopting the prayer of the memorial he thought a good deal more union and fellow feeling would be observable.

Bro. La Croix also thought it would tend in every way to raise

the interest felt in the affairs of the Craft and increase their numbers.

Bro. Smith asked whether, if the question were brought before the Grand Lodge, some plan should at the same time be suggested or specified for carrying their idea into practise. He thought that would be better than merely expressing a wish to have a change, and leaving what they meant indefinitely stated. The distribution and collection of the proxies would require arrangement.

Bro. Jacob said every Lodge being responsible for itself, no difficulty would be experienced in that respect.

Bro. Everett, P.M., thought there could be no objection to the way in which the subject had been brought forward. For five or six years past a great deal of litigation and party feeling had exhibited itself in Grand Lodge, and there had been much more bitter feeling and animosity than there ought to have been. Out of good never cometh evil, it was frequently said, but a great deal of evil arose out of the objectionable exhibitions sometimes taking place at Grand Lodge. He did not think that the creation of such ill feeling and animosity had anything to do with the manner in which Freemasonry was intended to be carried out, and the sooner all jealousy was got rid of the better.

Bro. Sherry then briefly replied. He said he was exceedingly glad to find such a large number of P.Ms. present that evening, shewing, as it did, the interest with which they looked upon the subject named in the notice paper calling them together. He believed there were more present that evening than there had been for some months. He would add just one word in respect to an observation that had fallen from Bro. Smith, to the effect that some definite scheme should be sent up for adoption. Perhaps it might be forgotten that the Board of General Purposes performed the duty of framing all laws for the Order. As he proposed in the memorial he had that evening submitted to the Lodge, the best plan was to call upon the Board to introduce some scheme themselves, that should recognize the principle recommended. They did not intend to memorialize Grand Lodge, but the Board of General Purposes, that the latter in due course might recommend to Grand Lodge to take the subject into consideration. He thought it would be too dictatorial to send up their own definition of the scheme to be adopted.

The observations made by Bro. Sherry were very generally approved and supported by the whole body of the Lodge.

The W.M. observed that the best thanks of the brethren of the Lodge were due to Bro. Sherry for the indefatigable zeal he had shown and the trouble he had bestowed in getting up information for the introduction of so important a subject. The Worshipful Master also proceeded to remark that that mighty "the Press;" he alluded, of course, more particularly to their own *Magazine*, (hear, hear), would continue to stimulate the brethren not only of the Province of Hampshire, but of the provinces generally, to come forward as one man and assert their claims to a fair representation in the election of the various Boards appointed by the Grand Lodge. The Worshipful Master concluded by putting the motion to the meeting, expressing how satisfactory it would be for him to see it adopted unanimously and the memorial signed by all present in open Lodge.

The motion was carried *mem. con.*, and the memorial signed accordingly by the following members then present:—Bros. J. L. Hasleham, W.M.; Charles Sherry, P.M.; George Durant, P.M.; John Naish, P.M.; Wm. Cowen, P.M.; George P. Jacob, P.M.; William Russ, P.M.; Samuel R. Everitt, P.M.; Geo. Oakshott, P.M.; J.W. *pro tem.*; Fred. La Croix, S.W.; John Henry Elson; Henry Butcher; Henry Huggins, Prov. G. Sec.; J Waterman; Alfred

Smith; Isaac Snary; William John Gerrard; James Withers, P.M. A motion was then carried, admitting Bro. Harry Grant as a joining member of the Lodge, the general feeling of the members being gratefully expressed for the long and valuable services rendered to the Lodge by that brother. The Lodge was then duly closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment and spent an hour or so in that unity and concord for which the Lodge is so eminently conspicuous.

SUSSEX.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the New Music Hall, Hastings, on Friday, September 2nd. Bro. G. C. Dalbiac, R.W.D. Prov. G.M., presided.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened at three o'clock. On the list of the Lodges being called over it was found that all excepting No. 878, Littlehampton, were represented. The minutes of the last Prov. Grand Lodge were read and confirmed. A most favourable report was read from the Finance Committee, shewing a balance of £85 19s. 5d. in hand. Bro. W. Verrall was unanimously re-elected Treasurer. The Prov. G. Sec. read a statement prepared from the returns, shewing the progress of Freemasonry in Sussex during the year ending June, 1859.

The following brethren were appointed and invested Provincial Grand Officers for the year ensuing:—Bros. Powell, (No. 46), Prov. S.G.W.; Bannister, (No. 47), Prov. J.G.W.; Tayler, (No. 388), Prov. G. Chaplain; Henry Verrall, re-appointed Prov. G. Reg.; Gavin Pocock, G.S.B., re-appointed Prov. G. Sec.; (I. Scott, (No. 338), Prov. S.G.D.; Molesworth, (No. 45), Prov. J.G.D.; Freeman, Nos. 394, 1034), Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Wellerd, (No. 74), Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Moppett, (No. 394), Prov. Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Tasker, (No. 394), Prov. G.S.B.; Kuhe, (No. 338), re-appointed Prov. G. Org.; Smith, (No. 45), Prov. G. Purs.; Ambrosini, (No. 1034), Howell, (No. 47), Cottell, (No. 45), and Chittenden, (Nos. 338 and 390), Prov. G. Stewards; Ancock, Prov. G. Tyler.

The report on provincial organization to promote the interests of the Masonic Schools having been taken as read,

Bro. John H. Scott, Prov. S.G.D., moved that the following resolution be sent to each Lodge in the province, as a recommendation from this Provincial Grand Lodge:—"That, in order to promote the interests of the four Masonic charities, the members of each lodge in this province be recommended to elect annually, on the night of installation of the Worshipful Master, its 'member for the charities,' who shall solicit donations and annual subscriptions from the members of his Lodge, distribute amongst them copies of the rules and regulations, afford or obtain information, and present to his Lodge a report of his labours at the expiration of his year of office;" which, having been seconded by Bro. Wood, P. Prov. S.G.D., and carried.

Bro. Gavin Pocock proposed, and Bro. Tayler, Pro. G. Chaplain seconded, "That two governorships for fifteen years in the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows be purchased from the funds of this Provincial Grand Lodge, at a cost of £20, and that the privileges of one be given to the W. Master (for the time being) of the Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 339, and of the other to the W. Master (for the time being) of the South Saxon Lodge, No. 390." Carried unanimously.

The sum of £10 was unanimously voted to the family of a deceased brother, who was initiated in 1801, and who had recently died at the age of 88.

The D. Prov. Grand Master announced that the next annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge would be held at Brighton. The Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form, and a banquet followed.

Correspondence.

To the Editor.

SIR AND BROTHER,—As a subscriber to your valuable quarterly, I take the liberty of suggesting for your consideration the propriety of issuing it oftener, say, *once a month*, instead of only once a quarter, as heretofore.

I believe such a course would give you a much larger circulation, and by keeping out of your pages non-Masonic articles, would eventually cause it to be recognised as the organ of the Craft. You would also have space for articles and notices of the higher degrees, as well as for extracts and translations from the various American and foreign Masonic publications, thus you must eventually supersede the present weekly *magazine* which contains little else than extracts from the *Athenaeum*, and articles which a Freemason would look elsewhere for rather than in the pages of a Masonic periodical. You must be aware of what I allude to, also what I wish to see your paper become.

Should you hesitate to take such a step as more frequent issues, you might at least insert the present communication, and elicit the advice, opinions, and co-operation of your subscribers on the question, and I have no doubt whatever that you will meet with a hearty response, and that the result will be the *Observer* will appear monthly in future, as I have no hesitation in saying there are plenty of brethren who desire to see the Craft possess an impartial organ, *solely devoted to Freemasonry*, and appearing at short intervals, which it is manifest it does not at present possess. I enclose my card, and am,

Sir and brother,

Yours fraternally,

27th August, 1859.

S. W.

[When our circulation has sufficiently increased to justify a more frequent publication, we shall be happy to do as our correspondent suggests.—Ed.]

To the Editor.

SIR AND BROTHER,—In the report of the Somerset Pr. G.L., held in July last, it is stated that I proposed, or wished to propose, a certain resolution in reference to the circular issued by the Board of General Purposes. This is so, but Brother Ashley, the Pr.J.G.W., in consequence of my illness, kindly undertook the task, but was not allowed by the D.Pr.G.M. to bring it forward.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

R. E. PEACH, P.Pr.G.S.W., Somerset.

September 15th, 1859.

To the Editor.

"THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The Havers-Roxburgh party who have lately taken the *Magazine* under their patronage, have issued a fresh appeal, urging the Craft to support their new organ.

What are the grounds upon which we are asked to do so? They "trust that their brethren will recognise the desirability of securing the continuance of a well-conducted and impartial journal, and one which has given an independent support to the Grand Master." I at once admit the extreme desirability of having a well-conducted and impartial journal, which shall, from week to week, give us an account of every thing that occurs in the Craft worthy of record. Does the *Magazine* fulfil this requirement? Unquestionably it does not: for though its intelligence is good, and well arranged, it is not "impartial," but is supported by those who have lately taken it up, solely in order that it may advance their views, and write down every one who disagrees with them.

No one can have read the leading articles upon Grand Lodge affairs, which have appeared during the last year, without seeing that the *Magazine* is nothing but the organ of a party. If then its patrons are sincere in desiring the establishment of an "impartial journal" (and no other has any claim upon the general report of the Craft), let all leading articles, *i.e.*, party criticisms, be omitted, and let us have nothing but truthful Masonic intelligence.

Again, the *Magazine* is recommended to us as "supporting the Grand Master." What does this mean? It means supporting all measures which are brought forward by the clique who at present rule the Craft, and from the ranks of whose adherents the "Committee" of the *Magazine* is exclusively composed.

Every true Mason will be ready and anxious to support the Grand Master in the exercise of his just authority, but I, for one, believe that this clique rule, upheld as it is by those who have received, and those who hope for the purple, is as unconstitutional as it is exclusive, and that the sycophancy which it involves is as degrading to Masonry, as it is injurious to its best interests. So long then as the *Magazine* continues to be a party organ, I trust that no one who dislikes the principles of that party, will be induced to support it. The moment it ceases to adopt any side at all, and confines itself entirely to the publication of Masonic news, it will, I hope, reckon every lodge among its subscribers.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A PROVINCIAL.

To the Editor.

SIR AND BROTHER.—At the last P.G. Lodge of Somerset a notice of motion was given by the P.S.G.W., Bro. Peach, condemnatory of the mischievous scheme suggested by the Board of General Purposes relative to the Grand Lodge property. Owing, I believe, to indisposition, Bro. Peach entrusted the resolution to the P.J.G.W., Bro. Ashley, who, on proceeding to introduce this important question, was "estopped *in iure*" by the D.P.G.M., Bro. Randolph, who presided in the absence of the P.G.M., Col. C. K. K. Tynte.

I shall refrain from using a single word of censure upon the R.W. Brother, who is deservedly respected and beloved in the province for his Masonic and private virtues; but I think I can shew that the reasons which led him to this decision, and which he stated at some length, were not based on sound argument or justified by logical conclusions. The primary objections urged by the D.P.G.M. were, firstly, that the Board of General Purposes had not invited the P.G. Lodge to express an opinion on the scheme. Secondly, that the private lodges of the province having received such invitation, and responded each according to its predilection, the aggregate views and wishes of the brethren in the province had been thus ascertained and expressed, and, therefore, P.G.L., as such, was necessarily precluded from exercising its judgment on the matter, which, one way or the other, might stultify itself, and thus render the deliberations of the private lodges wholly nugatory.

Now Sir, I think it needs no profound acquaintance with Whately or Mill to prove the fallacy of these propositions. To deny the right of Pr. G.L. to deliberate, or to express an opinion, upon any question of Masonic policy, or contemplated measure involving a great expenditure of Masonic funds, unless on the invitation of the Board of General Purposes, or any other Board, or even the Executive itself, is at once to strike at the independence of P.G. Lodges, to ignore their functions, and to render them only encumbrances in the economy of the Masonic system. A Pr.G.L. bears analogous relation to the lodges within its jurisdiction, as the Grand Lodge itself bears to the body politic. It is essentially a deliberative body, and all questions of great importance ought to be submitted to it, as the collective wisdom of the province; and I can imagine no question that could arise of more importance than that involved in Bro. Peach's motion, or one on which the Masonic public opinion needed to be more emphatically pronounced.

The second reason, plausible as it seems, has really less argument to support it than the first. The private lodges, it is true, may all have expressed their views on the various points submitted to them, and that very fact constitutes the strongest reason why Pr.G. Lodge should have expressed its opinion on the whole scheme too. It is, perhaps, scarcely too much to say that, in Pr.G.L. the subject would have received greater attention, a fairer treatment—that larger views and more intelligent arguments would have been brought to bear upon it, than could be expected in the limited discussion of a private lodge.

It is absurd to say that an opinion expressed on any given subject by Pr.G.L. ought necessarily to be in accordance with that of the majority of private lodges within its limits. Pr.G.L., by its constitution, is composed of the most experienced and intelligent members of the Craft, and is, *a fortiori*, the better qualified to entertain and deal with important questions. It is, moreover, superior to, and perfectly independent of, any other body within its jurisdiction; and to say, therefore, that it is precluded from deliberating upon any great public Masonic question because such deliberation may lead to a decision contrary to that arrived at by a majority of the private lodges is to degrade it from its high position into a mere registration court. If Pr.G.L. were composed simply of all the Masons in the province there would be some reason in Bro. Randolph's ruling, but it is not so. On the contrary, the deliberations of Pr.G.L., and the conclusions to which they lead, are totally irrespective of private lodges, and are to be estimated *pro tanto* only by their results.

Pr.G.L. can stultify itself only by acts of gross inconsistency, committed by itself, and it ought not to shrink from the discussion of important questions affecting the general weal of the Craft on such a principle as that laid down by the D.Pr.G.M. of Somerset. Imagine, Sir, for instance, some great question arising in the province, affecting alike the private lodges and the Pr.G.L., such question would, no doubt, be dealt with by the private lodges in their own way, but is it to be supposed for an instant that, if all the lodges adopted identical views in reference to the matter, that Pr.G.L. would feel that such unanimity absolved it from the exercise of its own judgment, and deprived it of independent action? No such thing. I fear, Sir, if this province, or any other, abstain from the discussion of Masonic measures until invited by the Board of General Purposes, it will be saved all trouble in that respect during the present regime.

Sir Læcius Curtis, Pr.G.M. of Hampshire, than whom a more prudent Mason cannot be found, summoned a Pr.G.L. especially to take into consideration the scheme of the Board of General purposes, and, before doing so, he not only knew that the lodges under his jurisdiction had discussed the project, but he must also have known the result of those discussions, for I believe he was present at more than one lodge when the subject was mooted; but he still deemed it essentially necessary to call together his Pr.G.L., in order that the fullest consideration might be given to a subject of such magnitude, fraught, doubtless, with a thousand important consequences to the Craft generally.

I am quite sure Bro. Randolph was actuated by the purest motive: in the course he adopted, but I think it will be found very prejudicial to the interests of the Craft in this province when the D.Pr.G.M. promulgates the principle that his Grand Lodge is not competent to express an opinion without the gracious permission of the Board of General Purposes.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

DELTA.

SECRET SOCIETIES.—On the Sunday week previous to the departure of the Redemptorist Fathers from Sunderland, Father Conolly warned the congregation against secret societies, showing their pernicious tendency, and said though many had obeyed the voice of their good bishop and clergy, and had abandoned all connexion with such associations, still there was one person who contumaciously persisted in his allegiance to the obnoxious community; and the rev. gentleman announced that if the Church was not listened to he must be expelled, and bear the censures of God's Church on his shameful conduct. In the evening Canon Bamber, when returning thanks to the Missionaries for all their valuable services to the congregation during the mission, took occasion to announce that the person who had been censured in the morning for his adherence to the obnoxious secret society, had come forward and renounced all connexion with the illegal association. It was calculated that there were over 2,000 persons present at the termination of the services of the mission.—*Tablet*.

Advertisements.

MASONIC QUARTERLY PAPER.

THE MASONIC OBSERVER AND GRAND LODGE CHRONICLE is published early in March, June, September, and December; and contains a full Report of the proceedings in the previous GRAND LODGE, as well as Articles upon the various subjects affecting the welfare of the Craft.

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The objects of the club are—

- "1. To maintain the constitutional supremacy and privileges of G.L.
- "2. To amend or modify—so far as can be done with a due regard to the preservation of the ancient landmarks of the Order—such of the Masonic laws and regulations as are found to operate prejudicially to the interests of the Craft.
- "3. To secure to Provincial Brethren a more active participation in the proceedings of G.L.
- "4. To promote the adoption of a liberal and enlightened policy towards Colonial Lodges.
- "5. To encourage throughout the Craft a more extended interest in the Charities of the Order.
- "6. To form a Masonic Library of Reference."

Entrance Fee, 5s.; Annual Subscription, 5s.; Election of Members by Ballot. The Club dines together before each G.L.; Dinner, 2s. 6d., Wine, 3s.

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