

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1861.

THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

Never was the fable of the mountain in labour more fully exemplified than in that part of the Report of the Board of General Purposes which we publish to-day, relative to the Grand Lodge property. On the 1st of December, 1858, three years since, Grand Lodge, upon the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, itself passed the following resolutions:—

“1st. That it is desirable that the freehold property, now belonging to the Society, or such part thereof as may be necessary, shall be devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes.

“2nd. They recommend that the subject should be referred back to the Board, with directions to report thereon to the next Grand Lodge, and to lay before it such a scheme as may appear to be practicable for the carrying out of the foregoing resolutions, and to authorise the Board to expend a sum not exceeding £300 for that purpose; and, if they see fit, to submit the subject to the public competition of the whole Masonic body, and to offer a sum not exceeding 150 guineas in premiums for the best design.”

It was also resolved that

“That in the scheme which they will have to consider, it will be desirable to proceed only with the view of providing fitting and appropriate accommodation, to be devoted solely and exclusively to Masonic purposes.”

Three years have elapsed since that period, and what has been done? Literally nothing. At the time when these resolutions were passed, it was urged by Messrs. Elkington and Company, the highly respected lessees of the Tavern, and their friends, that, as the lease did not expire until June, 1862, it would be unjust to them were plans for the alteration of the property to be then advertised for, as tending to injure their business by leading the public to believe that they would be unable to provide them with that accommodation they had hitherto done. The justice of this to some extent was admitted, and it was understood that the Board of General Purposes, whilst staying its hands so far as regarded the advertising for designs, would consider some general scheme to be submitted to Grand Lodge at the fitting time—that fitting time being generally supposed to be about twelve months before the expiration of the lease; but we have now arrived to within seven months of that period, and what is the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes:—

“The Board beg further to report that Messrs. Elkington and Co., the present tenants of the Freemasons' Tavern, have applied to be continued tenants at will after the expiration of their lease in June, 1862; and also to have a renewal of their lease. The Board beg to recommend that Messrs. Elkington and Co. be accepted as yearly tenants, on the expiration of their lease, provided they agree to pay the same rent as at present, all sewers rates and land tax, and to be subject to their tenancy being determined by six months' notice, at any of the usual quarter days.”

Now, the fact is, the Board of General Purposes have never, so far as we can discover, seriously applied themselves to the task which was remitted to them by Grand Lodge three years since. They delegated their

powers to a Building Committee—or, more properly speaking, a Committee of Incapables—who, after three years' consideration, have so blundered over their labours that the Board of General Purposes have been compelled to come before Grand Lodge and make the humiliating confession that they have done nothing. But what better could be expected of a body of men under whose recommendation £300 was expended on a property which cost £3000, in order to let it for three years for the magnificent sum of £30 per annum.

The Building Committee have never advertised for designs, but have contented themselves with considering that of one of their own members, who, however eminent he may be in his profession, can hardly be said to be in a fair position, whilst he is both the designer of a plan for the improvement of the property, and a member of the Committee to determine as to its adoption; neither is it just to the numerous architects belonging to the Craft to deny them the opportunity of submitting plans for the consideration of the brethren relative to the alterations required in the property, should they desire to do so.

The outline of the plan alluded to, and which we believe the Building Committee recommended to the Board of General Purposes, we understand to have been this (we speak only from rumour, not having been able to obtain a copy of the report, though in print): additional property should be obtained to the west of that at present held by the Craft, at a cost of not exceeding £1000—we have not forgotten how the Board bungled over the last purchase, by which they had to pay £500 more for it than it could have been obtained for six months previously—and build a hall something like double the size of the present—a communication being made between the two; to erect a tavern, with all the latest modern improvements, on the site of Nos. 59 and 60, taking in Queen's-place, which now parts them; and to convert the present tavern and Grand Secretary's offices to the purposes of the Craft; improving these offices; finding offices for the Charities; six or eight sets of lodge rooms, to be let to the Craft, as required, at fixed rents; a library, museum, and reading-room, with a coffee-room for the exclusive use of the Craft, in which refreshments were to be served at fixed rates, to be agreed upon between the tavern keepers and the Board of General Purposes. To the latter part of the scheme, by which the Masons of London and those coming from the country could find a fitting place of meeting without resorting to a tavern, we give our full approval; but, as regards it as a whole, we must withhold our opinion until we are more fully in possession of the details, and know what is the estimated expense—we have heard it stated at from £40,000 to £60,000, to be spread over a period of seven or eight years, which it was to take to carry out the design in full.

Such, we hear, was something like the scheme which was for the first time submitted to the Board of General Purposes about a month since, and rejected mainly on

the ground of expense, and still keeping the Craft too closely in connection with a tavern.

In giving our opinion against a tavern, we wish it to be distinctly understood that, whilst we do hold one, we believe that we could get no better tenants than Messrs. Elkington and Co., who have certainly raised it to a reputation to which it had long been a stranger.

We would suggest that, if a tavern be deemed desirable in Great Queen-street, that the property which we now possess to the west of the present tavern should be let for the purpose of building it—the Craft having nothing to do with the expenditure, though of course the design must be subject to the approval of Grand Lodge, and that it should take some other name than that of the Freemasons'—the Queen's was suggested by Bro. Shrewsbury, one of the present lessees—and then the present tavern, with the Grand Secretary's offices, could be made available for the purposes of the Craft, and all the requisite alterations carried out at a moderate cost, and within a reasonable time.

To arrive at anything like a satisfactory conclusion on the matter, however, we feel that it ought to be taken out of the hands of the Board of General Purposes, and placed in those of an independent committee of Grand Lodge, whose attention could be directed to the one subject alone, on which they should be bound to report within a given time—six months being ample—for we look upon the present proposition of the Board of General Purposes to be one which—if the brethren do not bestir themselves—will merely shelve it for three or four years more, if indeed, anything be then done. In fact, without the Grand Lodge does take the matter into its own hands, and that speedily, we do not see any chance of any improvements in the property until it shall be destroyed by fire, or one of the houses tumble down, which the one immediately adjoining the tavern threatens to do at no distant day.

AN EXPENSIVE GRAND LODGE.

Bro. J. W. Simons, Grand Master of New York, in the course of his address at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of that State on the 4th of June last, said:—

“From a state of such prosperity as to enable us to accumulate a reserved fund beyond our necessary expenditures, we have gradually fallen into the habit of making appropriations to a greater amount than our receipts, thus placing ourselves under the necessity of calling on that fund which it should be our care to increase, rather than diminish. In evidence of which, it is proper to state that, during the past year, not only has the entire revenue been expended, but it has been necessary to take from the Permanent Fund the sum of one thousand dollars; in addition to which, a loan of fifteen hundred dollars has been negotiated on the private responsibility of Grand Officers, to meet imperative engagements, and relieve our worthy Grand Treasurer from the necessity of advancing his private means to sustain the credit of the Grand Lodge; and, with all this, I believe that some of the appropriations made last year still remain unpaid, showing our excess of expenditure beyond receipts of about three thousand dollars. Whence, it is clear, that unless our expenses be curtailed, the remnant of the Permanent Fund will soon disappear, and the Grand Lodge be obliged to increase its rate of taxation to meet the current demands of its treasury. To guard against this event, the Finance Committee should be instructed to make a careful estimate of receipts, with a fair allowance for con-

tingencies, before sanctioning any appropriations whatever. The feverish life of our people, even in peaceful times, the revulsions that burst upon us like tropical storms, almost without warning, forbid a too implicit reliance on continued prosperity, and suggest a more business-like attention to our financial affairs. Commercial revulsions, it is true, do not immediately affect our operations as they do the relations of life more closely depending on the prosperity of trade, yet it is evident, that, as they grow in intensity with the length of time they continue, they must eventually circumscribe our means by the depressing influences they exercise over all classes of society and all enterprises, whether of a benevolent or purely material nature. In the present deplorable state of public affairs, it cannot be unreasonable to expect a marked diminution of income, nor to suggest a more careful attention to the various items of expenditure.

“In this connection, I renew the suggestion made by my predecessor, that ‘our Grand Lodge is becoming too unwieldy for the prompt and easy dispatch of business. While bearing in mind that an attendance of each of the Masters and Wardens bring us all closer together, and cements the relations of brotherly love which exist among us, it is not to be denied that a smaller body would be more efficient.’ Past experience has taught us that radical changes are not wisely attempted unless the general mind has been prepared by a frank exposition of motives and mature reflection as to results, and as this contemplated reform involves the voluntary surrender of rights on the part of representatives, it must, if ever accomplished, be their act, and not one of direct legislation. I would, therefore, commend it to the thoughtful attention of the Grand Lodge. Reflect, my brethren, that the annual communication involves a direct expense of at least ten thousand dollars, or about one half the entire revenue of a prosperous year, and then, without suffering your minds to wander into the regions of poetic fancy, imagine what you could do for the poor oppressed and distressed of our household, if this item of expense were reduced one half or one third. Ten years of such economy would make the Hall and Asylum practical realities, and not, as at present, dim visions to be perhaps realized by remote posterity.”

Only consider one of our English meetings costing £2,500! Where would the money come from?

ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL.

Only a very few years ago, architecturally speaking, the condition of most of our cathedrals was, as everyone knows, deplorable in the extreme, and that at Lichfield proved no exception. Although one of the most symmetrical in plan, and choice in its details, its beauty could not save it from the mischief inflicted by careless or wanton hands, and though one of the smallest as regards size, every effort seemed to have been made, in that part at least available for use, still more to ruin its proportions and cramp its space. We allude here to the choir, where, of course, there were the inevitable high pews and appurtenances, but it will scarcely be credited that the beautiful arches communicating with the side aisles were deliberately walled up with solid masonry, and that the noble western arch, opening into the tower, was filled in behind the organ (which stood in its then usual place upon a cumbrous screen) with veritable mullions, tracery, and glazing like a window, showing that ingenuity had been taxed to the utmost to render the buildings above all things comfortable and snug. This state of things happily no longer exists. The present cathedral authorities, alive to the absurdity and the disgrace, had for some time praiseworthy laboured, as far as their means would allow, to remove this stigma by gradual and judicious repairs and improvements, until, it being determined that a more comprehensive sphere of action should be essayed, a public appeal was made, and a consulting committee formed, the result of whose deliberations was embodied in a report which the Dean and Chapter took for their guide, and then, by way of professional adviser, selected for their architect, Mr. Gilbert Scott. One of the earliest undertakings entered upon was in 1856, viz.:—the complete warming of the cathedral, which has been admirably managed on the hot air and hot water system, at a cost, including the double glazing of the windows in the choir, of £1555. The preparations for the warming appa-

ratus necessitated the construction of a central flue for a certain length along the choir, 4ft, 7in. wide, beneath the pavement, and, in digging the trenches for the reception of this and its connected flues, various walls were encountered, which the recent opportunities for more thoroughly exploring have demonstrated to belong to the earlier choir of the cathedral, the form and proportions of which it has been possible to decide with tolerable accuracy, and for the elucidation of which we are greatly indebted to the patient investigations of Professor Willis, who has since printed a "paper" on the subject. It would appear that there once existed a church, less in breadth than the present one by the thickness of the walls on each side, and finishing eastward in an apse, about midway of the length of the present choir; that is, at the fourth pillar westward, reckoning from the Lady chapel entrance. (It may be remarked, parenthetically, that very similar discoveries have been made in the crypts of Ely and Canterbury Cathedrals, and elsewhere.) These foundations, perhaps, belonged to the church which Bishop Jaruman is said to have built in 667, and into which the bones of St. Chap, the patron saint, were removed in 700. Foundations indicating two other choirs are also remaining; these have both square east end, while the east end of the existing cathedral is octagonal, being a rare instance in this country.

Above ground, some curious discoveries have been made in reference to the history of the three westernmost arches of the choir, by the removal of the modern stallwork, &c., which stood against their pillars. In viewing the latter from the aisles, it had always been evident that they were of nearly the earliest period of Pointed architecture, retaining even some Norman features, while those of the remaining bays eastward are of the first half of the fourteenth century, or at least a century and a quarter later in date. The three western bays, however, when viewed from the choir, differed entirely from either of these styles, agreeing, in fact, with the intermediate style which prevails in the nave—a puzzling anomaly, it must be confessed. But, on removing the stalls, it was found that the work of this intermediate style was a mere overlaying of *Roman cement!* having no reference whatever to the older work, and that, to prepare a groundwork of bricks, tiles, spikes, and pack-thread for this cement the ancient stonework had been mercilessly cut away, in some places to the depth of a foot or more, and this determined mutilation rendered it a matter of extreme difficulty to make out what had been the original design, and the more so inasmuch as that design itself was the work of two very distinct periods. It would be tedious as well as a difficult thing to explain by mere words the strange facts which the examination of these mutilated pillars revealed; suffice it to say that Mr. Scott bestowed especial pains in elucidating the mystery, and solving apparent contradictions, and that it is understood that he has entirely succeeded, their true appearance in the fourteenth century having been as they now appear. The niches over these pillars, with their statues, had been entirely destroyed, but have been restored, partly from the old descriptions of them and partly by reference to the niches remaining in the Lady chapel. These figures, which are of large size, and have been sculptured in a thoroughly artistic manner, are six in number, three on each side of the choir, and representing St. Peter, the Virgin Mary, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Christopher, St. James, and St. Philip.

The great work, however, now about to be completed, has been the double one of throwing the choir open to the nave and of bringing back the reredos and altar table to their original position. The stalls again, as formerly, occupy the first three bays, while the next three bays eastwards are devoted to the presbytery and altar space, the two easternmost opening, as at first, into the Lady chapel, which will be made use of for early service, in conformity with a provision in the ancient cathedral statutes.

The whole interior of the church has been carefully cleared from its numerous coatings of yellow and white wash; and the rich warm color of the stonework exposed; the improvement is astonishing. In the vaulting of the choir traces were found of the ancient gilding and coloring, and a portion was exactly restored; but the effect not being quite liked, it has been discontinued.

The screen which divides the choir from the nave is an elaborate specimen of artistic metal work, and has, perhaps, few parallels extant among screens either of ancient or modern construction. Handsome brass folding gates to the centre opening form the medium of communication, the arched head over them being elegantly cusped and spanned by a bold crocketed gable, finished by a cross. The six crockets on the one side are adapted from the passion-flower, and on the other from the rose. The columns supporting this arch are clustered, and have both natural foliage and conventional in their capitals. There are four narrow arches on each side of the centre one, springing likewise from shafts, in whose capitals may be traced the forms of the fern-leaf, the ivy, and the convolvulus; while some subordinate capitals below represent fruits and flowers, such as the strawberry (rendered in ivory), the wild rose (in carnelian), the blackberry (in onyx stones), and currants (also in carnelian). Above the side arches is a row of large circles, in each of which stands the bronze figure of an angel. These are repeated on the other side of the screen, and all are in attitudes of devotion or holding instruments of music, such as the harp, organ, cymbals, &c. A rich frieze of scroll-work and a handsome cresting form the upper portions of the design, in the carrying out of which various metals have been employed, the delicate capitals being entirely hammered out from sheet copper. The two screens in the same line as the centre one across the north and south aisles of the choir are less ornamental but of excellent design and workmanship. Their cresting obtains additional light and shade by the introduction of ironwork ribbed up by hand from the sheet, and the rivets uniting the respective portions are rendered into decorative details. The introduction of these metal screens in place of wood or stone is especially serviceable, where, as at Lichfield, it is essential that the architectural perspective of the building be as little interfered with as possible.

The eagle lectern (which is also of brass) is a special gift from the Theological College, at Lichfield.

The pavements constitute an important item in the restoration, and are a union of encaustic tiles and marble. That between the choir and seats has tiles of the same patterns as some old ones found in the church; the pavement of the altar space is the gift of Mr. Colin Minton Campbell, and contains medallions illustrative of suitable Scripture subjects, surrounded by tile mosaic borders of the most intricate kind, the fitting of which had to be accomplished for the most part by laborious hand-work.

The large space between the altar-rails steps and the choir seats is nearly a square, and it has accordingly been divided into four equal portions, surrounded by their respective borders of tile and marble, and containing medallions about 3 feet in diameter, enriched with subjects illustrative of the history of St. Chad, and with smaller medallions representing the busts of kings and bishops historically connected with the cathedral. The events thus commemorated in the principal medallions are—1st, "The Consecration of St. Chad;" 2nd, "His Mission;" 3rd, "The removal of his bones from Stowe to Lichfield;" and 4th, "The Clerk Vicars of the Cathedral entering the Chapter-house, June 16th, 1660," when this, with the vestry, was the only place in the church that had a roof to shelter them. (*Vide* Ashmolean MSS.)

The list of sovereigns whose busts are introduced into the ten lesser compartments is Oswy, Wolfere, Etheldred, Offa, Stephen, Henry III., Charles I., and Victoria; and of bishops—Diuma, Jaruman, Saxwulf, Higbert, Clinton, Langton, Hacket, and Lonsdale. Hopton-wood stone was selected for these medallions, in which the subjects are incised, and filled in with dark-colored cement, a practice almost unknown hitherto in this country, but of which there are examples on the Continent, at St. Omer, at St. Remy, Rheims, and elsewhere.

The woodwork includes the Bishop's throne, the stalls, subsellæ, and front desks, the whole, except the choristers', being of oak, and of a thoroughly substantial character. Abundant scope is thereby afforded for rich carving, which is largely introduced, and consists of flowers and foliage of great variety, and also sculptured panels and figures of the Apostles on the ends of the seats. The throne stands east-

ward of the stalls, on the south side; it is lofty and of most elaborate design.

The reredos is as yet incomplete, but is intended to present, in its several parts, a rare union of richness and beauty. It will be a magnificent work in alabaster and marble, enriched with mosaic work, but subdued as much as possible in height so as to interfere but very little with the full view of the celebrated stained glass which fills the windows of the eastern apse. A portion of the design, too, consisting of open arcading, helps much to the realisation of this end. Several kinds of marble will be introduced, including some of a peculiarly beautiful red colour, found on the estates of the Duke of Devonshire, and kindly offered by him. This will be used in conjunction with fluor spar, and the productions of the district.

The organ is entirely new, presented by Josiah Spode, Esq., who has also liberally assigned to the general fund whatever sum may be realised by the disposal of the old organ. The new instrument is fixed in the east aisle of the north transept, the organist sitting under the arch opening into the choir aisle, immediately behind the stalls. There are three whole rows of keys, and a large independent pedal organ, the compass of the manuals being from C C to F in alt. There are in all no less than 2,507 pipes, and 60 stops. The great organ, also the pedal organ, has the pneumatic action applied, whereby the touch is rendered perfectly easy and pliable, and the working is by three pairs of bellows, with double feeders.

In the above summary we have endeavoured to include all the prominent features of the restoration of the choir, as already accomplished. Much yet remains to be done, but future progress will not interrupt the daily services. Our description might, however, appear incomplete were we to omit mention of several new features in other parts of the cathedral.

Near the north door into the nave, a costly font has lately been placed, the gift of the Hon. Mrs. Henry Howard, aided by the subscriptions of a few relatives. It is raised on several circular steps of yellow Mansfield stone. Subject-sculpture is employed freely, especially on the four principal faces of the bowl, which illustrate respectively the "Entry of Noah into the Ark," the "Passage of the Red Sea," "Our Lord's Baptism," and "His Resurrection." Between these, at the angles, are full-length figures of the Virgin Mary, St. Peter, St. Helen, and St. Chad. Alabaster, Caen stone, with Languedoc, dove, Galway green, and other marbles are used, and impart life and variety to the general effect.

A few memorial brasses and tombs, displaying much architectural merit, have also been admitted within the sacred enclosure. For instance, one of the earliest of the former is close to the south transept door, in the wall arcade. It is to the memory of Lieut.-Colonel Petit, who was so distinguished in the Indian battles of the Punjab, Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Aliwal, and Soobraon. Another brass, let into a black marble slab slightly elevated above the nave floor, is to the memory of Thomas William, late Earl of Lichfield, whose initials are introduced into the border, the motto, "Nil Desperandum," with the family arms, and lions and seahorses at his feet as supporters, being also introduced in the design, which is one of the most effective that has, in modern times, been produced. The late earl is represented in the uniform of the Yeomanry Cavalry of Staffordshire, over which are thrown his Peer's robes. Considerable richness is given to the otherwise plain surfaces by the insertion of small mosaic tiles, in chocolate, blue, and red, disposed in a chequered pattern.

The south aisle of the choir, at the east end of which is the famous monument of the "Sleeping Children," by Chantry, has received a memorial designed in a totally different style, and placed in the south wall arcade, near the transept. It is in memory of the late Archdeacon Hodson. It consists of a Gothic altar-tomb, very carefully detailed, and covered with a slab of serpentine marble, in which is let a floriated cross, in brass. In the lower part of the tomb are sculptured panels representing the Entombment and the Resurrection; and in the wall above and behind the slab are sculptured the Crucifixion and the Ascension. Nearly opposite to this tomb preparations are being made

for the erection of another, designed in a similar feeling by the same architect, and in memory of the late archdeacon's son, the late Major Hodson, of "Hodson's horse," who met with an untimely death in the assault at Lucknow. It will be of Caen stone, interspersed with Mansfield and black limestone, serpentine marble and alabaster, the latter being used for the sculptured figures and subjects, which include David, St. Paul, Arthur, and St. Alban, types of the Christian warrior in all ages. The representation of the four military virtues, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance, and Mercy, and a central historical subject, the "Surrender of the King of Delhi to Major Hodson." The cross and coping top to this tomb are entirely of serpentine marble.—*Building News*.

GOSSIP FROM BRITTANY.

(From the *Building News*.)

I am not going to enter very minutely into the churches and buildings that I pass, for I am but a traveller, here today and gone to-morrow. I do not profess to describe everything I see, nor yet exactly will my remarks come up to the idea generally meant by architectural jottings; but as we travel to learn, as well as to enjoy, and although travel is necessarily irregular and uncertain, still it mostly leaves the traveller wiser than he was before—so let us hope that in giving you, my professional readers, the benefit of my humble passing remarks, partly relating to buildings abroad, and partly to any application desirable of anything I may observe to home use in England; if I may not attain to the accuracy of a hand-book, I yet may send across the seas ideas that may be of a little service at home.

At present the great building or architectural change that has taken place around me is, that I have come out of a land of brick into a land of granite, but it was not in Brittany that my eyes first opened upon it, for Jersey is literally made either of granite, or stones very kindred to it; and, in passing, let me recommend a Jersey farm-house or country residence; a thatched roof, the house built of a grey granite rubble, the openings bridged by a single-granite lintel, and the whole covered with a fruitful vine. These houses are long; five or six or more windows in a row, a porch in the middle, two stories only, and a row of dormer windows deeply bedded in thatch.

But to proceed to Brittany; truly a granite town is St. Malo—the quays are granite, the walls are granite, the brackets or imitation machicolations are granite, the gate towers, some of them picturesque, are granite. The houses are granite, chimneys are granite, the pavements are granite, and the sentry-boxes are granite. Of course, as usual, there are exceptions; many an old wooden house, consisting, I may almost say, of windows alone, projects its consecutive stories, with their time-bent timbers, one after the other, across the street; but these are now rare. At first the effect of so much granite, undoubtedly handsome as it looks, was to me inexpressibly dull, but it had sundry points of relief that were most valuable to it; the roofs are very high pitched, they are again relieved by dormers of different shapes, sizes, and decorations; some of the houses are of rubble consisting of a mixture of granite and a warmer coloured stone, with lintels and dressings of granite. The most prominent feature upon entering the harbour of St. Malo are the chimneys, owing to their number and their excessive height. Many of these are very singular, on account of their being either entirely without cornices, or left completely rough and jagged at the top. This would not be noticeable or thought more remarkable than the rest of the building in a mountain cottage in Wales, but in a row of comparatively modern houses, of great size and height, and with all the rest of the work carefully wrought and ornamented by string-courses carefully moulded, the effect is certainly curious. But the houses are certainly handsome and of good effect, although, except a bold simple cornice, and a few boldly moulded string-courses, they are as plain as can be. Cannot we use granite in at least our public buildings?—for if in great masses the effect of colour is dull, yet one purpose of a large building is sure to be

gained by its use, for certainly the effect is grand. There is nothing very remarkable about the cathedral; it is in all styles of French architecture, from the time of the genuine strength-loving Norman to the tawdry, tinsel decorations of the altars of the present time, of a piece with which is the modern canopy over the high altar, of which the most conspicuous columns are of white marble, and all the rest of the structure is of wood grained to match it. The tracery of the choir and apse is of very good form and character, having a considerable admixture of plate tracery in it. For many a year has the church tower, of which the spire has long been destroyed, done the duty of a semaphore station, but in this instance, which, however, is certainly a rare one, has modern scientific improvement led indirectly to the restoration, and not the destruction, of an ancient work of art. The people of St. Malo, seeing that from the introduction of the electric telegraph there was no longer any need of using their tower for secular purposes, have built on the top of the tower a beautiful Gothic spire; although rather too white at present, it is of an early character suitable to the style of the choir, decorated with canopies and pinnacles, and the plain faces of the octagon are pierced boldly with trefoils and other forms, some of which are certainly not beautiful. When will architects learn that if plate tracery is used, the forms must be carefully designed? Most of the carvings in the cathedral are in granite, and are bold in line, but low in relief in consequence of the material.

In Dinan, both the church spires are covered with the brown, grey, slaty material used for tiles in this country; one of these is of the form of combinations of ogees and straight lines, seen so often in Swiss and German churches. The spire of St. Sauveur is of a very effective form, and looks well from all the country round; it is of wood, and covered with dark tiles or slates. The town clock-tower, standing by itself in a small street of old houses, is of a very picturesque form; it is of granite to the belfry, up to which height it has a large and handsome circular stone staircase; the spire then rises, containing a large bell hanging from the middle of its framework, while the quarter-bells hang round it. All the bells are struck with hammers; the spire is of wood, covered entirely with lead, and roofed with slate. St. Sauveur has a fine Byzantine front of strong Italian character, while the east end is of Flamboyant Gothic, and presents a picturesque pyramidal pile of octagonal apses, the gables of side chapels and pinnacles, surmounted by the effective spire. It has one important adjunct which many a finer church might envy it—a position for its eastern end in a pretty public garden full of shrubs, and stretching from the apse of the church to the city walls, from which a fine view over a charming valley, from the opposite hills of which the whole of the church, having nothing between it and the wall, except the low shrubs and trees, that hide but to improve—is seen to unusual advantage; showing the mutual service to each other of a noble site and a graceful and effective building.

There is a new nave building to the other church—that of St. Etienne—at Dinan, in the Flamboyant style, which, as most of the church is either Byzantine or Early Pointed, seems a pity. As far as it has progressed it seems poor, like much of the modern French Gothic buildings. The tracery is very thin, apparently as light as they can get it to stand, which many people, and especially travellers, seem to think the very consummation of art and beauty. I must confess that I cannot; and this nave, contrasting with peculiarly massive piers of early date, looks thinner and poorer than usual.

The picturesque domestic buildings of Dinan are, no doubt, well known, and were they not it would be difficult to describe them. Prout alone could exactly show you. Yet do not mistake, and so, should you come to Dinan, be disappointed; they are not as rich and beautiful as many of the old buildings Prout delighted in in Normandy, the banks of the Rhine, and the borders of Switzerland. They are mostly odd combinations of granite, granite rubble, and timber uprights and breastsummers, with quaint corbels both of wood and stone. Many of them are much spoilt, and the traveller will at first be much mystified, by the tasteful inhabitants plastering over the whole building, whether granite, rubble, or wood, and then fancifully turning different parts of the

building into granite again, without discrimination as to the material underneath. Here and there you can find some early Renaissance carving in the old buildings, but they have become rare, and the great preponderance of houses with plastered rubble walls and granite quoins shows that the old houses are fast disappearing—as, indeed, I believe, is the case all over Brittany.

Just below the steep hill upon which Dinan stands, are the abbey and village of Léhon. The present church adjoins the ruins of the abbey, and was formerly a chapel of the abbey of Léhon, belonging to the family of Beaumanoir. It is a curious little structure, consisting of a very long, narrow nave and chancel, as denoted by the arrangements of the seats, or rather pews, but without any chancel arch.

There are two churches at Lambelle. One is remarkable for its picturesque high octagon tower, surmounted by a dome-like spire, and for the exceeding ugliness of all the rest of the building, which is modern; while the other is a very beautiful church, formerly the chapel of the castle, which has disappeared. For the most part it is of very early date, and two of its doorways are very beautiful in the depth of their recess, the number of their columns, and the richness of their carvings, although rude, consisting of foliage, grotesque animals, and human heads. The chancel is remarkable for the two sides not corresponding; on one side is a single, and on the other a double triforium. It has been restored from head to foot, and although, no doubt, the intention of those who gave their time and money to the work was good, still the colour, the newness, the doubts, thrown all over the building, do not altogether incline one to be as grateful as one ought. This is lamentably the case as far as I have yet travelled in Brittany; one cannot distinguish between old and new. The buildings are so thoroughly renovated that, although one is, of course, bound to believe that nothing is now there that was not there before the general repairing and cleaning up, yet often one accounts for an unusual form by the restoration, whereas, perhaps, before the restoration, we should have noted it with confidence and without hesitation as an interesting deviation from the style of the time. This church has the remains of a wooden gallery, probably a rood-loft in the south transept, although it has now an organ-case of a style not much more modern than some of the carvings of the upper portions of it, being early Renaissance; the lower portions are Flamboyant.

Well worth visiting is the Cathedral of St. Briene; it is being restored by degrees; money is now being collected for the restoration of the chapel of the Virgin.

At Guingamp is a very curious church, combining in itself every style of architecture, from Norman to early Renaissance. The Renaissance ornaments and additions to the building have been grafted on to the old Norman columns in a way wondrous to behold. The clerestory, combined with the triforium, is Renaissance, and more resembles at a distance the piercings of an Indian temple than anything else. There are two towers; the one that contains the bells is very massive, and has three massive stone arches from which they are hung. There is a Renaissance entrance-porch built in exact imitation of the Gothic recessed porches. Bold mouldings run round the arches, filled with all kinds of early Renaissance ornament. The effect is rich, but I should be sorry to see the experiment repeated. This instance only had the effect with me of making me think how much more pure and beautiful a recessed doorway is in its own original style. A chapel forming the north porch is curious, and with the numerous figures of its never-failing worshippers, is eminently picturesque. The entrance arch towards the street is divided by a column, and the tympanum of the arch is filled with plate tracery. The square-headed openings thus formed are closed with iron grills, part of which opens. In niches at the side are brightly painted stone statues of the Twelve Apostles, and wrongly occupying the thirteenth place, far otherwise occupied in the old Byzantine groups, is a gaudy tinselled figure with much robes; this is the object of the chapel—the object of the never-failing succession of worshippers—Notre Dame de bon Secours. The ever-varying figures in this chapel, and in different positions and heights on the steps; the bright colours of the statues, toned by the shadow of the chapel,

and the darker and more distant glimpses given when any of the worshippers leave this particular shrine, and penetrate into the church beyond, is a scene to awaken the artist half of the travelling architect. The position of this church crowning the hill on which the little town stands, is very picturesque, especially from the bridge over the small river that flows at its foot. Lannion is full of old houses, some of them curious. Their floors project as their stories rise, and some have two octagon turrets at their angles, covered with slates or slaty stones. There is one with two round turrets, plastered and timber framed, with conical roofs—the projecting stories are in some supported with early Renaissance brackets or consoles, and in others with brackets of late Gothic character. In the market place is the largest assemblage of these old houses; in the rest of the town you only come upon them here and there, but here the whole scene is composed of them. In Morlaix, even more than at Dinan, they are very rapidly disappearing, and giving way to much more common-place habitations; indeed, from at one time being remarkable among the towns of Brittany for its so long retaining its old appearance, it has now become equally remarkable for the energy and rapidity with which it is casting down its old habitations, and assuming, more than any other town that I have seen here, the appearance of a rising and prosperous French town. Oh! where shall the descendants of Prout find employment soon! for where there are yet scores of old houses in a town, the pictures are spoiled, for you often cannot find two together; and of the houses that are built in their stead, the least said about them the better—except that in justice, it ought to be added that, in strong contrast with our modern buildings, they almost universally here have steep roofs and dormer windows.

The village churches that I have passed, are very many of them modern. Some few have picturesque figures—either on them, as a curious bell-cot, or quaint gargoyle; or belonging to them, as the common style to the churchyard, formed of a single piece of granite, often rendered picturesque and interesting by one or both of its posts being surmounted by a rude granite cross. A perfect ancient stone churchyard cross seems, thanks to the Revolution, not to be met with. There are many shafts, many more small fragments, some restorations, some entirely new crosses, but not a perfect old one. The same observations apply nearly equally to crucifixes and road-side crosses. There are very few old crucifixes, and those are terribly mutilated; while, although there are many perfect road-side crosses, most of these are from their plainness, their rudeness, and the colour of their material, very difficult to put down as old or new.

There are a good many remains of domestic Gothic architecture of all dates—principally, however, late—to be seen in the walls, doorways, windows, and niches of the houses in passing through the villages, but for the most part, and especially in cottages, standing apart in the country; the material makes them very similar to the cottages in Wales, and other rocky countries. I find, and it is characteristically descriptive of the country, that I began by speaking of granite and granite country houses, and after noting or mentioning buildings of far more artistic and laborious enrichment, that I have again descended to the country cottages, differing very little in their walls of stone and their roofs of stone, from the rock foundation of the land they are built in. I will take the hint and leave off, having apparently come round again to where I began, but in my next I shall have to take a loftier flight, and treat of the beautiful churches of Folgoat and St. Pol de Leon.

(To be continued.)

ITALY.

At the last meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, at Newcastle, a letter from Dr. Bruce was read, which contained the following remarks:—

“The day after my arrival here found me on my way to Pompeii. * * I at once understood the peculiar construction of the Pompeian houses. The restored house in the

Crystal Palace gives you an idea of coldness and gloom. At Pompeii itself, smarting as I did at the end of October under the heat and glare of the sun, I could understand how precious an open roof, and shady corner, and dripping fountains, would be in July. * * It has been an ill-built city. The walls of the houses are like those of London. The masonry of our wall is much superior to most of that at Pompeii. The buildings consist of tiles, lava, volcanic tufa, and organic tufa, or what we would call petrified moss. It is astonishing how largely this organic tufa, which we are familiar with in the Roman buildings in the north of England, enters into the composition of its buildings. The walls of the city have been originally made of pieces of lava, not much larger than a good sized fist. It has, however, been repaired at two subsequent periods with large-sized and well-squared blocks of organic tufa and travertine. The fountains in Pompeii are numerous, each being provided with a cistern, something like that at the north gate of Borcovicus. I measured the ruts in the street. From the centre of the one to the centre of the other is 4ft. 7in. I measured one street, which was 7ft. 6in. wide, and another which was 6ft. 4in. We must not be surprised that the streets in our stations are so narrow. I studied the public baths with care; they are very complete and interesting. The place where the coppers were placed is clearly marked; and you can trace the water in its course, and follow the hot air from the furnaces, under the floors, and up the sides of the rooms. * * I think I now thoroughly understand the meaning of the firecone ornament which is so frequently met with in Roman camps. My drawings will explain it. One day we went to Puzzuoli (the ancient Puteoli), where the apostle Paul landed for Malta on his way to Rome. We trod upon the very stones of the Roman way which he traversed. The amphitheatre here is very complete, especially in the underground arrangements. The Temple of Neptune, where Pompey sacrificed before the battle of Actium, is still to be seen. The Temple of Serapis is a beautiful ruin; it has been submerged by the sinking of the coast, and again raised by volcanic action. The pillars, washed by the sea level, and eaten by the pholas below this line, prove this. I have photographic views which clearly exhibit this striking fact.”

THE NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.

This society has printed a report of its proceedings for 1860-61. It appears, from the last annual report, that the committee have reason to congratulate the members on the increasing success and influence of the association: papers have been read by various members, and excursions have been held at Aydon Castle and at Hexham, where the members examined the restorations then in progress at the Abbey church, under the direction of the President, Mr. Dobson. In reviewing the action of the Association in reference to matters of local professional interest, the committee refer to the cases of the Bishops Auckland New Town Hall, and Markets competition; the Hartlepool Mechanics' Institute competition; the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Savings Bank competition, in which latter case the recommendations of the committee were cordially received and acted upon, and a question as to professional custom in connection with the Hartlepool Workhouse. The finances of the Association are in a satisfactory condition, and its useful influence appears to be extending.

The report contains papers by Mr. J. P. Pritchett, on “The Evils of our Present Practice and the Best Way to Remedy Them,” wherein the speaker advanced for discussion the propositions: That the position of architects is affected, 1st. By the profession getting overstocked. 2nd. By the rates of professional remuneration tending towards a reduction. 3rd. By our present practice of spending, as a body, an immense amount of time and money every year in fruitless competition. 4th. By the public not having that amount of confidence in architects that they should have.

With regard to the rates of professional remuneration, it was remarked that, in addition to the number of practising architects, “another way by which our remuneration is tending towards a reduction, is by architects having different

scales of charges. Of course, all regular professional architects acknowledge 5 per cent. as the proper charge for the general run of buildings, as churches, chapels, houses, and public buildings generally; but in other buildings, as plain warehouses and mills, some charge 4, some 3, and some, highly respectable architects, charge only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Again, for taking out quantities, some charge $2\frac{1}{3}$, some 2, some $1\frac{1}{3}$, some $1\frac{1}{4}$, and some 1 per cent."

Again, in dividing the 5 per cent., in case the work is not carried to completion by the architect, some divide it into five parts—1 for design; 2 for contract, drawings, and specifications; and 2 for superintendence. Some divide it into five, but apportion the parts differently, viz.: 1 for design; 3 for contract drawings; and 1 for superintendence. Some, again, divide into four parts— $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for design, $2\frac{1}{2}$ more for contract drawings and specifications, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ for superintendence. This is the mode we adopt, and I think the best." One of the results of Mr. Pritchett's paper was the publication of the scale of charges lately noticed in the *Building News*. It was also at a subsequent meeting resolved—"That the committee, with power to add to their number, be requested to correspond with other associations to ascertain the possibility of establishing an architectural alliance;" and "That the committee be requested to prepare a circular to be sent to the promoters of all competitions advertised, the conditions of which are not satisfactory."

It will be remembered that the circular addressed to the Institute and Association, and the Liverpool, Glasgow, Birmingham, and Edinburgh Societies on the question of the Alliance, elicited generally favourable replies, and we shall gladly hear that further steps are being taken in the matter. The object of the proposal, it may be repeated, is to establish an alliance or general association between the several architectural bodies in the kingdom, so that when any question arises affecting the interests of the profession, such as a proposed legislative enactment, any important competition, or any growing evil, the views of the profession at large may, by such an organisation, be at once ascertained, and immediate action taken thereon. The Northern Association, in mooted the subject, do not wish to inaugurate an additional society, entailing expense and labour on its members; they merely wish to establish a bond of union amongst the several societies now existing, but totally isolated from each other.

GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCE.

A small Wesleyan chapel has been opened at Dawlish, South Devon. It is built with the local limestone; roof open, of deal, stained and varnished, as likewise the fittings. The narrowness of the frontage necessitated the Γ shape. The pulpit is at the meeting of the arms. There is a gallery at the front end, with vestry under.

The chief stone of a memorial church to the late Duke of Sutherland, K.G., has been laid in the district of St. George's (formerly Pain's-lane), in Shropshire. Mr. Street, architect, was selected to make the plans of the church, which will be built in the new portion of the present burial-ground (and at the rear of the old church), which was given by the late Duke of Sutherland. The church is designed to accommodate 700 persons. It is to be rectangular in form, with a chancel of 40ft. by 20ft.; the nave with side aisles and clerestory, 90ft. by 50ft. At present a tower, about 40ft. high, will be erected at one end; but, if funds can be obtained, it is intended to raise upon it a spire, 150ft. high. The style of the building will be Early English. The cost, without the spire, will be £4000; but, with that addition, about £5000. On the south of the church, the tablet to record the memory of the late Duke is to be placed.

The church of St. Nicholas, Whitchurch, has been restored. The edifice, which is of Norman architecture, of the early part of the twelfth century, has been nearly rebuilt, at a cost of about £800; but no additional accommodation has been made, the church being already sufficient for the wants of the parish. The edifice was in a very dilapidated condition.

The new Wesleyan chapel recently erected in Vicarage-

road, Farnworth, Bolton, has been opened for Divine worship. The style of the building is Grecian, with a Corinthian interior, and the building is capable of seating upwards of 1200 persons.

The church of St. Mary Bishophill Junior, York, has been re-opened. In the interior of the church, the old square pews, which were only capable of accommodating 180 persons, have been removed; and, in accordance with a plan by Messrs. Atkinson, architects, sittings have been obtained for 360. A west window has been substituted for a doorway which led into the churchyard. The tower has been fitted with seats for the accommodation of children; the floor gradually rising so as to command a view of the church. The floor level has been raised 10in., and the whole concreted, and the floors and aisles laid upon sleeper walls, so as to secure freedom from dampness. The wooden windows of the south aisle, and its modern brick porch, have been taken away; the aisle has been completely restored, and a stone porch and three varied Decorated windows have been erected. The chancel has been completely restored in accordance with the original work, except that an open timber roof has been substituted for the flat ceilings of the chancel and aisle. The church is fitted with three star gas-lights, one in the tower, one in the chancel, and one in the body of the church. The east window has a richer border than the others; the central light contains a group, the subject being Christ receiving Children. The expense of the restoration amounts to upwards of £800, and the subscriptions raised between £600 and £700, leaving a debt of £150.

The foundation stone of a new church has been laid near to the Tyne Docks, South Shields, for a new district. The edifice, which is designated St. Mary's, is endowed by the Dean and Chapter of Durham, who, on disposing of the land to the North Eastern Railway Company for the purposes of the Tyne Docks, devoted £5000 of the purchase money as an endowment fund. The Dean and Chapter of Durham started the subscription list with a donation of £1000. The site is at the junction of two principal roads, leading to the docks and the new town adjoining, and the ground has been presented by Mr. J. Williamson. The building, which is in the Gothic style of architecture, was commenced in May last, and it is now nearly ready to be covered in. It consists of a nave, 84ft. by 25ft., terminating with a chancel, or recess, 18ft. 6in. by 22ft., having open timber roofs, the apex of which will be 52ft. from the ground. There will be a north aisle, 66ft. by 12ft., and a south aisle, 79ft. by 12ft., both having open timber roof, the apex of which will be 40ft. from the ground, together with a vestry at the east end of the south aisle. The church will be the largest in South Shields except St. Hilda's. When finished it will contain sittings for 528 adults on the ground floor, and for 136 children in the gallery, making a total of 664 sittings, 400 of which are to be entirely free. The present plans leave the tower to be finished at a future time. The subscriptions amount at the present time to £2525, and it is calculated that £4000 will be required.

The new Free Church, Invergordon, has been opened. It stands in the centre of the town, about 60yds. to the rear, on the north side of the principal thoroughfare, and on the right of the road leading off to the castle. The most prominent object is the spire, which is upwards of 140ft. high. The whole building is in the Early Decorated style, and comprises a nave, 76ft. long and 36ft. broad, and transepts near the end, 18ft. deep. The principal door of the church (beneath the steeple, and facing the public street) is deeply set in carved arches. Above it is a traceried window; and, on the third stage, the clock and belfry openings. Surmounting the tower is a broach spire, with spire light and gilt vane. The sides of the church present a light and marked outline, with gabled windows at the nave, and buttresses supporting the transepts. The inside of the building presents a plain appearance. The roof is made of large pine beams, varnished, stretching across each other from end to end, and resting on stone corbels. The height is 45ft. The pulpit (or rather platform) is placed at the extreme end of the church, opposite the principal entrance, and is about 4ft. above the level of the floor, and about 20ft.

in width, with a raised desk in the centre. There are numerous ornamented windows on all sides of the building.

The Central National Schools, Colchester, erected at a cost of £3500, have been opened. The structure is in the Gothic style, composed of red brick, with Caen stone windows, copings and weatherings; and comprises three school rooms and four class rooms, besides the porches. The central room is for the boys of the Blue Coat School; the other rooms are,—one to be used for girls, and the other for smaller girls.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

ANSWER 1; LATE HOURS.

No wife need be kept up "expecting her husband long after midnight" if brethren will act as husbands. The lodge to which the writer belongs meets at 7 o'clock, closes lodge business at 9 (and if there is more work than can be got through in that time, a lodge of emergency is held prior to the next regular lodge meeting), then adjourn to the refreshment room, and often retire home by 10.30; but should they not leave at this hour, at eleven all instantly retire. No wife is kept up until after midnight. The brethren would feel thoroughly ashamed to have it thought that their pleasure (?) was another's pain.—P.M.

FREEMASONRY FOR LADIES.

Seeing you so properly condemn the introduction of Adoptive Masonry into Scotland (at page 396), and hope it may not be taken up in England, I am induced to send the following note, which is the preface of a scarce book, *Freemasonry for the Ladies, dedicated to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York*, and published about 1790.

"That Masonry has been cultivated during the present century with uncommon success in Great Britain is an axiom generally known, and that the female sex has been hitherto excluded from participating in its benevolent concerns, is a circumstance not favourable to the gallantry of Britons. In most other countries where the Craft has flourished, the ladies have been introduced, and by that means prejudices which exist only in this country (and which have certainly contributed to prevent the general satisfaction of the good opinion of every one), have been kept alive, and occasioned discord in those breasts in which domestic felicity should ever dwell. To trace the origin of females being excluded from the rites of Masonry will ultimately end in a mere conjecture, as the reason of their being so is one of the valuable secrets in possession of the Fraternity.

That no secret is safe in the breast of a woman is an opinion commonly current, but the propriety of it may well be questioned. Has not every age produced examples of both sex, as being equal in point of mental excellence? Examine every century from the creation of the world, whose annals we are in possession of, and instances to corroborate the idea present themselves.

The continent has set the example to Masons of every region, of admitting, at proper seasons, ladies into their lodges; and France can boast even of a princess of the blood royal, patronising and assisting at their assemblies. The adopting this trait of an enlightened period in England is withheld, and will be easily accounted for when the general manners of the sex of both countries are considered. The levity of the French restrains not their admission into a promiscuous company; but the reserve of the British fair, actuate them to a different line of conduct; the advantages resulting from the introduction of the first, are, that they are convinced that nothing immoral, or impure, is to be met with in a Mason's Lodge, while the latter, from want of ocular demonstration to the contrary, harbour suspicious in their breasts, which are as unfounded as they are illiberal.

A recent institution (a) which was no sooner undertook, but was generously and generally supported, has at length opened the door for the benevolence of the fair advocates of Masonry, for till

(a). A school was instituted at Lady-day, 1788, for the supporting and educating female orphans, being the children of Masons in indigent circumstances, under the appellation of the Royal Cumberland Freemasons' School, it being honoured with the patronage of H.R.H. the Duchess of Cumberland; and the success it has experienced has enabled the subscribers to admit a larger number of objects than it was supposed possible to provide for. The benefactions of ladies were solicited, who condescended not only to become governesses by subscription, but to actually visit and superintend the internal economy of the institution.

this moment their deeds were not solicited, and when the object of that institution, the protection of female infants is considered, it will tend to unravel the general design of Masonry, and carry conviction even among the prejudiced.

The good word of every created being is in requisition, which belongs only to the practice of virtue, and it is desirable by all whose actions are equal to their professions. That the fair sex might be occasionally introduced into lodge is a point which does not merit an elucidation, but that they should not be generally present is equally evident; and even the ladies themselves will join in the conclusion, times and seasons will occur when their presence will be dispensed with there and in other places; and in return they must recollect the many moments of female conversation which they exclusively enjoy from the interruption of the eye and ear of men; they hold these meetings at their toilette, their tea tables, &c., for these are meetings peculiar to their own sex; and will not parity of reason admit that men should have similar institutions. In the time of the Roman republic a festival was held, which, upon comparison, will justify the total neglect of females in Masonry; but an admired writer says, that "comparisons are odious," and his opinion we shall subscribe to.

It was customary for the Roman ladies annually to celebrate in the house, either of the Consul or Prator, rites and ceremonies in honour of a certain goddess; in what the adoration consisted, as no man was ever permitted to be present, or even acquainted with the nature or tendency of it, it is impossible to say; at the time the vestals came, and so cautious were they of concealment that the house was carefully searched, all male animals were turned out of doors, and even their statues and pictures were covered with a thick veil.

These precautions for securing the secrecy of the ceremony prevented all possibility of a discovery by impertinent curiosity, or by presumptive intrusion, so that to this day the secret remains impenetrable (b). In a country where the women were less regarded than at Rome, and where less confidence was reposed in their probity and honour, the men would probably have supposed that ceremonies so carefully concealed from their knowledge, were either inimical to virtue or to the State; but that no such suspicions were entertained, Cicero, in speaking of these mysteries says—

"What sacrifice is there so ancient as that which has been handed down to us from our first kings, and is coeval with Rome herself?"

"What sacrifice is there so private and secret as that which is concealed, not only from the eyes of the curious and inquisitive, but from the sight of all men, and where neither the most profligate wickedness nor impudence ever yet presumed to enter? This

(b). The only attempt to violate the caution of the Roman matrons at the celebration of this secret ceremony occurred during the Pratorship of Julius Caesar, in 692; his third consort, Pompeia, who was united to him out of policy more than inclination, notwithstanding the nuptial vow she had taken, yet retained an admirer, Clodius, belonging to a noble family in the annals of that republic. Aurelia, the mother of Caesar, discovered the attachment of Pompeia, and to protect the honour of her son, by her vigilance prevented their interviews. At the expiration of the consular year, the secret festival was to be performed, as usual, in the house of Caesar, he being the chief magistrate at the time, and to his consort the right of presiding in it belonged; the splendour of dress, in conjunction with dominion, was a triumph to Pompeia, the opportunity of concealing her favourite; and gratifying his wishes of beholding her thus attired was so plausible, that she planned an assignation at the time of the sacrifice. Clodius disguised himself in the apparel of a female, and by means of the night, and dress, proceeded towards the house of his admirer, and by following those women who were going to be present at the ceremonies, obtained admittance at the door of it. A confidential servant of Pompeia, who had been consulted, and knew, notwithstanding the disguise, the person who entered, by signs dispatched him from the company, and whispered him the desire of her mistress to secret himself in her chamber; there situated he waited the return of the guide, who had left him to acquaint Pompeia of his arrival, which was prevented by the presence of Aurelia, until at length the impatience of Clodius occasioned him to perambulate the adjacent apartments, which were illuminated for the festival, as a receptacle for a part of the company; in one of these he was accosted, and his endeavouring to avoid conversation by flight caused a suspicion; they followed and overtook him, and demanded of him who he was, and what he wanted? to these questions no answer was returned, as he was aware that his voice would inevitably betray him; and his confusion was heightened by their calling for the assistance of their companions to unravel the mystery before them. The triumph of Pompeia was thus defeated, and Clodius was prosecuted for the attempt at the public tribunal, as the criminal code of the Romans had positively affixed the punishment of death for any man to be present at this ceremony; but by means of his influence in the senate, the certainty of his not having attained the most distant knowledge of the mysteries, and the avowal of his design in going there, that of only being favoured with a sight of Pompeia, he was acquitted; and her indiscretion in giving him an invitation to be in the house at so critical a juncture was punished by Caesar's divorcing her, and assigning as the reason, "that his wife ought to preserve herself from the suspicion as well as the guilt of the crime."

sacrifice, which is performed by the vestal virgins, which is performed for the prosperity of the Roman people, which is performed in the house of the chief magistrate, celebrated with unknown ceremonies, and in honour of a goddess whose very name to know is sacrilege."

Commentators on this description of Cicero will, perhaps, be apt to allege that, whatever opinion the Romans may have entertained of these rites and ceremonies, that they must at least have been of an indelicate nature, else why all this care and solicitude of the women to conceal them from the men? But is it not more natural to suppose that, as the Romans had a deity to preside almost over every particular circumstance and action, this goddess must either have been considered as the patroness of the sex in general, or the particular patroness of some of their affairs and concerns; and that on this account the women imagined nothing could be so acceptable to her as rites and ceremonies performed only by that sex, and for the prosperity of those affairs which she patronised.

After this historical illustration of the fidelity of the fair sex, let it no longer be an adage that no secret is safe in the breast of a woman; and again, a further conclusion may be drawn, that the Roman ladies, in performing the rites sacred to the goddess, were considerably more afraid of the men than our Masons are of the women.

For a disquisition on the principles of Masonry, a reference to ingenious publications (c) on this subject must suffice, it not being within the intention of these pages; the sole object is to recommend the introduction of the fair sex into occasional lodges; and if that does not take place, to remove their prejudices by exhibiting in a simile what is couched under that mysterious word—Masonry.

The subsequent lines will best convey the sentiments of the Fraternity on this subject:—

"As some crack'd chymist, of projecting brain,
Much for discovery, but more from gain,
With toil incessant labours, puffs, and blows,
In search of something nature won't disclose,
At length his crucibles and measures broke,
His fancy'd gains evaporate in smoke,
So some, presumptuous, still attempt to trace
The guarded symbol of our ancient race;
Enwrapped in venerable gloom it his,
And mocks all sight—but of a Mason's eyes;
Like the famed stream enriching Egypt's shore,
All feel its use, but for its source explore,
All ages still must owe, and every land
Their pride and safety to the Mason's hands;
Whether for gorgeous domes renowned afar,
Or ramparts strong to stem the rage of war;
All we behold in earth—or circling air—
Proclaims the power of compasses and square;
The heaven-taught science, queen of arts appears,
Elders the rust of time, and waste of years;
Thro' form and matter are her laws displayed,
The rules—the frame by which the world was made.
Whatever virtues grace the social name,
Those we possess, on those we found our fame;
Wisely the lodge looks down on tinsel state,
Where only to be good is to be great;
Such souls by instinct to each other turn,
Demand alliance, and in friendship burn;
No shallow schemes, no stratagems, nor arts,
Can break the cement that unites our hearts.
Then let pale envy rage, and every name
Of fools, mistaking infamy for fame;
Such have all countries and all ages born,
And such all countries and all ages scorn;
Glorious the temple of the sylvan queen,

(c). *A Candid Disquisition of the Principles and Practices of the most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons; together with some Strictures on the Origin, Nature, and Design of that Institution*, dedicated by permission, to the most Noble and most Worshipful Henry Duke of Beaufort, &c., Grand Master, by WELLINS CALVERT, P.M. London, printed in 1769.

Illustrations of Masonry; inscribed to the Right Honourable Lord Petre, Past Grand Master, by WILLIAM PRESTON, P.M. London, printed in 1781. This work is divided into four books; the first includes a vindication of Masonry, with a demonstration of its excellency; in the second, the degrees are illustrated, and the ancient ceremonies of the order described; the third contains a copy of a curious old manuscript on Masonry, which is enriched by annotations from the pen of that acute logician, J. Locke, Esq., and additional remarks are annexed to explain that authentic document of antiquity; the fourth book is restricted to the history of Masonry in England to the present time, and the illustrations are concluded with a collection of odes, anthems, songs, &c.

Pride of the world, at Ephesus was seen;
A witless wretch, the Pritchard (d) of those days,
Stranger to virtue, and unknown to praise,
Crooked of soul, and fond of any name,
Consigned the noble monument to flame.
Vain madman! if so thinking to destroy
The art which cannot but with nature die;
Still will the Craft—still shall his name survive,
And in our glory (e) his disgrace shall live.

In all the arts and sciences there are technical words and phrases which require illustration; such are added to the subsequent pages as was deemed essential by the editor.

EX. EX.

HOW THE BRETHREN TREATED THEIR TYLERS HALF A CENTURY SINCE.

One of those very old fashioned circulars edged with black, relating to a Masonic funeral, having recently fallen into my hands, may claim a place amongst your notes and queries. Bro. Bryan was the Birmingham Tyler, and the contrast between the exit from this world of a Tyler of 1808 and 1860 may afford some curious material for speculation. The following letter explains itself:—

"BROTHER,—You are particularly cited to attend the duties of St. Alban's Lodge, at the Shakespeare Tavern, on Tuesday evening next, punctually at seven; being 1st March, 1808.

"It having pleased the Grand Architect of the Universe to take unto himself our much beloved brother, John Bryan, who departed this life, in hopes of an eternal one, in the 77th year of his age, on Monday the 25th of January; therefore this solemn lodge is called, in order to testify our sincere regard for him by putting ourselves in mourning.

"An elegy will be sung on this occasion.

"By order of the Worshipful

"S. BRERETON, Master.

"W. HILL, Secretary.

"Birmingham, February 26, 1808.

"N.B.—The mourning on this occasion is black, with white stockings and gloves."

Ode and Elegy in Memory of John Bryan.

ODE.

I.

'Tis done; the Architect Divine,
The awful blow hath given;
Our brother hath obey'd the sign,
To join the lodge in heaven.

II.

Angelic janitors rejoice,
The portals to extend,
Harmonic seraphs raise their voice,
To hail our worthy friend.

III.

Thrice welcome to the lodge above,
Where pleasures never fail,
And Concord, Harmony, and Love,
Eternally prevail.

IV.

Thrice welcome to the blest abode,
Where angels reign in heaven,
And praise the wondrous works of God,
To whom be glory given.

(d). This monster in the shape of a human being attempted to disclose what it is out of the power of any individual to accomplish; and he sank into the contempt which, if his nefarious practices could have succeeded, they would certainly have produced.

(e). The glory of Masonry in this isle may, with great propriety, be said to have arrived at its meridian; the accession of the heir-apparent to the throne is an acquisition that will render the present era highly illustrious; a constellation of princes uniting in the grand design of communicating happiness and science among the fraternity is an epoch never before exhibited in their records. The grandfather of the present Grand Master, it must ever be remembered, contributed as far as an English Prince could, to sustain the character of a Freemason; but his day was not blessed with contemporaries equal in birth and rank to succour and promote his benevolent intentions; nor in his time were the nobility of the land like the present—zealous to testify their approbation of the science by being admitted into the society.

ELEGY.

From this vain world of noise and strife,
 To enjoy a new-born heavenly life,
 Our dearest brother's fled!
 His body we commit to earth,
 His soul to God, who gave him birth,
 To raise him from the dead.

(Chorus.)

To the powers Divine all glory be given,
 By men upon earth, and by Angels in heaven.

The sweet remembrance of the just,
 Shall flourish while he sleeps in dust,
 Our hope in heaven secure;
 The wicked's mem'ry shall decay,
 And vanish like a shade away,
 Nor thought of any more. (Chorus.)

In the grand, awful Lodge above,
 Dwell Concord, Harmony, and Love,
 Eternal peace and rest;
 Our God is merciful and kind,
 Then seek in time, and you will find
 A blessing 'mongst the blest. (Chorus.)

—BAS. M.

ANTIEN AND MODERN MASONS.

What is known about the differences of the old York, Athol, and Modern Masons of the last century?—J. S. S.—[The following condensed account, from an old Masonic publication, will explain the difference at length. Preston says:—

“A few brethren at York, having, on some trivial occasion, seceded from their ancient lodge, they applied to London for a warrant of constitution, and, without inquiry into the merits of the case, their application was honoured. Instead of being recommended to the mother lodge to be restored to favour, these brethren were encouraged in their revolt, and permitted, under the banner of the Grand Lodge at London, to open a new lodge in the city of York itself.” A short time after the above flagrant outrage, the London Grand Lodge again invaded the jurisdiction of the York Grand Lodge. We copy again from Preston: “The Earl of Crawford (1734) seems to have made another encroachment on the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge at York, by constituting two lodges within their district, and by granting, without their consent, three deputations.” The London Grand Lodge in 1738, published a second book of Constitutions, differing materially in the organic laws of Masonry from these published in 1723. In this book of 1738, after enumerating a list of names as Provincial Grand Masters appointed for different places abroad, they say, “All these foreign lodges are under the patronage of our Grand Master of England; but the old Lodge at York city, and the Lodges of Scotland, Ireland, France, and Italy, affecting independencies, are under their own Grand Masters.” A third encroachment on the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge at York was made in 1738, Lord Carnarvon, Grand Master, by the appointment of a Provincial Grand Master for the West Riding of Yorkshire. This latter encroachment, Preston remarks, “so widened the breach between the brethren in the North and South of England, that thenceforward all future correspondence between the Grand Lodges totally ceased.” The London Grand Lodge, on the 24th of June, 1723, adopted the following resolution (ed. 1738, p. 175). “That it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make any alteration or innovation in the body of Masonry, without the consent first being obtained of the Grand Lodge.” This resolution of the Grand Lodge is either not generally known, or those who believe in the legality of the formation of the new Grand Lodge, think it best not to mention it. The resolution, however, was offered and adopted by the Grand Lodge. It would hardly be worth while asking the question, if a Grand Lodge ought to be recognised, and fellowship held with its members, that would declare that innovations in the body of Masonry could be made if the Grand Lodge consented to it. The friends of Anderson of 1723 will please make a note of this resolution. Preston, in commenting upon the illegal invasion of the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of York by the London Grand Lodge, says:—“It is much to be regretted that any separate interests should have destroyed the social intercourse of Masons; but it is no less remarkable than true, that the brethren in the North and those in the South are now, in a manner, unknown to each other. Notwithstanding the pitch of eminence and splendor at which the Grand Lodge in London has arrived, neither the Lodges of Scotland nor Ireland court its correspondence. This unfortunate circumstance has been attributed to the introduction of a few modern innovations among the lodges in the South.” It is a well-established fact that

the lodges in London did make some innovations about this time, and hence the term “modern,” which was applied to them, and rightfully, by the true body of Masons. Our limits will not justify us in pursuing our investigations. It is certain that the origin of the Grand Lodge formed in 1717, has been greatly misunderstood. The acts of aggression upon the rights of the parent Grand Lodge, commenced nearly two centuries before, resulted in throwing off their allegiance altogether, and forming an independent Grand Lodge. The city of London had grown to a vast metropolis. The Craft were unwilling to be subordinate to a body located in a small city in the interior of the country. Besides, old Craft Masonry did not suit their progressive notions. At the Assembly and Feast, June 24th, 1718, it was desired of the brethren “to bring to the Grand Lodge any old writings and records concerning Masons and Masonry, in order to show the usages in ancient times; and this year several old copies of the Gothic constitutions were produced and collated.” On the 29th of September, 1721, the Grand Master and the lodge finding fault with all the copies of the old Gothic Constitutions, ordered Bro. James Anderson, A.M., to digest the same in a new and better method.” On the 27th of December, 1721, “fourteen learned brothers were appointed to examine Bro. Anderson’s manuscript, and to make report.” At the Grand Lodge, 25th March, 1722, “the said committee of fourteen reported that they had perused Bro. Anderson’s manuscripts, viz.:—The History, Charges, Regulations, and Master’s Song, and after some amendments, had approved of it.” This *Book of Constitutions*, after being amended, altered, changed, &c., in committees and by the Grand Lodge, was approved on the 17th of January, 1723; and from the above history and extracts, an opinion may be formed as to the truthfulness of the document, and agreement of the so-called Anderson’s Constitutions with the ancient Gothic Constitution, containing the true and ancient laws and usages of the fraternity. As the York Grand Lodge did not take any public notice of the schismatics, and as the latter body gave public notoriety to all of its transactions, it was successful in establishing and multiplying lodges. There were at the time of the organization of the Grand Lodge in 1717, many lodges holding under the York Constitution in London and throughout England, which had to succumb to the popularity of the new Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland refused, in common with the York Grand Lodge, fellowship with, or countenance to, the new Grand Lodge, which had not only innovated upon the landmarks of Freemasonry, but altered and changed the ancient laws and charges. In 1738, James Anderson, by direction of the Grand Lodge, prepared a new *Book of Constitutions*, in which the ‘Ancient Charges’ differ very materially from the ancient charges published in the 1723 edition. These latter charges are generally accredited to Laurence Dermott, who, in 1756, eighteen years later, published an *Alhiman Rezon*, in which he copied the 1738 ancient charges of Anderson *verbatim*. If we were to express an opinion why Anderson in 1738 published a code of charges different in constitutional and Masonic principles from those published in 1723, we would say that as at that time (1738) the York Grand Lodge began to show an outward opposition to the new establishment, and as it had right on its side, public opinion was with it; the new Grand Lodge was in a manner impelled to declare a code of charges more in consonance with ancient established usages, and which accorded with those practised by the York Grand Lodge. This history might be extended through some volumes from published data of the last century, and particularly from the records of the new Grand Lodge, showing more clearly than we have in the limited space at our command, the illegality of the Grand Lodge formed in 1717, its previous aggressions and its continued and subsequent innovations upon the body of Masonry, which it claimed the right to make by its resolution of June 24, 1723; but as the history of the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 has not yet been written, and as the Ancient Grand Lodge of York from 1717 has been almost totally ignored by all Masonic writers, we leave the task to the future historian, satisfied with having thrown out some hints, not heretofore noticed, for his guidance.”]

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

A writer in the *Dublin University Magazine* thus sensibly disposes of the cry which some raise, for party purposes, of “Irish nationality:”—“Of what nationality do we, Irish, claim to have originally been? As for our present state, there is no distinctiveness between our Celtic and Teutonic races, our O’Donoughnes, Fitz-Geralds, and Mitchells; and even seven hundred years ago, the country was inhabited by mixed races, Celts, Cimbrians, or Gauls, Scythians, and Scots, with considerable sprinklings of Germans in the interior, and Scandinavians all around the coast. During that lapse of time, the immigration of additional Teutonic

people has been so great as that, of the present inhabitants, the Celtic race is, if not inferior in point of numbers, vastly so in possession of property and education. In many counties, the owners of the land are of Teutonic extraction, and the same rule applies to the class of large farmers and traders. What, then, are the Irish people, peculiarly so called, and what is their claim to distinct and independent nationality? Is the Celtic remnant to impose laws on the Teutonic element? If so, why? Not because these Irish excel their countrymen in wealth and intelligence. Is it because they surpass in numbers only? Or because they have the special name of the Irish in Ireland? If the quarrel rests on a name, let us see what the name implies. The name, Ireland, is half Celtic, half Teutonic, like the origin of the people, its first syllable being derived from *Iar*, the west, as also in use in *Iar*, or West Connaught, and its second is a Teutonic word. Or take a still older designation, *Eire*, and we see it has the same origin, being from *Iar*, west, and *e* or *ei*, the Scandinavian term for an island. An Irishman, therefore, signifies no more than a denizen of the Western Isle. If he be of Celtic race, there are sufficient reasons for styling him a West Briton; and should he decline to be categorised with the Cimbrians of Wales and the Scots of North Britain, he may be asked what claim has he to higher distinction. We shall examine his pretensions presently; yet cannot forego the declaration that we ourselves are proud of being Irishmen, not yielding to any in ardent desire to see our countrymen contented and prosperous; and we are also proud of the fact, that our country is the right arm of Great Britain, and that it is, under the will of Providence, destined to grow stronger year by year. Who are the people who, assuming an exclusive right to the title of Irish, pretend to deem themselves superior to the Anglo-Saxon race, and too exalted to be included in the British nation? It will be found, we believe, on the strictest and most impartial inquiry, that the stock whence these supercilious Hibernians derive is no other than British. So that of all the races inhabiting Ireland, this is the very one which may properly be styled West British.*

The *Athenaeum* does not believe in looking upon Joseph Mallord William Turner (the barber's son, who died not long ago possessed of a hundred and forty thousand pounds, all amassed by the sale of his paintings), as a "neglected genius:" in fact, who can? In noticing the life of that artist, by Mr. Walter Thornbury, just published, our contemporary, after showing up some of Turner's meannesses, remarks:—"We have gone further in grouping these details and traits—all put forward by a panegyrist—than we might have done, were it not for the claims on veneration for the man, thrust forward in every page, and foiled by disparaging epithets applied to those who surrounded Turner. When we find the 'restless poison of envy' which 'oozed incessantly from Constable's tongue' dwelt upon to enhance by contrast the geniality of the man who, we had been reading a line earlier, 'was too reserved often to praise;'—when we find Sir Thomas Laurence, the gentle, the munificent, whose patronage of and delight in Art went far to entangle his own fortunes, sneered at as 'the landlord's son,'—it is only fit that the barber's son, were he twice the divinity in his art he was, should be shown, as he was in reality,—the miserly master of his barber father!" And it adds:—"Turner's life as an artist—as can be proved past cross-examination from the book before us—was one of success from the first, of gain and appreciation.

There is no saying at how low a rate literature of a sort can be done. We have before us an advertisement from a brother of the quill located at Lynn, in Norfolk, offering to write "for the press, at fixed and very low charges." The almost fabulous sums received by some of the popular writers of the day seem to be alike out of the hopes and aspirations of the Norfolk prodigy; for prodigy he must be of a sort to gain even an existence at his "very low charges." No sort of literature seems to be above his grasp or below his notice. "Original local and other tales, poetry, charades, enigmas, riddles," &c., are manufactured at the rate of fourpence per hundred words; whilst "reports of public meetings, police news, events of any kind, addresses, advertisements, &c.," are "corrected and rewritten" at the "rate of twopence per hundred words;" and "all matters will be penned in a generous or humorous style, according to order." The advertiser names no political principles; we presume that he is not tied to a shade in such trifles.

Miss Agnes Strickland, in her recent *Lives of the Bachelor Kings of England*, thus describes the death of the pious young monarch, Edward the Sixth:—"The last fatal change took place on the 6th of July. The morning of that day was ushered in by

the most dreadful thunderstorm that had passed over Europe in the memory of man. England had its full share of it. The turbid state of the atmosphere probably hastened the young king's death. A few hours before he expired, darkness as at midnight, came down upon the earth at noonday, the thunder crashed and lightnings blazed, trees were torn up by the roots, and bridges were swept away by the torrents. But the fury of the storm disturbed not the tranquility of Edward's departing spirit. Dr. Owen, the physician who had been present at his birth, and two of his favourite gentlemen in waiting, Sir Henry Sidney and Sir Thomas Wroth, were the sole watchers beside the deathbed of this fairest and most promising of England's royal hopes. In that solemn hour, when hovering on the verge of eternity, the dying sovereign explained to Sidney, 'that his zeal for the permanent establishment of the true religion of the Gospel in England, and his desire to prevent a relapse into Popery, was the reason of his electing the Lady Jane Gray to succeed him, in preference to his sister Mary, not any personal ill-will or spleen unto that princess; but out of pure love to his subjects, desiring that they might live and die in the Lord as he did.' Exhausted, perhaps, by this discourse the royal youth long remained silent and motionless, with closed eyes, as if unconscious. At length he gave utterance to the following prayer:—"O Lord God, free me, I beseech thee, out of this miserable and calamitous life, and receive me among the number of thine elect if so it be thy pleasure, although not mine, but thine, be done. To thee, O Lord, do I commend my spirit. Thou knowest, O Lord, how happy I shall be may I live with thee for ever, yet would I might live and be well for thine elect's sake, that I might faithfully serve thee. O Lord God, bless thy people and save thine inheritance! O Lord God, save thy people of England, defend the kingdom from Popery, and preserve thy true religion in it, that I and my people may bless thy holy name for thy Son, Jesus Christ. Then opening his eyes, which had previously been closed, and seeing Dr. Owen, his physician (from whose report we have this prayer), sitting by, he said, 'Are you there? I had not thought you had been so near.' Yes, replied the physician, 'I heard your highness speak.' 'Indeed,' said Edward, 'I was making my prayer to God.' About three hours after he suddenly exclaimed, 'I am faint Lord Jesus, have mercy upon me and receive my soul; then, sinking on the bosom of Sir Henry Sidney, who was tenderly supporting him, he gently breathed his last sigh, with those words on his lips. He expired about six o'clock in the evening, in the midst of the storm, aged fifteen years, eight months, and eight days."

Sir John Forbes, M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., physician to her Majesty's household, and one of the Editors of the *Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine*, died on Wednesday, the 13th inst., in his seventy-fourth year.

The following is a specimen of the superstitious rubbish which some of the educated classes both in England and in America believe most firmly in. We quote from the *Spiritual Magazine*, the organ of the spirit-rappers:—"The lights being extinguished, footsteps were heard as of persons walking in their stocking-feet, accompanied by the rustling sound of a silk dress. It was then rapped out by the alphabet: 'My dear, I am here in form; do not speak.' A globular light rose up from the floor behind me, and, as it became brighter, a face, surmounted by a crown, was distinctly seen by the medium and myself. Next the head appeared, as if covered with a white veil; this was withdrawn after the figure had risen some feet higher, and I recognised unmistakably the full head and face of my wife, surrounded by a semi-circle of light about eighteen inches in diameter. The recognition was complete, derived alike from the features and her natural expression. The globe of light was then raised, and a female hand held before it was distinct, & visible. Each of these manifestations was repeated several times, as if to leave no doubt in our minds. Now the figure, coming lower down and turning its head, displayed, falling over the globe of light, long flowing hair, which even in its shade of colour, appeared like the natural tresses of my wife, and, like hers, was unusually luxuriant. This whole mass of hair was whisked in our faces many times, conveying the same sensations as if it had been actually natural human hair. This also was frequently repeated, and the hair shown to us in a variety of ways. The light and the rustling sound then passed round the table and approached me, and what seemed to the touch a skirt of muslin was thrown over my head, and a hand was felt as if holding it there. A whisper was now heard, and the words 'Sing, sing,' were audibly pronounced. I hummed an air, and asked, 'Do you like that?' 'Yes, yes,' was plainly spoken in a whisper, and in both cases I recognised distinctly the voice of my wife, to which I had become sensitively familiarised during her last illness, when she had become too weak to talk aloud. An arm was passed round my neck, and I asked her to kiss me. The light immediately approached me, and a form

like a face touched me sensibly twice on the left side of my mouth. A head then reclined on mine, the long hair falling over my face and shoulder, and remained until the heat became unbearable. A bright light then appeared, and disclosed a figure with the arm raised over its head. I asked for an explanation of the nature of the drapery, and it was answered by the raps: 'It is a spiritual garment naturalised; I will bring you the key.' Footsteps and the rustling indicated a movement towards the door, and the sofa which was against the key was removed, the key turned in the lock, and was then placed in my outstretched hand."

"There is no cruelty to be found in the wildest romance," says Proletarius, "but what can be paralleled in the actual dealings of man with his fellow-man." The following account of an Egyptian tyrant, who would have done admirably for one of the children of Israel's hard taskmasters, is given in the new work on *Egypt, the Soudan, and Central Africa*. One would charitably hope that the whole was fiction, did not corresponding reports bring it within the region of belief. Even as we write, the daily newspapers inform us, that the king of Dahomey is preparing once more to slaughter two thousand innocent human beings according to his "grand custom!" "The treatment of the natives by the Defterdar, his subordinates, and the uncouth troops, was barbarous in the extreme. Not only were they robbed of every article of value which came under the observation of their despoilers, but the most trivial offence was punished with a cruelty which, for its ingenuity, was as peculiar as it was horrifying. An instance or two will throw sufficient light upon the character of the Defterdar and the sufferings of his victims, and enable the reader to understand what bitter cause the Kordofanese had to regret their change of master. One of his soldiers, in open day, walked off with a sheep from the enclosure of a poor man, where he had secured it prior to offering it for sale in the market. Taken in the act, he not only persisted in keeping the sheep, but treated the peasant with abuse. He might have reconciled himself to being robbed, which was of too ordinary occurrence; but, determined to obtain satisfaction for wanton attacks upon his character, he forthwith proceeded to the divan, and laid his complaint before the Defterdar. Listening attentively, without interruption, until he heard the case, in a sudden fit of passion he said, 'Dog, do you dare to trouble me with such a trifle?' then composing himself for an instant, and catching a fly, at which he was a great adept, and which in his wicked moods was a favourite occupation, he ordered his attendants to take the man before the Kadi. In a few minutes the poor fellow was blown from the muzzle of a cannon, always ready for summary executions in front of the divan, and which the Defterdar called the Kadi. A man complained that he had been struck in the market. 'By whom?' growled the governor. 'By this man.' 'Is it true?' 'Yes, Excellency; but—' 'No buts are necessary; with which hand did you strike him?' 'With this, the right, Excellency.' 'Then in order to impress upon your memory that you have no right to take the administration of justice into your own hands, for which purpose I am here—giving a nod to his attendants—'I shall have the palm of your hand off.' A couple of attendants rushed on the unfortunate peasant, and with a fearful iron instrument of the Defterdar's invention, the flesh was torn from its ligaments. 'That will do; go to your work.' 'Work!' said the poor victim, maddening with pain, 'how can I, in this state?' 'Dog, you contradict me; cut his tongue out; he knows not how to use it;' and, in addition to the torture already undergone, he was deprived of the organ of speech. Dreaded not alone by the aborigines, his officers, troops, and household servants trembled when in his presence; for they well knew that the slightest offence, neglect, or mistake, would be punished with torture or death. After the feast of the Beiram, it is customary for servants to receive presents from their masters; and about a score of the Defterdar's grooms, after kissing his hand, and, as is usual, wishing him a long and happy life, imprudently asked him for new shoes. 'Yes,' was his reply; but judge their astonishment when, on the following day, iron shoes were nailed to the soles of their feet. An Arab, unable to poise a couple of small field pieces on a camel's back, one of which was heavier than the other—'Let me try,' said the Defterdar; and, ordering the man to be slung by the waist to the lighter gun, without a quiver of his features, he said, 'That will do;' and there the poor fellow remained throughout the day's march, on one daring to relieve him from his painful position."

At the opening *converzazione* of the Architectural Association the other day, Mr. W. A. Bloomfield wisely advised the members not to "approach the character of a juvenile debating Society, in which the most difficult political questions of the day are gravely

discussed and decided by an assembly of beardless youths." The following extract from the report of the "Castlecroft Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society," read at the annual *soirée* of the society on the 11th inst., we copy from the *Bury Times*:—"With respect to the debating class, they were able to say better things than of all the other classes put together; though some members had made it a means of venting their spleen against others, and at times a great deal of dust had been thrown about, so that for the time they had been most of them blind; yet they had not missed once holding their class since it was first fairly formed, and the interest still continued with unabated vigour. They met fortnightly for discussion, and during the fifteen months that they had been a society, about thirty subjects had been discussed, some of them twice over, amongst which were the following:—"Ought government to prepare a secular education for the people?" "Is the doctrine of eternal punishment consistent with the idea of a just God?" "Is universal suffrage just or desirable?" "Who was the greatest benefactor to his country—Alfred the Great, or Oliver Cromwell?" "Ought capital punishment to be abolished?" "Whether is male or female education most important?" "Are ignorance and intemperance the chief causes of crime?" "Ought the grant to Maynooth to be withdrawn?" "Are trades' unions beneficial to working men?" "Is woman mentally inferior to man?" Some of them had been discussed with much warmth, particularly, the last one; some of the gentlemen, having an eye to the fact that they were the lords of creation, were not wishful to lose the palm of superiority. Connected with the association there was also a conversation class. Essays had been read fortnightly by the members. In connection with the society they had also a manuscript magazine issued monthly, and of which four numbers have already appeared. Some of the articles which had appeared exhibited much merit, both in the style of composition, and in the subjects treated of. Although the scheme is a new one with them, they thought they should not be ashamed of putting their Castlecroft Magazine in the hands of a stranger."—It must be borne in mind that the above is intended as a sort of model society, being connected with a dissenting chapel, the minister of which is reported at this *soirée* as speaking of our immortal Bro. Robert Burns, as though he had been one of the reprobates of his day!

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

SIR,—In your publication of Saturday last, there is a letter from a "Grand Officer of Scotland." In that letter there is a list of prices charged by that body, calling themselves "Early Grand," for eleven degrees succeeding those of R. A. and K. T. Your correspondent is partly right, such is the *nominal* price of these degrees; but you will perhaps be astonished when I tell you that no less than seven degrees, *viz.*, from Knights of the Blue to Red Cross, or Princely Order, inclusive, have been conferred on individuals for the sum of 2s. 6d.

The name of the individual who conferred these degrees, and also the names of those who received them, I can at any time produce.

He states that their obligation binds them "not to be present at the exaltation of any one to the R. A. degree, where the fee is more than 7s., and to the Temple, more than 10s. 6d."

I am of opinion that your correspondent has made a mistake in this; at least, if it is so *now*, it must have been *lately* altered, as I am almost confident that the meaning *was*, that they will not be present, &c., where the fee is *less* than 7s. for R. A., and 10s. 6d. for K. T.

However, having as great an abhorrence, not only of spurious Masonry, but also of those who go about giving it to the world (even though it was pure, at the scale of prices here mentioned), as any "Grand Officer" can be, I hope he will speedily have that law passed in Grand Lodge which he mentions, for the protection of our Royal Order.

I am, yours fraternally,
Mossend Iron Works, by Bellshill, Nov. 26.

G.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

A Grand Conclave of Knights Templar is convened for Friday next, the 6th Dec., at four o'clock, to transact "divers important and urgent business."

A new lodge, entitled the Hornsey, is to be consecrated by Bro. Mugeridge, at the Albion Tavern, Stoke Newington, on the 18th.

We are happy to announce that the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon has kindly consented to preside at the Annual Festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows on the 29th of January. The first meeting of the Stewards, of which there is already a goodly list, will take place on Friday next.

GRAND LODGE.

The following is the official paper of Grand Lodge for Wednesday next, 4th December, 1861.

The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 4th September to be read and put for confirmation.

Nomination of a Grand Master for the year ensuing.

Election of twelve Past Masters to serve on the Board of Benevolence.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants, viz. :-

The Widow of the late Bro. T. M., of the Royal Yorkshire Lodge, (No. 332), Keighley.....	£50 0 0
Bro. J. S., of the Lodge of Union (No. 45), Chichester...	50 0 0
Bro. R. H., of the Lodge of Unanimity (No. 424), Penrith.....	30 0 0

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 they have received and adjudicated upon the following complaints :-

1. By the Senior Warden of the High Cross Lodge (No. 1056), at Tottenham, against the W. Master Elect, alleging that that brother, who is also Treasurer of the lodge, is the master of the tavern at which the lodge meets, and that the transfer of his license to his brother-in law was only colourable, and for the purpose of enabling him to hold office. The Board having heard the statement of the brother complaining, and the explanation of the W. Master Elect, decided that no positive proof had been adduced before them that the W. Master Elect continued to be the actual master of the tavern; but that the circumstances of the case were such as fully to justify the Senior Warden's bringing the matter under the notice of the Board.

2. By the Senior Deacon of the same lodge against the W. Master for not allowing his lodge to meet on the 22nd of August last, that being one of the regular days of meeting specified in the by-laws of the lodge. The W. Master explained that the only business to be transacted was the Installation of the W. Master Elect, and that as he had notice that the validity of such election was under the consideration of the Board of General Purposes, he thought he was only paying proper deference to the constituted authorities by not holding a lodge until the decision of the Board should be given. Having heard this explanation, the Board resolved that although the W. Master was bound to hold his lodge on the days mentioned in the by-laws, yet, as he had acted to the best of his judgment, and was influenced by no improper motive, he was not amenable to censure.

3. By the Lodge of Benevolence against the Lodge of Unanimity (No. 424), at Penrith, for certifying that a brother had been a contributing member for 40 years and upwards, whereas Grand Lodge dues had been paid for 36½ years only. The Board were satisfied upon examination that the error was unintentional, and accepted the explanation of the lodge as satisfactory in every respect.

The Board beg further to report that they have received three complaints from the W.M. Elect of the High Cross Lodge, No. 1056, at Tottenham :- one against a Past Master of the Lodge, and the

other two against the W. Master. All parties were duly summoned to appear and produce the warrant and books of the lodge. The W. Master produced the warrant, and stated that he was unable to produce the books, inasmuch as some members of the lodge had forcibly taken the books out of the custody of the Secretary, and had kept possession of them ever since. The books not being produced, the Board adjourned the hearing of the complainants till their next meeting. They also directed the books to be sent forthwith to the Grand Secretary's office, retained possession of the warrant, and suspended the lodge until the next meeting of the Board.

The Board beg also to report that their attention has been directed to the resolution adopted by Grand Lodge at its meeting in June last, by which the M.W. Grand Master was empowered to appoint brethren of eminence and distinction to be members of Grand Lodge, with such rank and distinction as he might think proper; and to the resolution adopted at the same meeting of Grand Lodge, by which it was resolved "That at and after the Grand Festival of 1862 two additional Grand Deacons should be appointed." It has been stated to the Board that serious doubts exist as to whether the power given by those resolutions to the M.W. Grand Master, or a power similar thereto, has been, by such resolutions, bestowed upon Provincial Grand Masters. The Board having given the subject their best attention, consider that it is very desirable that any doubts that may be entertained should be removed as soon as possible, and for that purpose they beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following proviso to be added to each of the before mentioned resolutions :-

"Provided that nothing herein contained shall empower Provincial Grand Masters to make similar appointments in their respective provinces."

The Board beg further to report that Messrs. Elkington and Co., the present tenants of the Freemasons' Tavern, have applied to be continued tenants at will after the expiration of their lease in June, 1862; and also to have a renewal of their lease. The Board beg to recommend that Messrs. Elkington and Co. be accepted as yearly tenants on the expiration of their lease, provided they agree to pay the same rent as at present, all sewers rates and land tax, and to be subject to their tenancy being determined by six months' notice, at any of the usual quarter days.

(Signed) AENEAS J. MCINTYRE, President.

Freemasons' Hall, 20th November, 1861.

To the report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 15th inst., showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £1435 15s. 11d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash, £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence, £374 12s. 6d.; to the Fund of General Purposes, £675 5s. 7d.; and there is in the unappropriated account, £435 17s. 10d., a portion of which belongs to the Grand Chapter.

The Report of the Colonial Board to the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Colonial Board beg to report as follows :-

The resolution passed at the Quarterly Communication of this Grand Lodge, in June last, approving and adopting the report of this Board of the 22nd May last, in the matter of the complaint of the St. Lawrence Lodge (No. 923), Montreal, against the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada in relation to that lodge, was formally communicated to the authorities of such Grand Lodge, who were also informed that a copy of the said report of the R.W. the Provincial Grand Master for Montreal, and William Henry, therein referred to, had been forwarded, and the W.M. of the St. Lawrence Lodge was apprised of what had been done.

An official letter has been received from the Grand Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Canada, under date 18th July last, from which he would appear to have received the communication in due course, but that the copy report of the Provincial Grand Master for Montreal did not, from some unexplained cause, reach him until after the meetings of the Grand Lodge of Canada in July had terminated. That Grand Lodge, therefore, had not before them a material part of the evidence on which the report of this Board of the 22nd May last was based.

It might have been expected that under these circumstances the Grand Lodge of Canada would, if not from a sense of common justice at least out of courtesy to the Grand Lodge of England, with which it holds friendly and intimate relations, have deferred coming to a final decision on the case until the arrival of the evidence and a due consideration thereof. It appears, however, from the official letter of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada above referred to, as well as from a report from the

Representative of the Grand Lodge of England at the Grand Lodge of Canada, under date the 5th September last, giving a detailed account of the proceedings at the meeting in July last, that the case was allowed to be forced on by the opponents of the St. Lawrence



Lodge, although Grand Lodge was strongly urged by the said representative to allow the question to be postponed until after the evidence above referred to had been received and considered, and ultimately the following resolution was passed:—"That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge, that as no evidence has been offered which could induce this Grand Lodge to change the decision already arrived at, that the same be now confirmed, and that the Grand Master be requested to give immediate effect to the decision of this Grand Lodge, and to direct a copy of this resolution to be forwarded to the United Grand Lodge of England through the representative of that Grand Body."

On a very careful re-consideration of the case, the Board see no reason to doubt the correctness of the conclusion on which they based their report to Grand Lodge of 22nd May last. They are decidedly of opinion that the St. Lawrence Lodge (No. 923), Montreal has not forfeited its rights to recognition by the Grand Lodge of Canada as a regular lodge, holding under the Grand Lodge of England, being of good standing and repute, and entitled to all the rights and privileges reserved to lodges in Canada retaining their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and secured by the treaty and convention come to between that Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Canada, when the independence of the last named Grand Lodge was recognised.

The representative of the Grand Lodge of England in his report above referred to, states, that having, subsequent to the close of the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada, received from the Grand Secretary of that Grand Lodge the copy of the report of the Prov.G.M. for Montreal, he had forwarded the same to the Grand Master of Canada, "with a request that he will be pleased to give the contents his careful consideration," and he adds, "and if, as I hope, he may find in it arguments to justify his doing so, that under the peculiar and delicate nature of the case he will repeat the privilege he has once already accorded, and order that the matter may remain open for the re-consideration of Grand Lodge."

The Board have deemed it their duty to report the present position of the matter for the information of Grand Lodge, but being without any further communication either from the said representative or from the W.M. of the St. Lawrence Lodge (No. 923), who was the original complainant, the Board are not prepared at present to recommend action to be taken on the part of this Grand Lodge in reference to the objectionable proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and would fain hope that the M.W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada has adopted the suggestion of the representative of the Grand Lodge of England, and has continued the suspension of the obnoxious resolution, with a view of giving his Grand Lodge an opportunity of re-considering a decision not justified by the evidence adduced, come to without hearing the evidence on both sides, and contrary to the Constitutions as well of the Grand Lodge of Canada, as of the Grand Lodge of England.

(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS,

Freemasons' Hall, 20th Nov., 1861.

President.

Notice of motion by Bro. Henry G. Warren, P.M., Grand Stewards' Lodge:—

In clause 1, page 50, of the *Book of Constitutions*, "Of the other Provincial Grand Officers," to omit all the words after "therein," line 3.

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE.—PUBLIC NIGHT.—According to ancient custom, the W.M. and members of the Grand Stewards' Lodge held their public night in the Temple at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday the 27th instant. The members present were: Bros. Dr. Hinxman, W.M.; David Samuels, S.W.; Nutt, J.W.; Henry George Warren, P.M.; Watson, S.D., and Merryweather, J.D. Amongst the visitors were: Bros. Thompson, G3; Thompson Wilson, P. Dep. Prov. G.M. of Canada; R. M. Nelson, Prov. G. Sec. West Yorkshire; Hayward, 1044; Welsford, W.M. 804; Warman, J.W. 955; Colley, 53; Hogg, P.M., 164; Noble, P.M. 93; Johnson, 1082; Fuller, 272; Matthew Cooke, S.D. 29; Arden, 752; Winter, 21; Wright, 25; Brackstone Baker, S.W. 21; Brydges, 38; Adlard, P.M. 7; S. B. Wilson, P.J.G.D., and others. The business consisted of working the second and third lectures by the following brethren, the W.M., Dr. Hinxman, putting the questions. II. Lect., Sec. 1, Bro. David Samuels; Sec. 2, Bro. Nutt; Sec. 3, Bro. Watson; Sec. 4, Bro. Merryweather; Sec. 5, Bro.

Henry George Warren, P.M. III. Lec., Sec. 1, Bro. Watson; Sec. 2, Bro. Nutt; Sec. 3, Bro. Merryweather. At the conclusion of the working, Bro. BRACKSTONE BAKER proposed that the thanks of the brethren were eminently due to the Grand Stewards' Lodge for the very great ability with which every portion of the work had been performed; and where all were so perfect no distinction could be made. The lodge had given their visitors a capital lesson, from which he was sure everyone of them had derived great instruction. He then proposed a vote of thanks to the W.M. and the lodge, for its kindness, requesting that if it was carried they would record it in the minutes of the lodge. Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson seconded the motion, and apologised for his being very late. The proposition was carried by acclamation, and Dr. Hinxman returned thanks on behalf of the lodge. Bro. Matthew Cooke presided at the organ.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 169).—The members of this lodge met on Tuesday last, under the presidency of Bro. Hooper, W.M., supported by the officers and brethren, of whom there was a goodly muster. Bro. Brown was raised to the third degree, the ceremony being excellently performed by Bro. Kirby, P.M. The brethren then proceeded to the election of W.M., when the choice unanimously fell on Bro. Graygoose, S.W., under whose presidency the brethren anticipate a year of unusual prosperity. The brethren afterwards retired to refreshment, and spent a very pleasant evening, which was concluded by the W.M. announcing that he intended to make the lodge a Life Governor of the Girls' School.

FITZROY LODGE (No. 830).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Friday evening, November 22nd, at the head quarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, Finsbury. Bro. J. W. Figg, W.M., presided, assisted by his officers. Amongst the visitors present were Bros. Binckes, P.M. No. 11, and Secretary to the Boys' School; W. E. Cole, 1115; H. G. Smith, 1124, &c. The lodge having been formally opened and the minutes read, Bro. Wood, who had answered the preliminary questions, was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Capt. J. W. P. Field and Capt. Archibald Dowse were respectively introduced and initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. Bro. Eglese, P.M. and Secretary, brought before the lodge the case of Bro. Miller, who had been a prisoner for 47 years for debt, which he alleged was one of fraud, and never owed by him at all, and urged the sympathy of the brethren on behalf of a brother who had suffered so long a period of incarceration. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment. This having been disposed of, and the loyal and Masonic toasts given and duly responded to, Bro. EGLESE, P.M., said he had been allowed to propose the toast which was usually taken more notice of on an "off-night" than on the regular nights of meeting. They would all admit the merits and ability of their W.M., and those who had heard him go through that which devolved upon him in the third, and twice in the first degree, in so admirable a manner, would acknowledge that it reflected credit upon himself, and conferred advantages upon the lodge in having a W.M. who was so perfect in his duties; he trusted to see the same working carried out on the part of every officer, and they would perform their duties as they had seen them gone through that day. He proposed to them "The Health of their W.M.," which was drunk with all due honours.—The W.M. thanked the brethren for the honour they had done him, and knowing that their P.M., Bro. Eglese, was disposed to the eulogistic, he would admit that he had not done all so well as he could wish, but as long as he held office he would try to do his best.—The W.M. said the next toast was one which they always received with great pleasure, and that was their "Newly-initiated Brethren." Capt. Field had been an old member of the Company, and, speaking for himself, he should say that there was no one whom he more respected. Capt. Dowse would also be an excellent brother, and he was most happy to see him amongst them that evening. He wished to impress upon them that Masonry did not merely consist of the performance of the ceremonies, but embraced duties of a much higher character. He had no doubt that Capt. Field would be equally efficient as a brother as he was an officer, and he doubted not that both their initiated brethren would prove an acquisition to the lodge.—Bro. CAPT. FIELD returned thanks on behalf of himself and his brother recruit, for the kind, friendly, and hearty reception they had given them that night, and as it was their desire to become good workmen in the Craft he had no doubt, by attention, they would eventually be able to succeed. It was not the first time that the W.M. and himself had met together; they had before gone shoulder to shoulder, and in good time, by a little assistance to help them through their difficulties, they hoped to reap similar honours as those they saw worn around them.—The W.M. said he had one more very pleasing toast to propose, which was "The Health of the Visitors" who honoured them on the present occasion. Although they were few in number, they were very select, and if he was not acquainted with the whole of them, yet they had amongst them Bro. Binckes,

who was P.M. of a very noted lodge, and Secretary to the Boys' School, in which office his duties were of the highest advantage to the Craft. He called upon the brethren to drink the health of the visitors, and they would have great pleasure in seeing them again.—Bro. BINCKES, in responding to the toast, said he had a lively and agreeable recollection of his previous visit to the Fitzroy Lodge, which lived in his memory, and which that evening had tended to revive. He did not hesitate to say that although not a soldier himself, he had received a soldier's welcome, and never had he been received with a warmer or more friendly feeling than he had been amongst the members of the Fitzroy Lodge. The W.M. had alluded to his office as Secretary of the Boys' School, and as the members of the Fitzroy Lodge had done good suit and service to it, he did not think it would be unwarrantable on his part if he offered a few observations on behalf the Institution with which he was connected. When he looked around him he saw Bro. Peter Matthews, who, as a Mason, was always doing good. To-day he found him at the Boys' School, to-morrow supporting the Girls', or some other of their great Charities, and the committees had expressed their gratitude to him for the services he had rendered to the school with which he (Bro. Binckes) was more immediately connected. As to their Charities, they formed the real beauty of Freemasonry, and were of special importance at the present time, when those of the outer world were always ready to fling a stone at them in respect to their gatherings at the social board, but they might simply answer all such attacks upon them by pointing to their three noble institutions, which clothed, educated, and maintained the children of both sexes, and supported the aged members of their body, when, by age or infirmity, they were unable to help themselves. With regard to the Institution for Aged Freemasons, that used to be in difficulties; but it had now recovered from them, and the Secretary had told him that for the last three years an annual sum of £1,000 had been derived from the voluntary subscriptions of the Craft. The Girls' School had enjoyed a large share of prosperity, and the support it received from year to year was a matter of pride and gratitude to all who were connected with that Institution, but the Boys' school had difficulties to contend with, for until the last five years, it had no local habitation, and the children had to be provided for at their own homes. A few years ago the subject was brought under the consideration of the committee, to obtain a home for the children where they could be educated, clothed, and maintained, as had been already done for the children in the girls' school. That institution was practically a new one, and as there were difficulties which the committee had grappled with, he thought that that ought to secure for them the sympathy and co-operation of the Craft generally. He was about to enter on a crusade in London and the provinces to obtain the direct support of the Craft for that school, which was in need of support. He pleaded most earnestly to them that this lodge, which was distinguished for the rank and munificence of its members, would not withhold its support from the Boys' School at the festival in March next, but that he should be favoured with the name of some member of it who would act as steward on that occasion. They last year sold out £1,000 of their stock, but he hoped in the next year they would not only be able to meet their current expenses, but to replace that £1,000 which had been sold out. Next week he was going into the provinces, and he should not wish to see the cold shoulder given to the Boys' School, while they supported the other charities. He should be also sorry to see the provinces support their institution and the London brethren to stand aloof. While urging the interests of that valuable institution, trusting it would not suffer in his hands, he urged on the brethren the claims of all their institutions, as he had no desire to see one prosper at the expense of the other, though advocating the cause of that charity with which he was more intimately connected. Having said so much, he returned, on the part of the visitors, their sincere and grateful thanks for the very handsome reception they had met with, and he was sure that every one would feel desirous of having an opportunity of renewing that acquaintance, and although they had come amongst them as Masons, they had received a soldier's welcome. At head-quarters it was sometimes rough, but that night had been to them one of unmixed pleasure. By the recruits to the lodge, and the conduct of its members, long might they maintain its ancient prestige, and by adapting the new improvements in implements of warfare, with attention to their duties, might they go on and prosper and add to their bright renown. Adopting the motto of the corps, "*Finis coronat opus*," he said, "May the end crown the work," and in the unanimous feeling of the members, convert every one into a personal friend to each other. He concluded by sincerely thanking the lodge for the honour conferred on them.—The W.M., after a few observations, proposed "The Health of P.M.'s Bros. Matthews and Eglese," who had done good service to the lodge as Treasurer and Secretary.—Bro. MATTHEWS, P.M., said he felt honoured by that continued mark of respect which they had been pleased to pay to

the P.M.'s of the lodge. He expressed his gratification at seeing Bro. Field amongst them, as in a private conversation he recollected Bro. Field expressing his regret that there was no fund for the aged and decayed members of the Artillery Company, some fund upon which they should fall back in their declining years, by which they could be rendered happy and comfortable. Now Masonry, if misfortune should overtake them, did take care of them in the decline of life, but he trusted they would never want such a home either for their children or themselves. In the support of their noble institutions that lodge was second to none in the Craft, as they lived in their hearts. Having expressed his gratitude to the visitors for their presence that evening, he thanked the brethren for the honour conferred upon him.—Bro. EGLESE, P.M. and Secretary, said, as the W.M. had referred to the Past Masters of the lodge, they were most anxious to see its prosperity. It was the one thing needful in the Artillery Company, as in it they met at the social board, when they became better acquainted and more firmly cemented together. As Secretary of the lodge his desire was to please and to deserve their good opinion. They would perhaps excuse him if he made a few further observations in regard to Bro. Miller, in consequence of the remarks which had fallen from the W.M. in reference to aged and decayed Masons, and they had much reason to boast of them. There was a brother present who had taken the pains to see Bro. Miller, and had made an observation to him as to the propriety of his applying to his mother lodge. He informed him that he had done so, and that the necessary documents would be submitted to the Board of Benevolence. It was their duty to render assistance to their fellow creatures, and it was with that view that he made these few observations, in the hope that they might have that tendency. He thanked them for the manner in which they had received him as Secretary of the lodge.—The W.M. gave "The Officers of the Lodge," for which Bro. May, S.W., returned thanks. The Tyler's toast brought a most agreeable meeting to a close, it having been diversified by songs from Bro. Maddick and other brethren.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND.

WHITEHAVEN.—*Lewis Lodge* (No. 1174).—On the 18th inst., this new and prosperous lodge was opened at the Freemasons' Tavern, by the W.M., Bro. Davies, assisted by the officers of the lodge and a good number of members and several visitors. Mr. Harris was initiated, and Bro. C. Moreton passed to the second degree in a very impressive manner by the W.M., who also explained the working tools and delivered the charge. Several new members were proposed for initiation, and some for joining, and other business transacted, part of which was that a Lodge of Instruction be formed to meet every Wednesday at 7.30 under the sanction of this lodge. At refreshment the W.M. proposed the health of the visitors coupling the names of Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., who responded, and proposed success to the *Lewis Lodge* (No. 1174), and long life and happiness to the W.M. and its officers. The W.M. responded in feeling terms and the brethren separated at 11 o'clock.

DURHAM:

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's Lodge* (No. 774).—A Master's Lodge was held on Thursday sennight, when the following officers and brethren were present. Jas. Groves, W.M.; S. Armstrong, P.M.; Actg. J.W.; H. A. Hammerborn, P.M. 774 and 125, and P. Prov. G.D.C.; Gatton, S.W.; Swirright, J.D.; Donald, Actg. I.G.; J. E. Holmes, Actg. Sec., and Mowbray, Tyler. At the last ordinary meeting of the lodge, which had been held for the election of W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler, Bro. Jas. Groves, who has been one of the most popular officers of the lodge, was almost unanimously re-elected as W.M., and Bros. S. Armstrong, P.M., and Mowbray, were respectively re-elected as Treas. and Tyler for the ensuing year. The lodge was first opened in the first degree with solemn prayer, when the minutes of the last Master's Lodge were read by the Actg. Sec., but having been previously confirmed, were no further commented upon. The W.M. stated that he had heard from Bro. Banister, respecting certain charities, but the communication would be formally laid before the meeting. Bro. Hammerborn then gave a lecture on the tracing-board in the first degree, in which he expatiated at some length on the exquisite beauties and glorious moral teachings of Freemasonry. The lodge was then raised to the second degree, and afterwards to the third degree, when, business being ended, it was closed down to the first degree. Certain charitable propositions were made and entertained for the relief of a suffering brother, and labours being ended, lodge was finally closed

with solemn prayer, and the assembled brethren retired for refreshment, when the evening was spent in harmony and good-fellowship worthy of the Craft.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

WATFORD.—*Watford Lodge* (No. 580).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, November 22nd, in the Freemasons' Hall, Watford. Present: Bro. Jno. Goodyears, W.M.; the R.W. Bro. Wm. Stuart, Prov. G.M.; the V.W. Bros. George Francis, D. Prov. G.M., and Thomas Abel Ward, P. Prov. D.G.M.; Bro. Burchell Herne, P. Prov. S.G.W. Sec., and other members of the lodge. The business was of only routine character. The Prov. G.M., in a brief address, proposed that in consideration of the eminent services his excellent friend and Masonic parent had rendered through the entire existence of the lodge in advancing its interest and promoting its welfare and the happiness of every individual member of it, that he should henceforth rank as an honorary member. The proposal being seconded, was unanimously adopted. Bro. Ward said he was too much overpowered by the sudden and unexpected honour thus conferred upon him, to make a fitting acknowledgement, but he tendered his heartfelt thanks. He referred to his having founded the lodge thirty-two years back, and to the many happy days he had spent in the society of the brethren. The lodge being closed, the brethren afterwards dined together, the Prov. G.M. presiding. In proposing the health of the Prov. G.M., Bro. Francis referred to the fact that in no province has Masonry so prospered as in Hertfordshire, and this was mainly attributable to the mild and excellent government of Bro. Stuart. He visited every lodge, and by his kind and courteous demeanour won the esteem and affection of every Mason in the province. In the Watford Lodge, where he first saw the light of Masonry, he was especially beloved. The Prov. G.M., in responding, referred to his over thirty years' membership of the lodge, which would only terminate with his life. He expressed the pleasure he always had in attending the meetings of the lodge and promoting its welfare. Bro. Capt. Edward Armstrong, P.M. of 437, was a visitor.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

WALTHAM CROSS.—*Gresham Lodge* (No. 1171).—An emergency lodge was held on Saturday, November 23rd, at the Four Swans Hotel, Waltham Cross. The lodge was opened by Bro. Jeremiah How, as W.M.; Bro. E. H. Patten, Prov. G.S.B., as S.W.; Bro. H. J. Thompson, as J.W., and others. Bros. Girling and Stillwell were raised to the third degree; a ballot was then taken for Mr. J. C. Goebel, and he was admitted and initiated into ancient Freemasonry. At the close of the business the brethren dined together.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gaunt Lodge* (No. 766).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, the 21st instant, when, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. Sheppard, the D. Prov. G.M. Bro. Kelly, occupied the chair. There were also present Bros. Brewin, Kinton, and Millican, P.M.'s; Johnson, S.W.; Spencer, Sec.; Bithrey, J.D.; Barwell, I.G.; Maxsted, Knight, and Green. Visitors: Bros. Reuben Ward, 235; G. C. Millican, 386 (Sydney), and Weare, W.M.; Morris, P.M.; Marris, J.W., and Burnham, of St. John's Lodge (No. 348). The lodge having been opened and the minutes of the last regular meeting, and also of a Lodge of Emergency, having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bro. the Hon. Captain Reynolds Reynolds Moreton, late of the Zetland Lodge (No. 756), as a joining member, and for Mr. Daniel Oram as a candidate for initiation, both of whom were unanimously elected. Bro. Walter C.G. Knight having passed an examination as an E.A. Mason, retired, was duly passed to that degree by Bro. Brewin, P.M.; after which Mr. Daniel Oram was initiated into the Order by the D. Prov. G.M., who also delivered the charge—the lecture on the tracing-board being given by Bro. Brewin. Bro. Kelly reported that, to carry out the resolution adopted at the last monthly meeting, he had had the vote of condolence on the decease of the late Bro. Hardy, engrossed, but it not being executed in so efficient a manner as to be satisfactory, and the absence of Mrs. Hardy from the town occasioning more delay in its presentation, Bro. Millican had very kindly written and illuminated another on vellum, in his usual beautiful and highly artistic style, which, through him, he had presented to the lodge, and that he (Bro. K.), had since waited upon Mrs. Hardy and presented the latter copy of the address to her, on behalf of the brethren. A letter was read from Mrs. Hardy expressing her gratitude for this kind expression of the respect in which her departed husband was held by his brother Masons. Mrs. Hardy's letter was ordered to be entered on the lodge minutes. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Millican for his kindness, a similar vote

to Bro. Johnson, who offered to have the duplicate address framed and glazed at his expense for suspension in the lodge-room, and also to Bro. Bithrey for a book presented to the hall library. The case of a poor military brother (an Irish Mason) was considered, and relief having been ordered, the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

SUSSEX.

LEWES.—*South Saxon Lodge* (No. 390).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the Freemason's Hall, on Wednesday, the 20th inst. Bro. B. W. Hearne, W.M., presided, and there was a good attendance of the brethren. The minutes having been confirmed, Mr. Cross Key was regularly initiated into Freemasonry. The ability of the new W.M. was fully proved by the able way in which he worked the ceremony, and was an earnest that during his Mastership the lodge would maintain its high position for careful and correct working, which it held during the presidency of its former masters, Bros. Dabliae the D. Prov. G.M., Pocock, P.G. S. B., Verrall, Prov. G. Treasurer, and the late Master, Bro. Chittenden, Prov. G. Purs. [We omitted to state in our notice of the last meeting, that the ceremony of the installation was worked by Bro. Chittenden, the then W. Master.]

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

HOLMFIRTH.—*Holme Valley Lodge* (No. 937).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was at the Victoria Hotel, on the evening of Friday, the 15th inst. The chair was taken punctually at 7 o'clock, by Bro. J. M. Woodhead, W.M., supported by Charles Taylor, P.M.; Joseph Mellor, P.M., Prov. G. Pur.; John Barton, P.M.; G. A. Nelson, P.M.; and a full attendance of other brethren of the lodge. Bro. the Rev. John Fearon, passed a satisfactory examination as an E.A., and was passed to the second degree. Bro. John Harpin was duly elected W.M., and Bro. George Lawton, Treasurer, for the ensuing year. The business of the evening was concluded at nine o'clock, when the brethren adjourned to the supper room, and sat down to an excellent repast, served by our good Bro. Taylor, who forgetteth not the creature comforts. On returning to the lodge room, the usual routine of loyal and Masonic toasts were judiciously given and responded to, and a very pleasant evening spent, with profit to the lodge and honour to the Craft.

COLONIAL.

PORT NATAL.

Our brethren in this colony, although only constituted in a lodge (No. 1040), at D'Urban, in the year 1858, already number, as members of that lodge, upwards of a hundred, and have just set an example to their colonial brethren by the erection of a spacious Masonic Hall, which was duly inaugurated on the 19th September last, the ceremony of consecration having been performed by Bro. the Rev. A. Rivett, Chaplain to the lodge, in a most impressive and beautiful manner.

In the evening a grand Masonic ball took place, to celebrate the inauguration, which was attended by 290 of the principal inhabitants of the colony; and, in the words of a local paper, it was one of the "best arranged and best behaved balls D'Urban has seen, and fitly exemplified the Masonic shibboleth of good fellowship, open-handedness, and charity. No wonder that so large a number had assembled to eat of the salt of men whose watchword is charity and whose doctrine is benevolence."

The Hall, which is situated in a principal street near the market-place, is a solid structure, and contains the noblest public apartment in the Colony, measuring about 64ft. in length by 40ft. in breadth, and above 20ft. in height. It is intended to be used for Masonic purposes and assemblies.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Jacques de Molay Encampment*.—A conclave of this encampment was held in the Temple, on the 15th inst., assisted by the M.E. Commander, Sir Knight Edward Pierpoint, assisted by P.E.C. J. Ellis, as 1st Capt.; and P.E.C. C. J. Banister, 1st Grand Aid., Prov. G.C. Northumberland, and Prov. G.D.C. Lancashire, as 2nd Capt.; P.E.C. J. Heyes, Prelate; P.E.C. H. S. Alpess, P. 1st

Grand Expert, Prov. G.A. Lancashire, Treas. and Reg.; Sir Knight Jackson, G. of Lines, and the rest of the Sir Knights. The minutes of last regular meeting were read over and confirmed. A letter was received from the G.V.C., announcing the meeting of Grand Conclave on 6th December, for the first time. This encampment will be represented either by the E.C. or a past E.C. The rest of the business before the conclave being finished, it was closed with solemn prayer.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE.—*Royal Kent Encampment.*—This encampment was opened at the Freemasons' Hall, Newgate-street, on the 22nd inst., by the M.E.C., H. G. Ludwig, assisted by P.M. E.C. Sir Knt. H. Hotham, as 1st Captain; C. J. Banister, 2nd Captain; P.M.E.C. Gillispie, 2nd Grand Herald, as Expert; Rev. S. Atkinson, Prelate, and the rest of the officers. The minutes of last conclave were read and confirmed. Companion Benjamin Levy, of Chapter 114, was proposed and presented by the Expert, and exalted to this illustrious order by P.M. E.C. Sir Knight C. J. Banister, 1st Grand Aid, and P.G.D.C. for Lancashire. Comp. Swithenbank was proposed as a candidate for installation. The letter from the G.V. Chancellor was read, and the E.C. stated that he should not be able to attend Grand Conclave, but that he hoped that this encampment would be represented by one of the Sir Knights present. After the conclave was closed the Sir Knights adjourned to refreshment, and spent a very happy hour.

ANECDOTE OF GENERAL JACKSON.—At the time of Jackson's elevation to the Presidency, there was an old man in office at Washington, who was a strong Adams man. He had a large family of children, all depending on him for support—his oldest son (and who now gives the facts), being a lad of some twelve or thirteen years. The old man anticipated removal from office by the new Administration, but was too proud to use any influence to be retained by a man whose election he had so strenuously opposed. His residence was some distance beyond the Presidential mansion, on the Georgetown road. A few days after the inauguration, the President, walking out alone in the warm evening, passed the house of the old gentleman—who happened to be sitting on his porch. On his return the President halted in front of the house, asked some common-place question of the old man, and passed on. The next day, on his walk, he stopped again, offered the old man his hand, and as it was grasped each countenance was seen to light up with a peculiar smile. The two men greeted each other heartily when, seating themselves on a rude bench under the trees, an hour was spent in conversation—to the great wonder of the old man's family. And almost daily after that, in the cool of the evening could these two men be seen sitting on that rude bench, engaged in a free and animated converse. Although so widely differing in politics from the President, the old man was not removed from his office; he had learned to admire the President as a man, and neither reviled him himself, nor suffered it to be done in his presence without rebuke. In 1835 the old gentleman died, leaving a large family comparatively destitute. In a few days afterward Amos Kendall called at the house and said to the oldest boy, then approaching to manhood, "The President wants to see you;" at the same time requesting the widow to give herself no uneasiness, as the President would see that she should not want. On the young man presenting himself before the President, the latter remarked, "My son, if you were alone in the world and had none depending upon you, I would recommend you to take an axe on your shoulder and go to the West. I do not like the plan of giving you an office in Washington, but at present I know of no other resource; I shall give you a piece; ever be faithful to the precepts of your father, and you will do well." The next day the young man entered one of the Departments as a clerk, and by strict attention to his duties he was gradually advanced to a high position—until removed by an administration who "knew not Joseph." The young man, in narrating the circumstances to our informant, added: "I was puzzled to know the secret; I knew my father was a Royal Arch Mason, and finally learned from him that Jackson was also. I then determined that, as soon as old enough, I too would apply to become a Mason." He did so, and is at this writing a Grand Master, and a wealthy and highly respected citizen.—*American Paper.*

THE *Critic*, in noticing the publication of the *Life* and correspondence of our late gallant Bro. Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B. says:—"We are glad that this book has appeared, for the sake of the memory of the brave old sailor who closed a long life, nobly spent in doing what he conceived to be his duty to his country, by a vain and vexatious struggle with powerful and prejudiced enemies."

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

A series of concerts is to be held in the building of the International Exhibition of 1862, of which Mr. Alfred Mellon has been appointed conductor. A suitable room will be constructed for the purpose. We may also state that Professor Sterndale Bennett is engaged upon writing an "Ode," probably for voices only, to words of the Poet Laureate, for the inauguration festival. Meyerbeer will contribute an overture, and Auber a march. Signor Verdi, who will represent Italy, has not yet made known his choice.

There is a talk that among the sights and sounds of next year will be an English opera at Drury Lane Theatre, to combine, it is added, Mademoiselle Tietjens and Mr. Sims Reeves.

The plans for improving the sonority of the orchestra in the Crystal Palace for the Handel Festival of 1862 are complete, and, so far as a judgment can be passed on them, satisfactory.

Mr. Macfarren is said to have made great progress in another opera on an English subject.

The receipts of all the theatres, concerts, balls, and other public entertainments in Paris, during the months of October last, amounted to 1,507,671*l.* During the month of September they were less by 291,657*l.*

The sisters Marchiso, at present engaged at the Italian Opera in Berlin, will shortly arrive in England, and make a tour of the provinces, under the auspices of Mr. Willert Beale, accompanied by M. Vieuxtemps, Arthur Napoleon, the pianist, and Signori Ciampi and Cosselli.

Berlioz, it is said, is writing an opera, which will be brought out at the inauguration of the new theatre now being built at Baden-Baden by M. Benazet. The poem, likewise from the pen of M. Berlioz, is founded on a subject from Shakespeare.

M. Grisar's new opera, the book by St. Georges and de Leuven, called "St. Joailler de St. James," is in rehearsal at the Opera Comique in Paris.

"Anna Bolena" will be revived at the Paris Italian Opera, after having been laid on the shelf for more than twenty years. The production of Mercadante's "Lecora" is also spoken of.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

Mr. H. J. Byron's new burlesque, "Miss Eily O'Connor," which was produced on Monday, was received with marks of enthusiastic approval by a very crowded audience. Mr. Byron has plentifully sprinkled the text with his usual humorous dislocations of the English language; moreover, much of the dialogue displays wit of a quality considerably above the level of mere word twisting, and some of the parodies are eminently happy and mirth-provoking. The author has done his work well, and has no reason whatever to be ashamed of the fruits of his labour. But he has expended it upon decidedly impracticable material. "The Colleen Bawn," upon which he has founded his burlesque, spite of its almost unprecedented run, is by no means a powerful drama, and a piece which lacks intensity affords meagre food for travesty. The Cave Scene is the only really strong situation in it, and this was rendered fairly effective in the comic version by the humorous conceit of causing the two principal personages concerned in it to appear alternately above the water to the melody of "The Cure." Miss Louise Keeley played Myles Macoppaleen with infinite spirit, genial humour, and artistic finish, and her impersonation was in every respect worthy of the warmest praise. Mrs. Selby, too, with the exception of a trifling extravagance in the last scene, was judicious and effective as Mrs. Cregan. Mr. Byron was called for at the end of the piece, which, as we have already stated, was received with clamorous applause.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.

A little comedy, entitled "Court Cards," was produced at this theatre on Monday, and experienced the favourable reception now almost invariably accorded to new dramas from the French. Of the parts in which the play abounds, the most interesting is the princess, whose character and career bear a slight resemblance to those of that famous Lady Arabella Stuart, who, unfortunately for herself, lived in the reign of James I., and the narrative of whose romantic adventures in search of her husband, William Seymour, may be

found in Disraeli's *Curiosities of Literature*. The dialogue is written with the neatness and precision which might be expected from the elegant pen of Mr. Palgrave Simpson; but instead of trusting to his own invention for the construction of a plot—a feat which he might without difficulty have accomplished—he has “imitated” a French story which, with all its elaboration, wants true dramatic interest, and that pleasant excitement which the skilful arrangement of scenes, characters, and incidents is calculated to afford. Some of the actors sustain their parts in a highly creditable manner. Mrs. Leigh Murray as the dowager duchess presents a formidable portrait of a royal lady who knows no law but her own sweet will; Miss G. Cottrell is graceful and interesting as *Hermine*; Mr. Neville, who plays the young prince, is somewhat deficient in dignity, but he is easy, genial, and unaffected; and Mr. G. Cooke has, in the character of the consequential old baron, a congenial part, to which he does full justice. The costumes are handsome and costly, and the scenery very pretty.

EGYPTIAN HALL.

On Monday evening, M. Robin, who claims the distinction of being “the original French Wizard,” commenced a series of *soirées fantastiques* at the Egyptian Hall. Some ten years ago M. Robin first introduced his peculiar entertainment to the public with considerable success. He now returns to the metropolis after a decade which appears not only to have enlarged his experience of men and manners, but to have invested him with additional properties of mystification. The entertainment included several new magical illusions and a variety of scientific experiments, which, being perfectly unintelligible to the great majority of his patrons, were of course the more attractive. Such experiments are calculated to increase the interest of performances which are generally indebted for their success to the less dignified process of sleight-of-hand. M. Robin was very cordially received, and every seat in the hall was occupied.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and family remain at Windsor—the Court being in mourning for the King of Portugal. The Prince Consort has paid a visit to his son, the Prince of Wales, at Cambridge. It is rumoured that the Prince of Wales is about to proceed on a tour through Turkey, Syria, and Egypt.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—An important conference on the education question was held at the London Coffee House on Wednesday. The chair was occupied by Mr. Barnes, M.P., who was supported by many distinguished advocates of the voluntary system. Sir S. M. Peto, M.P., Mr. Maill, Mr. S. Morley, the Rev. J. H. Hinton, and Mr. Richard, were among the gentlemen who took part in the proceedings. The resolutions declared that the national system was a costly failure, and had created a great central establishment which was unable to cope with the details of the thousands of schools entrusted to its supervision; that it encourages parents to rely upon the State, to the neglect of their own duties; and that the revenues from charitable endowments, if properly applied, would render grants of public money unnecessary.—Lord Stanley has addressed his constituents at Lynn. The noble lord referred at considerable length to European and American affairs, expressing an opinion, with reference to the civil war, that the people of the South will never rest contented with anything short of independence. Unconvinced by the arguments of Mr. Disraeli and the leading members of the Conservative party, he is still opposed to church rates; and, as regards reform, he thinks that, for two or three years to come, no Government will venture to introduce a bill providing for organic changes to which public opinion, from various causes, is at the present moment hostile. The noble lord expressed his approval of the Commercial Treaty with France, and, while recognising the present depressed state of trade, took, upon the whole, a hopeful view of the financial and commercial prospects of

the country. The Under Secretary for War, Mr. Layard, has also appeared before his constituents. The hon. gentleman justified the course the Government and country had pursued with reference to the conflict in America, adding, however, that “while we proclaim the principle of non-intervention, we are resolved to make the rights of Englishmen respected throughout the world, and to resent outrages on the persons of English subjects.”—We are glad to learn from Mr. Cobden himself, that he is “not so bad as the newspapers represent.” His “general health is perfectly good;” and though he is always liable to bronchial irritation, he hopes, by proper precautions, to avoid the necessity of seeking a southern climate this winter.—Mr. Justice Hill, of the Queen's Bench, has resigned. The hon. judge has long been in a state of delicate health, and his infirmities have so much increased upon him of late as to render this step necessary. The esteem and the regret of the whole bar accompany Mr. Justice Hill in his retirement.—The report which has just been published of the affairs of the Bank of Deposit discloses an extraordinary amount of recklessness, if not fraud. There is a deficiency of £300,500, while the assets, according to the most liberal estimate, will not exceed £56,000. It is doubtful whether the depositors will realise 2s. in the pound on the amount they have entrusted to this windbag concern. The directors engaged to allow 5 per cent. to depositors, but the report points out that the business has been carried on at a loss ever since it was opened.—Are we never to hear the last of military murders? We have again to record one which occurred at Aldershott on Saturday night, when a private shot his serjeant and a corporal, while standing so near the former that the unfortunate victims' clothes were burnt by the discharge of the rifle. There seems to have been no provocation whatever, and though the murderer was a notoriously bad character, yet neither the serjeant nor corporal appear to have been at all concerned in the punishments he received. The serjeant died instantly; the corporal is likely to recover. The inquest on the body of Serjeant Dixon took place on Monday, when the jury, after a few moments' deliberation, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder, and recommended that in future either the soldiers should be deprived of their fire-arms in barracks, or that instant justice should be executed upon all such murderers taken “red hand.”—A sad calamity happened early on Sunday morning at Edinburgh. One of the tall buildings in the High-street of that town, whose immense height forms one of the most striking features of the place, collapsed with age, and fell in, burying in its ruins some 40 or 50 inmates, of whom between 20 and 30 were taken out dead, while others were severely injured. This great loss of life arises from the fact that every storey, almost every room, was inhabited by a separate family, and the catastrophe took place in the dead of night, when most of them were in bed.—Richard Reeve, a lad of only eighteen years of age, was tried on Wednesday at the Central Criminal Court, for the murder of his half-sister in Drury-court, Strand. Mr. Sleigh, who was retained by some benevolent persons, did not attempt to deny the facts of the case, but suggested the possible insanity of the prisoner at the time the deed was committed. Mr. Baron Bramwell told the jury that, in the absence of all evidence on the subject, they must dismiss this suggestion or theory from their minds, and return a verdict of wilful murder if they were satisfied of the prisoner's guilt. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty, but recommended the wretched lad to mercy on the ground of his youth, and of the bad example which had been set him. The learned judge then passed sentence of death.—Henry Budd was indicted for the manslaughter of George Allen. The deceased man, it will be recollected, was the timekeeper over the omnibuses plying from Camborwell-gate, and on the afternoon of the 21st of October last, whilst he was performing his duties there, the prisoner, who had been drinking, and some others with him, drove up in a cab, which stopped at the gate, and the prisoner alighted. The deceased at that time was sitting reading a newspaper, when the prisoner commenced a series of annoyances.

For some time the deceased remonstrated; the prisoner, however, persisted, and at length a scuffle ensued, in which the prisoner inflicted a severe blow on the head of the deceased. On being picked up it was found that the deceased had sustained serious injuries. A surgeon found that the deceased was severely bruised, and bleeding from both ears. He died on the following day from the injuries he had sustained. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.—A dreadful murder was perpetrated on the Dublin and Belfast Junction Railway a few days ago. The victim was a gate watchman in the employ of the company. After the murder his body was placed upon the line manifestly with the intention that the death of the unfortunate man should be attributed to a railway accident. A step-son of the deceased has been arrested on suspicion.—One of the most atrocious trade outrages it has been our lot to record for many a day took place at Sheffield on Saturday morning. A man named Westnidge was working for somewhat lower wages than the trades union permitted, and the unionists sought to punish him by throwing a tin filled with gunpowder, with a burning fusee attached, into his bed-room. The cowards did not even pitch on the right room, but threw it into one where a widow woman was sleeping. Westnidge's wife, however, hearing the noise, came into the room and took up the tin, when it exploded in her face. Both women were shockingly burned, but Mrs. Westnidge was also so frightened that she leaped out of the window, and it is feared she cannot survive.—The inquiry into the recent riotous conduct of the cadets at Woolwich has resulted in an order for the "rustication" of two of the offenders for twelve months, and of eight others for six months.—We have intelligence of the loss of another Baltic steamer, the *Hebe*. This ship, which was on her way from Cronstadt to Hull, is stated to be the fifteenth steamer engaged in the Baltic trade which has been wrecked within the last twelve months.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor of the French has abolished the *tourniquets* of the Bourse, or in other words the tax on entering that establishment.—If the *Patrie* really expresses the Emperor Napoleon's intentions, M. Fould must resort to some other remedy than a disarmament for the cure of that "consumption of the purse" which afflicts the French treasury. The *Patrie* has set itself to demonstrate the impossibility of reducing the French army, because Austria, Prussia, Russia, and England have large military establishments on foot: and we have been assured that nothing more can be done than to dismiss a large number of soldiers on furlough—a measure which may lessen military expenditure, but which will nowise diminish the apprehensions caused throughout Europe by the menacing strength of the French army, inasmuch as the men on furlough may be recalled to their regiments within a fortnight. The *Patrie* also states that there will not be any reduction of the French navy's effective strength, and that any ships of the line put out of commission will be re-placed by iron-cased frigates. At the same time, too, there are rumours that several ships will be added to the squadron stationed at Brest.—The new King of Portugal has come forth from his retirement, and presided at a council of ministers, at which it was resolved that a constitutional policy should continue to be pursued.—In the Spanish Senate, a motion was recently proposed censuring the government for its conduct in regard to the late Loja insurrection. Marshal Narvaez, who has not attended the Senate for many years, was present, and took part in the debate. He severely condemned the government, as well for its previous acts towards the people of Loja, which he declared to have caused the insurrection, as for its relentless severity in suppressing the outbreak, and in punishing with indiscriminate violence the guilty and the innocent alike. The motion for censure was lost by a large majority, but Narvaez's speech is said to have produced a very marked sensation.—The quarrel which Spain insists upon keeping up with Italy on the trumpety subject of the Neapolitan archives has now reached such a height

that Baron Tecco, the Italian (or as the Spanish journals term him the Sardinian) Minister, has demanded and received his passports. The point of dispute appears to have been narrowed to very small dimensions; but the Spanish government clinging firmly to the ultimatum which it had announced, the Italian minister seems to have thought there was no use in debating the matter any further. Spain has taken every means she could from the beginning of the Italian revolution to express her sympathies with the cause of the Bourbons as offensively to the Italian government as she could well contrived to do.—After a long and animated discussion the Italian Chamber of Deputies on Saturday passed the bill for levying the war tax on all the provinces in the kingdom. The majority for the measure was very large, being 191 against 10. This shows that the southern party in the Chamber is not very strong. It is stated that the differences between General Cialdini and the Government are settled, and that he will resume command of the 4th *corps d'armée*.—According to some of the Italian papers Garibaldi is about to visit Genoa, early in December, for the purpose of assisting in the deliberations of the Committee of Provision, which he himself established. He will then, it is stated, set out for Turin and take his place as a member of the Chamber of the Representatives.—A Milan journal states that the Italian government, having in view eventualities which might arise out of the Mexican affair, has determined upon despatching a frigate to the Mexican waters.—The municipal authorities of Vienna have voted a sum of 10,000 florins to enable a certain number of intelligent artisans of limited means to visit the International Exhibition of London in the coming year.—The relations between the Swiss and French governments, already sufficiently embittered, are likely to be still further complicated—the Swiss Federal Council having formally demanded satisfaction for a violation of the territory of the canton of Geneva by French gendarmes.—A letter has been published which the Pope addressed last June to the Archbishop of Warsaw, in which his Holiness repels warmly the charges made against the Holy See of being indifferent to the interests of Poland. He refers to the frequent remonstrances addressed from time to time by the Holy See to the Russian government on behalf of the Catholics of Poland, and declares that he has himself written several letters to the Emperor Alexander, to obtain the free exercise of the Catholic religion in Poland, but without effect.—According to a despatch from Constantinople, the Porte has formally announced to the Envoys of the Great Powers that it will consent to a union of Moldavia and Wallachia during the lifetime of the reigning prince Couza; and this proposal is to be accepted as a settlement of the question for the present.—The struggle between the Turks and insurgents is again actively carried on. The last encounters appear to have been favourable to the Turks. On the 21st, Dervish Pacha, after a fight of four hours, defeated, with great loss, a body of 8000 insurgents, near Piva, in Bosnia. Another body which attempted to invade Kaloschin was also repulsed after a bloody fight; and 40 Montenegrin barges which attempted to capture a Turkish steamer on the Lake of Scutari, were also repulsed with loss.—A telegram from Ragusa says that in consequence of the defeat of the insurgents at Piva, the European consuls had proposed an armistice. It is not said whether the proposition has been accepted. Omar Pacha had received fresh reinforcements, which may induce him to push the advantages he has already obtained.

THE CAPE.—The Cape mail has arrived at Plymouth. The relations of Panda, the chief of Zulus, were again of a threatening character, that personage and his son having demanded the young princes, who were under the care of Bishop Colenso Ketchwayo. The elder son is said to be jealous of his brothers and anxious to get them in his power. There was still danger of hostilities between the Orange Free State, that very aggressive Dutch republic, and the Basutus, a tribe whose fertile territory is coveted by their unscrupulous neighbours.

AMERICA.—The news from America, brought by the *Europa* to Queenstown, is of considerable importance. The Federal government had received despatches from the fleet at Port Royal, announcing that the bombardment commenced on the 7th inst., and that, after a fight of four hours, the Confederates abandoned the forts and retreated precipitately. On the following day the Federal army, numbering 15,000 men, landed, and established themselves at Beaufort, South Carolina, which will be held as the seat of all future operations. Before retiring the Confederates destroyed all the houses and plantations. The country round Beaufort is a vast tract of swampy rice fields; and the communication between it and Charleston is performed entirely by water, so that, except the possession of a good port, it appears doubtful of what great advantage the capture of the place will be to the Federals. The losses on both sides are miraculously small for a desperate fight of four hours—eight Federals and 100 Confederates. Beaufort, it is said, will be at once opened to commerce. There is a report that another expedition will shortly be despatched from New York. In Kentucky General Nelson had obtained a victory over the Confederates after two days' fighting, the latter having 400 killed and 1000 taken prisoners.—The British steamer *Bernuda*, which lately evaded the blockade and landed a cargo of arms and warlike stores at Savannah, has once more, we are told, eluded the vigilance of the Federal cruisers, and has escaped from Savannah with a lading of 2,000 bales of cotton for Liverpool.—Considerable excitement was caused in London on Wednesday by the announcement that the Confederate Commissioners, Messrs. Slidell and Mason, with their secretaries, were captured on board the British mail steamer *Trent*, while on her voyage from Havana to St. Thomas. This vessel was brought to by the American war steamer *San Jacinto*, and a Federal officer boarded her, demanding that the Commissioners should be surrendered. This demand was refused by Captain Moir, and also by the Admiralty agent, whereupon Mr. Slidell openly claimed the protection of the British flag. The lieutenant signalled for further assistance, and the Commissioners and their secretaries were removed in custody, the Admiralty agent protesting against the act. These are the simple facts of the case; and it will at once be seen that the question is one for the law officers of the Crown to consider and report upon.—The *Nashville* lies quietly at Southampton, and Capt. Peagrim has probably by this time become aware that he will not be permitted to refit for war purposes. The *Globe* calls attention to a section of the Foreign Enlistment Act, which provides that no vessel can be constructed, fitted out, or refitted in this country for purposes of war without the permission of the Crown; and adds that as regards the civil war in America the proclamation of neutrality renders any such permission to either of the belligerents altogether impossible.

CHINA.—The advices brought by the China mail to the 15th Oct. state that the eldest son of the deceased Emperor had succeeded his father on the celestial throne. The allied troops had commenced the evacuation of Tien-tsin and Canton; and we may therefore presume that the stipulations of the treaty of peace continued to be observed by the Chinese government. At Ningpo and Hangchow trade was, it is stated, obstructed by the rebels. The aspect of affairs at Japan was represented to be more favourable.

We are sorry to state that the School of Art at Stoke-upon-Trent is likely to be discontinued for want of proper support; indeed it would have been given up long ago but for the munificence of Messrs. Minton and Co., who have been in the habit hitherto of clearing off all arrears from the institution, besides subscribing £25 a year. They have, we are informed, contributed upwards of £1,000 to the funds of the school during the last five years. For henceforth they will subscribe £50 a year, and leave the people of the Potteries to do the rest. Certainly a densely-populated district like the one about Stoke-upon-Trent can support a School of Art.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

With the MAGAZINE, of Nov. 2, a beautiful Steel Engraving of the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.G., P.D.G.M., in full Masonic costume, was presented gratuitously to every subscriber to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

The Engraving has been executed in the highest style of art, by Posselwhite, from a photograph by Mayall.

A few copies for framing (suitable for lodge and other present) may be had as follows;—

India Proofs, before letters (which must be ordered immediately)	7 6
India Proofs (after letters)	5 0
Large Plate Paper	3 0

A few proof impressions of the Right Hon. Earl of Zetland, G. Master, may still be had: India paper, 5s.; large plate paper, 3s.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND OTHERS.—All remittances by cheque, post, office orders, &c., are to be made payable to the Proprietor, Mr. WILLIAM SMITH, C.E., 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.

COMMUNICATIONS for the EDITOR to be addressed to H. G. WARREN Esq., 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.

ALL ORDERS or Communications with respect to the publishing department to be addressed to the Publisher, 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.

☐.—We do not know any difference in the apron of the Master and Past Master. The Master is entitled to wear the levels on his apron, the instant he is installed.

J.W.S.—We do not know which of the London Lodges have Benevolent Funds attached to them. These funds are generally for the benefit of their own members. The following lodges we know have such funds, the Robert Burns, Israel, and Joppa.

W.W. is thanked—but our free list is already too large in comparison with our circulation.

ANTI-IMPOSITION.—We do not know of any law in the English Constitutions forbidding a Warden of a lodge, who has received relief from the Board of Benevolence, being elected Master of the lodge in the same year—but we cannot imagine any brother who has been necessitated to apply for relief offering himself for election, nor can we suppose any lodge of brethren would under the circumstances elect him, no matter what might be his Masonic abilities.—If the Master of a lodge through his own misconduct falls into difficulties, he may if he thinks fit apply to the Board of Benevolence for relief, but it will be the fault of the members of his own lodge if he obtains it. You state that "this case is spoken of with surprise, as he was never fit for his office, for many reasons, as well for his incapacity." If so, his election reflects as much on the brethren as on the Master, but "Anti-Imposition" should give us his own name—those of the parties implicated—and the means of verifying his statements—of course in confidence. If he cannot do so, we must request that he will not write to us in future, as THE MAGAZINE cannot be made the vehicle of anonymous aspersions, on any portion of the Craft.

T. E. S.—We cannot enter into a description of Masonic salutes in the pages of THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. We never heard of the salutes due to an E.A. or F.C.

G.—The fourth proposition in the first Book of Euclid's elements of Geometry, has no special reference to the Mark Masters degree.

W.D.P.—1. If the by-laws have been sanctioned by the Prov. G.M., we consider that sufficient, but still they cannot be allowed to override the *Book of Constitutions*. The brother aggrieved should appeal to the Board of General Purposes. 2. The Corinthian represents beauty; the Doric, wisdom. 3. You are right as to the position of the two great pillars. 4. The pedestals should not be triangular, but represent the base of a column.