

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH, 1, 1862.

THE MOUNTAIN IN LABOUR.

After three years gestation the Mountain has produced a very little mouse—*sans* tail, *sans* ears, *sans* eyes, *sans* everything. After a three years' slumber the Board of General Purposes have discovered that, under the powers granted to them by Grand Lodge in December, 1858, they can do literally nothing in the way of dealing with the Grand Lodge property. Wonderful Legislators! Only three years consideration for such an immense discovery! They have, accordingly, asked for an extension of powers to do what?—to go to sleep again; to wake up once more, perhaps at the end of the next generation. The truth is, the Board of General Purposes is an ever changing body, and has plenty to do without troubling themselves with building.

Here is the Board of 1858:—

BRO. JOHN HAVERS PRESIDENT.

BRO. CHARLES LOCOCK WEBB VICE-PRESIDENT.

Bro. Francis Roxburgh	Bro. R. Kynaston, W.M. No. 66
" *William H. White	" William Young, " 72
" William Pulteney Scott	" George Haward, " 108
" John S. S. Hopwood	" Frederick Slight " 233
" *John Hervey	" R. W. Wheeler, " 324
" *Stephen Barton Wilson	" W. W. Beach, M.P. 965
" *Richard W. Jennings	" *Fred. Adlard, P.M. No. 7
" *John L. Evans	" Thos. Bisgood, " 8
" *A. A. Le Veau	" Fred. Binckes, " 11
" *Joseph Smith	" *John Symonds, " 21
" J. H. Dart, W.M. No. 1	" Edw. Roberts, " 167
" T. D. Grissell, " 14	

And here the Board of 1862:—

BRO. AENEAS J. MCINTYRE PRESIDENT.

BRO. J. RANKIN STEBBING VICE-PRESIDENT.

Bro. *William H. White	Bro. W. J. Meymott W.M. 14
" C. Hutton Gregory	" J. H. Heal " 167
" *John Hervey	" R. W. Stewart " 663
" *Stephen Barton Wilson	" Edward Cox " 955
" Albert W. Woods	" R. H. Smith " 1010
" *John Symonds	" S. Haydon " 1079
" *Richard W. Jennings	" *Fred. Adlard ... P.M. 7
" *John L. Evans	" John Savage " 19
" *Abraham A. Le Veau	" Thos. G. Dickie " 53
" *Joseph Smith	" Aug. Sargood " 109
" J. J. A. L. } W.M. No. 2	" T. W. Thomson " 230
" Creaton, }	" Henry Empson " 275

So that only nine, as will be seen by the names of those marked with an *, of the present Board were members of that to whom powers were given by Grand Lodge, to see whether some better provision than that existing could not be found for the Craft in their own premises; and a further change of at least seven, and it will probably be of ten or twelve members will take place under the Constitutions in June next. From such a body no properly digested scheme can well be expected, and so it was foreseen by the independent members of Grand Lodge at the time, and it was proposed that a Special Committee should be appointed to consider the subject

and report to Grand Lodge. Had that course been adopted a sensible and well considered plan might have been propounded by the close of 1859 at the furthest, and the property in Great Queen Street, by this time, have presented something like a respectable appearance—instead of being, as it now is, a standing disgrace to the Craft. But no, the bugbear cry of "want of confidence," that disgrace to every deliberative society, was raised, and the matter left in the hands of the Board of General Purposes—we see with what result.

The Board say:—

"The Board beg further to report, that they have had several plans laid before them for the appropriation of the freehold property belonging to the Society. Some of these plans are based upon the continuance or increase of the present tavern communication; but inasmuch as Grand Lodge, in 1858, decided that the attention of the Board should be directed solely to schemes for appropriating the property, or a portion thereof, to Masonic purposes exclusively, it was considered that the Board ought not to entertain such schemes until the sanction of Grand Lodge for their so doing should be obtained. It was therefore resolved—

"That whereas the following resolutions were agreed to at a Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, holden on the 1st December, 1858, viz:—

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. That the subject be referred back to the Board, with directions to report thereon to the Grand Lodge, and to bring before it such a scheme as may appear to be practicable for carrying out the first resolution, 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.

"3rd. That in the scheme which they will have to consider, it will be desirable to proceed only with a view of providing fitting and appropriate accommodation to be devoted solely and exclusively to Masonic purposes.

"And whereas several members of the Board of General Purposes are of opinion, that it is desirable to have power to consider the propriety of appropriating a portion of the property for the purposes of a tavern—should the judgment of the Board take that direction—it is respectfully requested that much additional power be granted to the Board by Grand Lodge accordingly."

It is true that the last resolution appears too much to fetter the Board in their consideration of the improvement of the Grand Lodge property; but we ask why that was not discovered in 1859? and why three years have been wasted in doing nothing? It is true Bro. Savage had an inkling, in 1858, that the resolution would have the effect, and, as it was nearly twelve o'clock when the motion was brought forward and Grand Lodge nearly empty, moved that its consideration be adjourned. But no, the matter was so important that it must be disposed of at once, and the resolution was carried, only to be shelved.

We are not now going to discuss the question of Tavern or no Tavern, that will do for another time; but we trust if Grand Lodge does give further

powers to the Board of General Purposes it will also fix a period within which it should make its report; for if that be not done we have no hopes of its seeing the light until long after every existing Freemason has passed to that "bourne from which no traveller returns." The present state of things is disgraceful to the Craft and unjust to our tenants, and if the Board of General Purposes cannot perform the work entrusted to them within a reasonable period it ought at once to be taken out of their hands and placed in those of a Committee, which, having nothing else to do, would soon cut the Gordian knot, and give to the Craft a local habitation worthy of the Order, whilst our other property would also be placed in a condition to give us a fair return for our outlay. At the present rate of work the business appears to be progressing as follows:—

1858. Powers given.

1862. Asked for additional powers.

1866. Additional powers taken into consideration.

1870. Ask for further powers.

1874. Board again meet and adjourn.

1878. Board decided to report at an early date.

1882. Grand Lodge property burned down, and the Craft determine to take the matter out of the hands of the Board of General Purposes.

1883. Building agreed upon and begun.

1884. New building opened, no tickets being sent to the Board of General Purposes.

The Craft have a home, a library, and a museum, and only wonder what their forefathers could have been thinking about.

MASONIC FACTS.

(Continued from page 144.)

105. Maistre Jean de Chelles built the South Porch of Notre Dame, Paris, in 1257.—*Dallaway*, p. 411.

106. The Church of St. Etienne, at Châlons-sur-Marne, was built by Papelart, who died in 1258. On his tomb he is represented with the model of a church, which he supports against his breast, next to his heart.—*Didron's Christian Iconography*, p. 354.

107. In the Cottonian Library there is a MS. marked Nero D. 1. It is a life of King Offa the 2nd, written by Matthew Paris, who died 1259, and contains several drawings illustrative of incidents in the King's life. Paris says that an angel revealed to King Offa the place where the bones of St. Albans were deposited, who made a search for them, and found them in a wooden chest; he then crossed the sea to Rome and did homage to the Pope, and afterwards returned home and built the Abbey of St. Albans. In the annexed drawing (Fig. 27), the King is represented as giving instructions to the Master Mason of the Abbey, who has the square and compass in his left hand. There are two Masons at work under the arches, knocking off the superfluous parts from the stones; and two setters on the walls, one of them is

placing a stone in its proper position, and the other trying a perpendicular with a plumb rule. Two labourers below are hoisting up stones by means of a windlass. This drawing is an extremely valuable one, as illustrating the working tools and implements of the Mediæval Masons.

108. The following extracts from the Liberate Rolls preserved in the Tower of London, and a few from the Close Rolls, were made and translated by the late T. Hudson Turner, Esq., they are of great importance, and throw some light on architectural proceedings during the reign of Henry III.

Liberate Roll, 17 Henry 3rd (1233). "The Sheriff of Southampton is commanded to cause windows to be made in the King's painted chamber, within the Castle of Winchester, which is too dark, according to the plan* of Master Elias of Dereham, and to cause the wainscote of the same chamber to be painted with green colour. *Woodstock*, June 21.

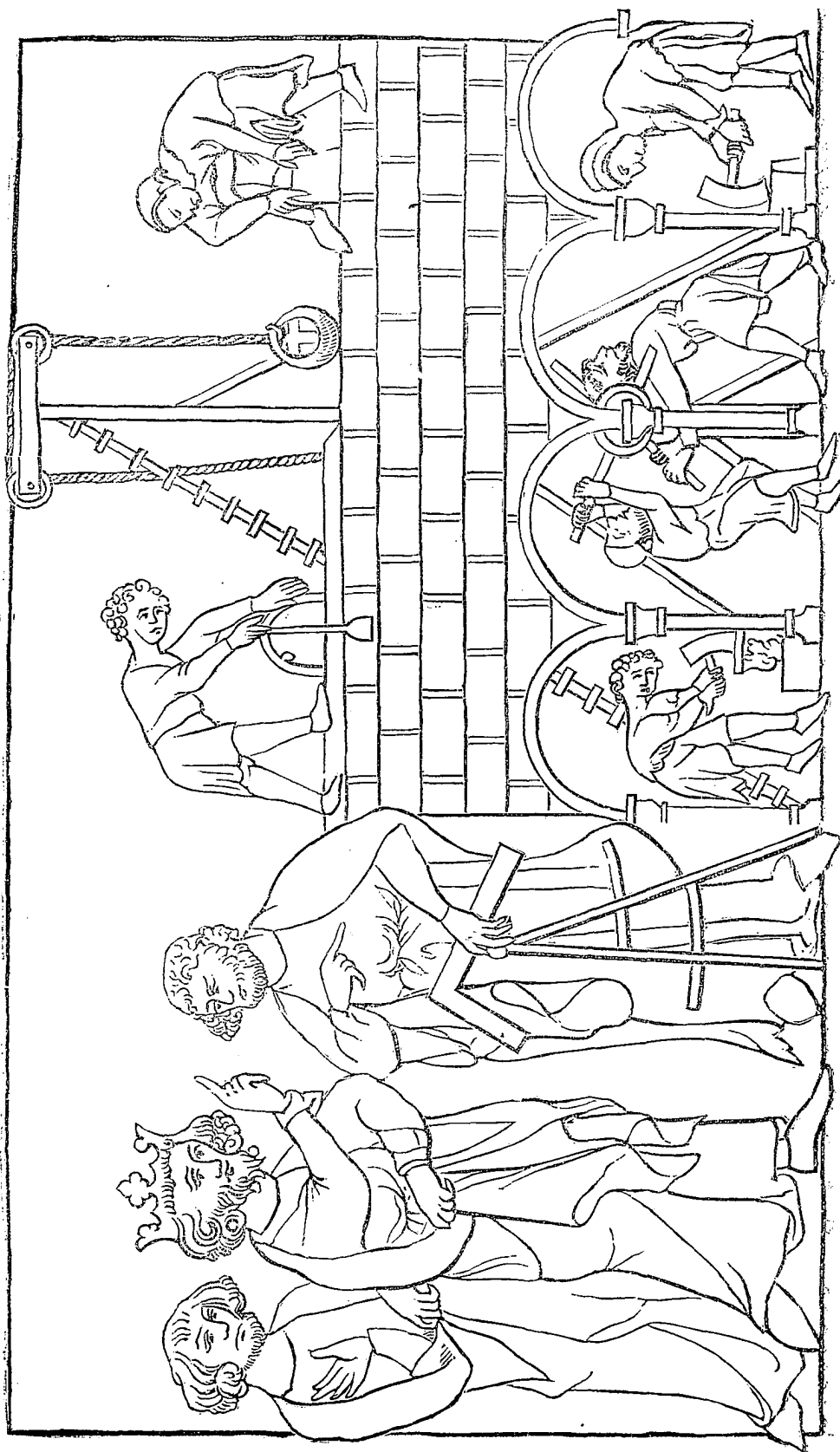
Liberate Roll 23 Henry 3rd (1239). The King to the constable of the Tower of London. We order you to cause the walls of our Queen's chamber, which is within our chamber, at the aforesaid Tower to be whitewashed and pointed, and within those pointings to be painted with flowers; and cause the drain of our private chamber to be made in the fashion of a hollow column, as our well-beloved servant John of Ely shall more fully tell thee.—*Woodstock*, November 23.

Liberate Roll, 28th Henry 3rd (1244). The King to his Treasurer and Edward Fitz Otho. We command you strictly enjoining, and ever as you wish our love towards you to be continued, that you omit in no wise but that the chamber which we ordered to be made at Westminster, for the use of the knights, be finished on this side of Easter, even though it should be necessary to hire a thousand workmen a day for it, and make the same chamber of two stories, and in the same manner without couples, as the privy-chamber of our great exchequer, &c. *Woodstock*, May 17. The same day the King ordered his Treasurer to pay unto Edward of Westminster, 1949l 13 5½ which had been expended in the construction "of our new chamber besides our hall at Westminster, and of our conduit and in our other work, those which we enjoined him to do."

Liberate Roll of 36 Henry 3rd (1252). The King to the Wardens of his works at Woodstock. We command you to roof with lead our bell-turret at Woodstock, the pent house over the door of the great hall, and the other pent-house over the doorway of our old chapel, and to make a pent-house from our kitchen to the stable at the head of the said hall, and another pent-house from the queen's kitchen to the door of her chamber; and a chamber, with a privy-chamber and a chimney, between our chamber and the wine cellar, &c.

Liberate Roll 41 Henry 3rd. The King ordered the Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex to build a certain stone gateway and a certain solar above the gateway, of the length of thirty two feet, within the walls, and of the width of eighteen feet; and wainscote chambers; and make glass windows, &c., at Guildford, "and do all these works by the view and council of Master John of Gloucester, our Mason, and Master Alex-

* Secundum dispositionem.



KING OFFA GIVING INSTRUCTIONS AT THE BUILDING OF ST. ALBAN'S ABBEY.

ander our Carpenter." *Winchester, November 23rd.*

Liberate Roll, 43 Henry 3rd. The bailiff of Woodstock is ordered to pave the King's new chapel at Woodstock, by the advice of *Master John of Gloucester*, the king's mason; to paint the king's seat in the same chapel, &c.

Liberate Roll, 44 Henry 3rd. The Treasurer and Chamberlains of the Exchequer are ordered to pay *Martin de Campo Florido*, clerk of the king's receipt, and *Master John of Gloucester*, the King's Mason 126l. 17 8½; which they expended by the King's order in repairing the king's chimney at Westminster, which threatened to fall, &c. Richard Fremantle is commanded to make in Windsor Castle, between the almonry and the turret, in which John Maunsel used to sleep, for the use of the bishop of Laodicea, a certain pent-house-chamber, of the length of fifty feet, and a chimney of plaster to the same, and a certain wardrobe fifteen feet long.—*Windsor, August 16th.*

Close Roll, 24 Henry 3rd. Edward Fitz Otho is ordered to cause the small wardrobe in which the king's robes hang, to be wainscoted, and the privy-chamber to be plastered, and to buy good plants of pears, and deliver them to the constable of Windsor. *Windsor, February 12.* The same is ordered to board the privy-chamber of the chaplains, like a ship.—*Windsor, March 3.*

Close Roll, 27 Henry 3rd. The Archbishop of York is commanded to cause the works to proceed, as well in winter as summer, until the king's chapel at Windsor be finished; and to cause to be made there a high wooden roof, in the fashion of the roof of the new work at Lichfield, so that it may appear stonework, with good wainscoting and painting; &c.—*Bordeaux, August 20.*

Close Roll, 43 Henry 3rd (1259). *Master John of Gloucester*, the King's Mason, and the *Wardens of the works* at Westminster, are ordered to supply five figures of Kings, cut in free-stone, and a certain stone to be placed under the feet of an image of the Blessed Mary, to the Wardens of the works of the church of St. Martin, London, for the same works, of the King's gift.—*Westminster, May 11.*

109. The following is an example of heading of a Pipe Roll of 52 Henry 3rd (1267-68).

Account of the works of the church at Westminster, and the King's-houses there, from the Feast of Nativity of our Lord, in the 51st year, to the Feast of St. Michael in the 52nd year, by Master Robert de Beverley, Mason, and Brother Ralph, the convert of the Abbey of Cumbermere, put in the place of Alexander the carpenter and John de Spalding, by the King's writ directed to Adam de Stratton, Clerk Warden of the same works, by the view and testimony of the said Adam. Wages of Masons and other workmen £614 10 1½.

Lady Augusta Gordon, of Hallyburton House, Cassar Angus N. B., describes the Wheeler & Wilson Lock Stitch Sewing Machine, as "answering every purpose;" and her judgement is supported by hundreds among the nobility and gentry who have purchased and are constantly using that beautiful and simple invention, and those who have not yet availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them at the elegant show-rooms at 139 Regent Street, of inspecting the machine, will do well to spend an hour in so doing at their earliest convenience, and no doubt they will be as delighted as we have been when on a similar visit.

THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE IN AMERICA.

From the New York Sunday Evening Courier.

THE NORTHERN SUPREME COUNCIL.

There is an old adage, the truth of which is generally admitted, that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Unless the present unhappy state of affairs existing among these who some two years since were members of what has been generally known as the "Supreme Grand Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, 33rd Northern Jurisdiction U.S.A." prove an exception, we gratefully fear that old adage will be again verified, and the divisions and quarrels, daily increasing in gravity, prove but the prelude to a final and total collapse.

It is, indeed, a matter to be regretted, that brethren of such excellent Masonic and social position, and claiming to be the custodians of the pure and beneficent teachings of exalted Masonry, should have turned their hitherto peaceful sanctuary into an arena for the display of personal assaults and character-detracting vituperation, and yet the very official documents which have appeared in our columns, emanating from both sections of this divided household, conclusively prove, that the principal motto of Ineffable Masonry has been reversed, and instead of "Order" being "brought out of Chaos," "Chaos" has kicked "Order" out of doors.

A few months since we published, *in extenso*, the address of Ill. Brother Edward A. Raymond, as Sov. Grand Commander of one section of those composing the former Council, but claiming to be the true and legitimate continuation of that body; in which charges of the most serious nature were freely made against the good name and fame of a majority of his old associates: in the interim we have published counter proclamations and edicts, emanating from those Illustrious brethren who claimed to have lawfully and constitutionally deposed Bro. Raymond, declaring all his acts invalid, and his continued exercise of power a usurpation.

We have now before us a document, entitled a "Statement of facts," over the signature of Ill. Bro. the Rev. Albert Case, of Boston, covering twenty-one pages, octavo, in which as "Ass't Gr. Sec. Gen. H. E. for the North Jurisdiction U.S.A.," he reviews, in language as forcible as it is possible to use, the Address of Ill. Bro. Raymond.

"Early in November, says Bro. Case, 'I obtained a pamphlet entitled 'Minutes of proceedings of the Supreme Council, * * * Northern Jurisdiction,' &c., in which I find an address prepared for Edward A. Raymond, and purporting to have been read by him in a Sovereign Grand Consistory on the 22nd of May, 1861, at which time he represents himself as G. Commander of a Supreme Council, and this, too, some days after he had been deposed from that office, and a distinguished Inspector General, of Ohio, elected in his stead.

"On perusing this pamphlet, I learned it was a record of the proceedings of a body Raymond had for months been organizing, and that now, having formally seceded from the legitimate Council, which had deposed him, he throws off the mask and declares the *spurious* body he had formed the *Supreme Council*.

"The address breathes a spirit of virulent hostility to the Council and brethren he had left, denouncing and nullifying the former and disfranchising the latter—page after page declaring things hitherto unknown, perverting matters of history and record, to blind, deceive and mislead the brotherhood."

Bro. Case, after stating that, during many of the years referred to by Bro. Raymond, he had recorded the proceedings of the Supreme Council, prepared them for the press, and superintended the publication thereof, under Bro. Raymond's direction and that of Secretary General Moore, proceeds to expose the "many assertions in that Address which have no colouring of truth," and which should be "denounced as erroneous."

After alluding to the first cause of trouble, the desire of the members of the Supreme Council to have rules and regulations prepared for the government of subordinate bodies, and the efforts of Bro. Raymond to defeat the intentions of the Council and the Committee appointed by it for that purpose, and touching upon the alleged illegal admission of brethren to the 33rd degree, Bro. Case thus disposes of one of the charges made by Bro. Raymond against the Gr. Sec. Gen., that the latter "has not seen fit to submit for my inspection any of the correspondence with foreign bodies for the last two years," and that such a course had greatly embarrassed him, inasmuch as it "led to the charge of neglect of the duties of my (his) office," &c.—"The answer to all this is simple and effectual. Since the annual meeting in 1859, no official documents addressed to the Council, or to the Sov. Sec. Gen., intended for the Grand Commander's action, were received from foreign or other bodies."

Indeed Bro. Case, in connection with this charge, so logically refuted, defends the Sec. General from the charge of inattention or neglect made against him by Bro. Raymond, by stating that, in addition to the duties of the Secretariat, the Gr. Secretary prepared for Bro. R. the addresses he was in the habit of reading to the Council, and leading his readers to draw the inference of the latter's incapacity to write or perpare his own.

Bro. Case also emphatically denies the charge, made by Bro. Raymond, relative to the records, when he says:—"We have had no book of records since the Council has been located in this city," (Boston), and in reference to the delay in getting out the printed proceedings, which was a subject of complaint by Bro. R., the author of the pamphlet says:—"The remarks about 'printing from memoranda, commonly towards the close of the year,' comes with an ill grace from a man who caused the delay at different times. I have written out the proceedings for the printer, and submitted the manuscript to Com'r Raymond, and waited for a month or more for its return, and then, after correcting the proof sheets, have placed them in his hands, and, under the pretence of examining them, he has detained them for months; and, on one occasion in particular, after importuning him for 'one form' for a long time, he concluded he had lost it. In fact, he was so lax in the examination, that we have been for more than once obliged to print without exhibiting proof to him, in order to get the pamphlet out 'before the close of the year.'"

Our space will not permit us to touch upon all the points referred to by Bro. Case in his "Statement of Facts." There are one or two more, however, which cannot be omitted, without doing injustice to the subject.

In Bro. Raymond's address he excuses himself for abruptly closing the Supreme Council in August 1860, on the ground that, that was "a Special meeting, called to consider certain charges which had been preferred," and that, therefore, when those charges had been acted upon, no further business could be transacted.

This abrupt closing of the Body, and the refusal of Bro. Raymond to permit other business for which the special meeting was called, led to his desposition eventually, and in proof that the call of the August session was not exclusively for the trial of charges. Bro. Case publishes the call for the same which is as follows:

"Boston, July 31, 1860.

CHARLES W. MOORE, Esq.

Dear Sir and Ill. S. G., H. E.—You are hereby requested to notify the members of the Supreme Council, 33rd, N.J. U.S., that a meeting of said Council will be held at their Grand East, Boston, Mass., on Wednesday, August 22nd, 1860, for the purpose of transacting such business as may regularly come before them. But more especially to consider and act upon certain charges that have been presented for their consideration.

Yours, &c.

EDWARD A. RAYMOND, S. G. C."

[This letter certainly confirms Bro. Case's statement.

In reference to the autocratic powers which it is alleged Bro. Raymond claimed to possess. Bro. Case thus remarks: "Raymond evidently assumes that, at the head of the Council, he is supreme, and can make or unmake, and no one dare to ask why? He even asserted that, by his obligation, he could not allow any Inspr. General to read the 'Secret Constitutions,' which he now says 'we are all bound to support and maintain' and boasts that they invest him with all power; so that he might be expected to say, on taking the chair, as his previous autocratic rulings indicate the thought, 'behold, a greater than Frederick' is here." If Bro. Raymond refused to allow those whom he professed to govern to see the laws by which they were to be governed, he committed a grievous mistake, for although Sov. Gr. Commander, he was only in his Council *primus inter pares*, the powers originally said to have been possessed by Frederick *solely* during his lifetime, being at his death the joint inheritance of the Council of Nine, of which the the Grand Commander made but one. Frederick's connexion with the Order, however, is as much a fiction as that "it takes *nine* tailors to make a man," or nine Councillors to make a Frederick.

The Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction is therefore no longer a unit. It is at present a house divided against itself; and if the concluding lines of Bro. Case's pamphlet be taken as an index, "I must be permitted to say that the duty I have here attempted to perform was one of necessity, not of choice, for it is unpleasant to take the moral dissecting knife and lay open even the malicious and wicked machinations and perversions of one with whom we have walked as a brother," during the lifetime of some of the present actors in the drama, no union, no peace can be hoped for. Ill. brethren, let there be peace.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

I should feel greatly obliged to any brother who could complete, or add to, the following list of Rulers of the Temple; and also to any one who would inform me where a list of the English Grand Priors of the Hospital of St. John is to be had?

22. Johannes Marcus Larmenius	1313
Bertrand du Guesclin	1357-1380
Robert Leuoncourt	1478-1497
Philip Chabot	1516-1543
Duke of Montmorency	1574-1614
Duke de Duras	1681-1705
Duke of Orleans	1705-1724
Duke of Maine	1724-1737
Louis Henry Bourbon Condé	1737-1741
Louis Francis Bourbon Conty	1741-1776
Duke de Cossé Brissac	1776-1804
B. R. Fabré Palaprat	1804-1838
Admiral Sir Sydney Smith	1838-1840

ENGLISH.

18. Wm. de la More (Grand Prior)	1313
Joshua Springer (Bristol)	1780
Thamas Dunkeley	1792-1806
Edward Duke of Kent	1806-1811
Rodwell Wright	1811-1812
Duke of Sussex (Grand Prior)	1812-1843

In whose care is the "Charter of Compact" mentioned in the Bristol Warrant of 1780?—Δ.

COLOGNE.

One would have thought the "Charter of Cologne" instead of furthering the interests of the high grades, would have had an opposite tendency? The following relating to the town may not be uninteresting to some readers. The church of Cologne (built by the Freemasons), contains a small marble chapel, lighted by (3?)

lamps kept continually burning, in which are contained three skulls (mounted on blocks), said to be those of the Magi, or wise men of the East, these skulls are surmounted with crowns, on which are inscribed in gems the names Gasper, Melchior, and Belshazzar (generally called the three Kings of Cologne). St. Helena is said to have obtained these skulls and deposited them at Constantinople, whence they were conveyed to Sternbo, thence to Milan, and in 1162 to their present resting place. Behind the altar is the tomb of the three kings of Cologne, and behind the tomb three gothic windows cast their light over the tasselled pavement, and along the Ionic pillars. From the 12th to the 15th century, Cologne was one of the chief emporiums of the Hanseatic League, concentrating all the trade of the East, and maintaining a constant and direct communication with the West. The production and arts of the East, the architecture and painting of Italy, were thus associated on the banks of the Rhine, and thus became the receptacle of many mysteries and superstitions of the East.—*Massie's Summer Ramble*.—Δ.

HAIL OR HELE.

I see the question has been asked, Is it Hele or Hail? There can be no doubt about the matter; a heler or healer in the West of England, is a thatcher or tiler. Nothing can be more appropriate and comprehensive than the sentence "will always heal, seal, and never reveal." Hail seems a modern reading of the ancient form, or the substitution of a word in common use for one, the meaning of which was not understood by some teacher of the Masonic lore.—E.S.

"NINE OBJECTIONS TO MASONRY" ANSWERED

The following nine objections are not new, having been published above 100 years since, but they are those frequently made use of in the present day:—

1. That Masonic Assemblies may be directed against religion in general, or at least aim to establish one denomination of Christians on the ruins of every other.
 2. That the great mysteries of the these Assemblies lay them open to the suspicion of some secret disorder.
 3. That this society may conceal a party dangerous to civil government.
 4. That the mysterious Assemblies of Freemasons may facilitate to conspirators the means of forming clandestine Assemblies, under the pretext that they belong to this Order.
 5. That the preservation of the secret is due only to some ridiculous or shameful practice which compels the initiate to be silent after he has undergone the ceremony.
 6. Drawn from the misconduct of some members of the Order.
 7. That Freemasons, recognised as such, have been known to speak of the Order and its mysteries in such a manner as to give but a poor opinion of them.
 8. Drawn from our exclusion of the fair sex without exception or limitation.
 9. That it is highly imprudent and even sinful to hazard initiation into an Order, one of whose known fundamental principles is never to reveal its mysteries.
- To which it is believed the following will prove conclusive replies.

1. The Masonic Landmarks are unchangeable and imperative.
2. Masonry is a system, teaching symbolically, Piety, Morality Science, Charity, and Self-discipline.
3. The Law of God is the rule and limit of Masonry.
4. The Civil Law, so far as it accords with the Divine, is obligatory upon Masons.
5. The Masonic Lodge and the Masonic Institution are one and indivisible.
6. Masonic Qualifications regard the Mental, Moral and Physical Nature of Man.
7. Personal worth and merit are the basis of official worth and merit.
8. The official duties of Masonry are esoteric.
9. The selection of masonic material and the general labours of the Masonic Craft are exoteric.
10. The honours of Masonry are the gratitude of the Craft and the approval of God.

11. Masonic promotion, both private and official, is by grades.
12. The Grand Master may have a Deputy.
13. The head of the Lodge is the Master, duly elected by the Craft.
14. The medium of communication between the head and the body of the Lodge is the Wardens.
15. Obedience to the Master and Wardens is obligatory upon the members.
16. Secrecy is an indispensable element of Masonry.
17. The M.W.G.M. and his Grand Lodge, are supreme in their jurisdiction, and control both the Subordinate Lodges and individual Masons, but always subject to the Ancient Landmarks.—R.M.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

German papers bring the news of the death of the venerable poet Justinus Kerner. He died at Weinsberg, in Wurtemberg, on the 22nd, peacefully and in the arms of his children. He had nearly attained the age of seventy-six. All readers of German literature are acquainted with the poetry of Kerner, some of whose ballads are peculiarly sweet, simple, and graceful. But Kerner was better known to many in another way; less perhaps to the honor of his intellect and acuteness—as a believer in and expounder of the once famous revelations of the "Seeress of Prevorst."

Mr. Bentley is preparing for publication the *Sporting Adventures of Mr. Baldwin*, who has recently returned from Southern Africa, and just been made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. Mr. Baldwin, it is said, spent eleven years in Southern Africa, during which time he is said to have very rarely seen the face of a European, once going eleven months without doing so, and never slept under the roof of a house. His adventures are said to have been frequently perilous in the extreme, as his thirst for adventure took him into districts visited hitherto only by Dr. Livingstone. We hope Mr. Baldwin will be careful of his dates; the public are in a mood of deep suspicion against African travellers.

The *Exchange*, a new monthly shilling magazine, is announced for April, and will be published by Messrs. S. Low, Son, and Co. It will be devoted to commerce, manufactures, and economical politics, occupying the place among the monthlies which the *Economist* does among the weeklies.

The *Queen*, an illustrated weekly paper, which was started about six months ago by Mr. S. O. Beeton, the publisher, has been sold by Mr. Hodgson, the auctioneer of Chancery-lane. The circulation was stated to be about 7000 weekly, which was just sufficient to cover the expenses of production. The money sunk in the concern was about £3500, and £2000 of that sum had been paid for wood engravings, which were disposed of with the copyright. After waiting an hour for a second bidding, the auctioneer knocked down the lots to Mr. Weldon, the publisher, of Paternoster-row, for £600.

Professor Matthew Arnold has nearly ready for publication *Last Words on Translating Homer*.

It is said that the Poet Laureate has in hand an *Ode*, to be produced at the opening of the great Exhibition this year, and in which he will commemorate most of the public virtues of the late Prince Consort, in terms quite in harmony with his poem so lately published as a preface to the new edition of the *Idylls of the King*, and embodying several of those lines.

Dr. Forbes, the Bishop of Brechin, in the Scottish Episcopal Church, recently found in the library of Drummond Castle a Scottish missal of the tenth century. The calendar is perfect, and is enriched with a Gaelic rubric and two Gaelic collects.

The University of Oxford have resolved to print a catalogue of the letters and papers of Lord Clarendon, the author of the *History of the Rebellion*.

The *Westminster Review* will be published henceforth by Messrs. Trübner and Co., of Paternoster-row.

The Queen has signified her intention of giving a portrait of the Prince Consort to the National Portrait Gallery. This gracious announcement leads to the thought that her Majesty's own portrait would also be a most gratifying addition to the collection.

It will interest English readers to know that the Prince of Wales employed some of his short stay in Munich in sitting to Herr Albert, the court photographer, for one of his life-size photographs. The portrait of his Royal Highness is to appear in the Exhibition, and cannot fail to attract attention. We believe Herr Albert is the only photographer who has produced portraits the size of life; they are certainly his invention, and we have not yet seen them imitated. The Prince of Wales's portrait was finished in five hours' time, and it is at the Prince's own desire that it is to appear in the Exhibition.

Mr. Macbean is forwarding to the International Exhibition the contributions of Roman exhibitors, of whom the list is headed by the Pope, who sends a magnificent missal, bound in crimson velvet, with gold clasps and mountings, and enclosed in an inlaid ebony case, which, when opened, forms a leggio, or reading-desk, for the missal. This splendid work is entirely a Rome-made production, the paper having been made expressly at the government manufactory at Subaco, the types cast for the purpose in Rome, the printing executed in colours at the Stamperia Camerale, and the illuminated frontispieces painted by a distinguished Roman artist. After having been exhibited, this gorgeous specimen of modern missals is to be sent to Cardinal Wiseman as a souvenir. The Pope also exhibits an extremely handsome crucifix, which is ultimately designed to enrich the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. George, Southwark. Cardinal Antonelli sends two splendidly printed and bound breviaries, which, after having been exhibited, are also to be presented to Catholic communities in England.

Among the remains brought from Halicarnassus is an alabaster scent-vase, eleven inches high, having upon it the name of Xerxes in two languages—one Egyptian hieroglyphics, and the other the arrow-headed characters of Assyria. It would seem to have been buried by Queen Artemisia in the celebrated mausoleum, the tomb of her husband Mausolus, as one of his most valued treasures.

Professor Huxley, says the *Critic*, is preparing for the press a work in which he will discuss the Origin of Species and the Age of the Human Race. The book will be an amplification of the lectures he has recently delivered in Edinburgh and at the Royal Institution, and which he is engaged to repeat in Dublin. This, with Sir Charles Lyell's forthcoming *Geological Evidences of the Antiquity of Man*, and Mr. Darwin's *Treatise on Intercrossing*, will sure enough provoke some very lively, and probably some very hot, discussion.

The *Athenæum* announces that Ignaz Castelli, the popular Vienna poet, died on the 6th inst., at the advanced age of eighty-two years. He was one of the last representatives in literature of the good old merry Vienna times, before politics and revolutions had roused the Phœnicians of the Danube from their lethargy of pleasure, into which Metternich's despotism purposely plunged had them. Among his many works we only mention the libretto of Weigl's popular opera, *Die Schweizerfamilie*. Castelli leaves the fame of a good and honest man, of a small poet, and a great collector of snuff-boxes. He amassed upwards of 2000 such articles.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

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

SIR AND BROTHER.—Under the above heading a letter appeared in your publication a few weeks since, to which no reply has been made, and of which, to my surprise, no notice has been taken. I should have thought that a subject of so much importance temperately treated and ably discussed, would have evoked expressions of opinion from several of your correspondents, who cannot fail to feel greatly interested in a settlement of this "momentous question."

My object in reverting to this question is not so much to obtrude any views I may entertain thereon, as to invite attention to it, and elicit the ideas of talented brethren competent to judge, in the hope that by some means or other our rulers may be induced to arrive at a decision for which I, with many others, have now so long and so patiently waited.

I have been given to understand that several schemes for dealing with the property, have been submitted to the Board of General Purposes, some emanating, doubtless, from practical and professional brethren, some, with as little doubt, from brethren who would be equally ready to undertake the squaring of the circle, the search for the philosopher's stone, the command of the Volunteers at Brighton on Easter Monday, or any difficult or impossible operation, but who are actuated by the best possible motives in offering to assist in cutting the Gordian Knot of difficulty with which this question is hampered. The suggestion I am about to make will, in all probability, serve to ensure my being numbered with this class of rash and irregular aspirants for fame. This risk, however, will not deter me from offering my advice, which, at all events, has the merit of simplicity to recommend it.

I know something of the accommodation, nay, I would rather say, I feel acutely the want of accommodation for any gathering out of the ordinary routine, afforded by the present Freemasons' Tavern and Hall. To remedy the crying evil, I will, for the moment, discard the consideration of any and all of the elaborate and expensive—reserving my opinion upon them for another occasion—now under discussion, and at once advocate simply the erection on the property in the rear of Queen's-court, of a spacious and commodious hall, adjacent to and communicating with our present beautiful Hall, which can be erected speedily at a moderate outlay, and which would enable the managers of our various festivals to render them what they ought to be, what they never yet have been in consequence of there being no second room or hall sufficiently large, where the ladies who are invited to grace our festal gatherings may be entertained in the manner they have a right to expect.

It appears to me that cogent arguments and long statistics are unnecessary to recommend the immediate adoption of this very simple, uncostly work. Its absolute necessity is patent to all. This accomplished, as an integral part of a yet to be completed whole, let the Board of General Purposes, or whatever or whoever may be the authority charged with the execution of the work, take as long a time as they please in deciding upon the further portions. In the name, and on behalf, of a very large number of brethren concerned in various ways in the arrangements—provision for great Masonic assemblages—I respectfully press upon the attention of those set over us the moderate prayer of this petition. That granted, their memorialist will ever pray, &c.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

AMICUS CURIÆ.

London, Feb. 24, 1862.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

GRAND LODGE.

The following is the official agenda of business to be transacted in Grand Lodge, on Wednesday, 5th March, 1862.

1. The regulations for the government of Grand Lodge during the time of public business to be read.
2. The minutes of the Quarterley Communication, 4th December, 1861, for confirmation.
3. The minutes of the Special Grand Lodge of the 8th January, 1862, for confirmation.
4. The election of M.W. Grand Master.
5. The election of Grand Treasurer.
6. The M.W. Grand Master, pursuant to notice given, will move—

“That with the view of conveying to the Worshipful Brother Havers a substantial and permanent record of the estimation by the Craft at large of his long and valuable services on behalf of the Masonic body, already acknowledged by the unanimous and cordial vote of Grand Lodge, the sum of five hundred guineas should be applied from the Fund of General Purposes to purchase, under the regulations of the respective Institutions, the privilege of nominating one child as a member of each of the Masonic Schools; so as always to have one nominee receiving the benefits of the Institutions during the life of the Nominor: and that such privilege be presented by Grand Lodge to the W. Brother Havers as the mode which the experience of Grand Lodge suggests to it will be most acceptable to his warm heart and charitable inclinations, and as evincing its grateful recognition of the important benefits resulting to the society of Freemasonry from his unwearied exertions and perseverance.”

7. The Report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants, viz. :—

Bro. J—H—, of the Zetland Lodge, (No. 752), Kensington	£30
The Daughter of the late Bro. M. O. I—, of the British Union Lodge, (No. 131), Ipswich	£30
The Widow of the late Bro. N—P—, of the Lodge of Faith, (No. 130) Radcliff Bridge	£30
Bro. T. C. R—, of the St. Paul's Lodge (No. 51), Birmingham	£50
Bro. J. C. B—, of the Lodge of Regularity, (No. 108), London	£100
The Widow of the late Bro. T—N. F— of the Royal Gloucester Lodge (No. 152), Southampton	£50
Bro. J—S—, of the Saint Johns' Lodge, (No. 411), Torquay	£30
Bro. E. O—, of the Bedford Lodge, (No. 83) London	£50

8. The report of the Annual Audit of the Grand Lodge accounts.

9. 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 heard and adjudicated upon the following complaints :—

- “1. By Bro. Dominy, W. Master elect of the High Cross Lodge (No. 1056), Tottenham, against Bro. Potts, P.M. of that lodge, for having taken the chair of the lodge in the Master's absence on the 27th September last—the immediate P.M. being present in the lodge; for opening the lodge without producing the Warrant; and for closing it without having the minutes put

for confirmation. Having heard the statements made by the brother complaining, and the answer of Bro. Potts, the board came to the conclusion that the first and second charges had not been sustained, and that with respect to the complaint of the lodge having been closed without the minutes being put for confirmation, they decided that Bro. Potts was fully justified, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, in pursuing the course he had adopted.

“2. By the Lodge of Benevolence, against the Royal Forest Lodge (No. 575), Slaidburn, for having certified that a brother, whose widow was a petitioner for relief, had been a subscribing member for 11 years, Grand Lodge dues having been paid for 6½ years only. Upon examination of the lodge books it appeared that the brother had been a regular subscribing member for 10½ years. The board having heard the explanation offered by the lodge, ordered the arrears for 4 years to be paid, and admonished the W. Master to be more careful for the future.

“3. By the Lodge of Benevolence, against the Shakespeare Lodge (No. 617), Spilsby, for having neglected to pay the full registration fee for a brother, whose widow was an applicant for relief. It appeared that the brother had joined from an Irish lodge, and the Lodge had paid the joining fee of 2s. 6d. only instead of 10s. 6d., as required by the *Book of Constitutions*. The Board ordered the lodge forthwith to pay the sum of 8s. to complete the registration fee of the brother.

“4. By Bro. Augustus Great Rex, against the W. Master of the Lodge of Good Report (No. 158), London, for permitting circumstances reflecting upon his conduct out of lodge to be discussed in lodge and entered upon the Minutes. The Board, after hearing the statements of Bro. Great Rex, of the W. Master, and other brethren, decided that, inasmuch as the proceedings referred to took place out of lodge and had no reference whatever to the business for which the lodge was summoned, they ought not to have been entertained or discussed upon that occasion; and the board therefore ordered that so much of the minutes as related to Bro. Great Rex's conduct out of lodge should be expunged.

“The board beg further to report, that they have had several plains laid before them for the appropriation of the freehold property belonging to the society. Some of these plans are based upon the continuance or increase of the present Tavern accommodation; but inasmuch as Grand Lodge, in 1858, decided that the attention of the board should be directed solely to schemes for appropriating the property, or a portion thereof, to Masonic purposes exclusively, it was considered that the board ought not to entertain such schemes until the sanction of Grand Lodge for their so doing should be obtained. It was therefore resolved—

“That whereas the following resolutions were agreed to at a Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, holden on the 1st December, 1858, viz. :—

“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. That the subject be referred back to the Board, with directions to report thereon to the Grand Lodge, and to bring before it such a scheme as may appear to be practicable for carrying out the first resolution, 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.

“3rd. That in the scheme which they will have to consider, it will be desirable to proceed only with a view of providing fitting

and appropriate accommodation to be devoted solely and exclusively to Masonic purposes.

"And whereas several members of the Board of General Purposes are of opinion, that it is desirable to have power to consider the propriety of appropriating a portion of the property for the purposes of a tavern—should the judgment of the Board take that direction—it is respectfully requested that such additional power be granted to the Board by Grand Lodge accordingly."

"(Signed) AENEAS J. MCINTYRE,
"Freemasons' Hall, 19th February, 1862. President."

To the report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 14th instant, shewing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £1813 6s. 5d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £794 0s. 8d.; to the Fund of General Purposes £642 11s. 7d.; and there is in the unappropriated account £426 14s. 2d., a portion of which belongs to the Grand Chapter.

10. 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:—

"In the case of the complaint of the St. Lawrence Lodge (No. 923) Montreal, against a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge of Canada, whereby such lodge was declared irregular; it appearing from a letter received from the W. Master of the said lodge, that, contrary to the hope of the Board, as expressed in a former report, the authorities of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the district of Montreal, had "relaxed nought in their unmasonic conduct towards the said lodge, but on the contrary endeavoured to keep them in a more rigorous state of isolation than before the liberal professions of their Grand Master, and (as was alleged) lost no opportunity to make the situation of the lodge unpleasant;" the Board have caused a communication to be made through the representative of the Grand Lodge of England in Canada, calling the attention of the M.W. the Grand Master of Canada to the resolution passed in the Grand Lodge of England, on the 5th of June, 1861, approving and adopting the report of this Board of the 22nd of May, 1861, and thereby affirming the regular standing of the St. Lawrence Lodge (No. 923), Montreal, on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England, and apprising him of the communication received as above from the W. Master of such lodge, and directing the said representative forthwith to require from the M.W. the Grand Master of Canada, that the said lodge, which has been declared regular by the Grand Lodge of England, be recognised as such by the Grand Lodge of Canada. The Board now await the reply to this communication.

"Complaints have been received from certain brethren in the Province of South Australia against the ruling of the R.W. the Provincial Grand Master in the Provincial Grand Lodge held on the 30th day of August, 1861, in refusing either to allow certain notices of motion to appear on the notice paper of the Provincial Grand Lodge, or the discussion of the matters to which such notices referred in Provincial Grand Lodge, when attempted to be brought forward, and also in reference to the appointment of Provincial Grand Officers. It appearing that such notices of motion had for their object the requiring the Provincial Grand Master to resign his office, the Board have notified to the complainants that in their opinion the Provincial Grand Master was justified in such, his refusal, and that the appointment of Provincial Grand Officers (except the Treasurer)

is the prerogative of the Provincial Grand Master, and ought not to be interfered with.

"The same brethren also explained that the ceremony of Installation of the Provincial Grand Master had been performed by a brother who had no legal standing in Provincial Grand Lodge. It appearing that the brother referred to was not a subscribing member of a lodge, the Board resolved that he had no right to be present except as a visitor, nor, if so present, to act as Installing Master. It appeared, however, from the explanation furnished by the Provincial Grand Master, that the said brother was so present by his invitation; and, moreover, that there was no other brother available both able and willing to perform the ceremony of Installation.

"The same complainants also alleged that certain variations in ritual, and irregularities in working, had been promoted or countenanced in the province by the said Provincial Grand Master. After careful consideration of the statements of the complainants and the explanation of the Provincial Grand Master, it appeared to the Board that a certain variation in ritual had been practised in a private lodge in the province, and they have expressed their disapprobation thereof, but it appeared to the Board that such variation had not been originally promoted by the Provincial Grand Master. The alleged variation in the ceremonial in opening the Provincial Grand Lodge appears to have occurred prior to the introduction of the Provincial Grand Master and the Board could not therefore consider him responsible for the same. With regard to the charge as to alleged irregularities in working, the Board consider the same disproved.

"The board have caused their decisions on the several above-mentioned points to be duly notified to the parties, with their regret that such unhappy differences should exist in the province.

"(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS,
"Freemasons' Hall, 19th February, 1862. President."

11. The report of Bro. R. P. Harding, the Auditor of the Grand Lodge accounts.

METROPOLITAN.

TOWER HAMLETS ENGINEER'S LODGE (No. 1204); CONSECRATION.

In connection with the 1st Tower Hamlets Engineer Volunteers, a Masonic Lodge has been formed, and Monday, Feb. 17th, was the day fixed upon for the Consecration. The brother appointed by the M.W. Grand Master to officiate as his Deputy on the occasion was Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, Past J.G.D., who performed the ceremony in his usual excellent, correct, and impressive manner. The musical arrangements were made by Bro. Saqui, who was assisted by excellent vocalists.

Bro. Wilson having appointed Bro. C. H. Gregory J.G.D. (Capt. Commandant of the corps) as his S.W., and Bro. Bazalgette, P.M., as his J.W., lodge was opened in the three degrees, the brethren of the new lodge were properly placed, and the Organist playing the customary piece. The other forms having been complied with, the Chaplain (Bro. Fenn, of the Lodge of Emulation) delivered the oration in a masterly manner, an anthem from the cxxxiii. psalm following. After the Chaplain's prayer, the ceremony of consecration was performed, the gorgeous vessels of the Grand Lodge being borne by Bros. England, P.M. (Engineer); Spencer, &c. After two sacred anthems, the national anthem was sung by the whole of the brethren, the following beautiful words by the Rev. Newman Hall, D.D., being substituted for the old well-known verses:—

God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Lord heal her bleeding heart,
Assuage its grievous smart,
Thy heavenly peace impart.
God save the Queen!

Our Royal Widow bless!
 God save the fatherless!
 God save the Queen!
 Shield them with loving care,
 Their mighty grief we share,
 Lord hear our fervent prayer,
 God save the Queen!

Oh Lord our God arise!
 Bless England's enemies!
 On Thee we call!
 Let sorrow whisper peace,
 Bid wrong and anger cease,
 Let love and truth increase,
 Make evil fall!

In this our nation's need,
 With Thee we humbly plead!
 God bless our Queen!
 Her life-woe sanctify,
 Her loss untold supply,
 Thyself be ever nigh
 To save our Queen.

Lodge being resumed, the ceremony of installation was commenced, Bro. Wilson being appointed the Installing Master, assisted by upwards of twenty Past Masters, Bro. W. Wigginton, P. Prov. G.D.C. Worcestershire, and senior Lieutenant of the Tower Hamlets Engineer Volunteers. W.M. elect was presented by Bro. Capt. Gregory, J.G.D., who eulogised Bro. Wigginton, and stated that the lodge and the corps were greatly indebted to him for their formation. The installation being concluded, lodge was closed in the third and second degrees, the accustomed congratulations and salutations having been warmly offered by the brethren. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Grumbridge, (P.M. 63) S.W.; Compton (Churchwarden St. George in the East) J.W.; Compton (in absence of Treasurer) Treas. *pro tem.*, Scotcher, (P.M. 63) Sec.; A. Richardson, M.D., S.D.; F. Warskitt, I.G.; and Radford, Tyler. The following gentlemen (all of the Tower Hamlets Engineer Volunteers) were then balloted for, elected, and initiated by the newly-installed W.M.: J. W. Tripe, M.D. (Hon. Assist. Surgeon); Lieutenants J. W. Fraser, J. F. Bringes, J. A. Coffey, and Quarter-Master Sergeant S. Poynter. Five gentlemen having been proposed as candidates for initiation, and one brother as a joining member, lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet, it being admirably served up in the excellent style of our Bro. Geo. Paynter.

The lodge furniture was made by Bro. Warskitt, from the designs of the W.M., and elicited marked commendation; the jewels, &c., being supplied by Bro. Spencer. The lodge-room presented a very gay and animated spectacle, nearly fifty brethren being present, and among them the handsome uniforms of Honorable Artillery Company, the sober colour of that of the London Rifle Brigade, the gay scarlet and blue of the Engineers, &c., these, with the various Masonic badges, presented a unique and pleasing sight, and an unusual one also, this being only the third volunteer lodge at present formed.

The W.M. was supported at the banquet by Bro. Wilson, P.J.G.D.; Gregory, J.G.D.; May, W.M. Fitzroy (Hon. Artillery Company); Capt. Field (ditto); Barron (London Rifle Brigade) W.M. Lodge of Antiquity (No. 2); Tomkins, P.M. Ionic; Thompson (Churchwarden, St. George-in-the-East) P.M. No. 63; England, P.M.; Bazalgette, P.M. 283; Shirley, P.M. 63; Penn (Sec. Emulation); Docelle, P.M. 63, and many other P.M.'s and brethren.

The "Queen, &c." having been drunk with Masonic honours, the W.M. proposed that of the "M.W. the G.M.," eulogising his conduct as G.M., and expressing a fervent hope that he might retain his seat on the throne until the Prince of Wales should be elected as his successor.

The next toast was the "D.Prov.G.M. and the other present and past Grand Officers," the W.M. speaking more particularly of the consecrating officer, Bro. S. Barton Wilson. This was responded to by Bro. S. B. Wilson, P.J.G.D., the Deputy *pro tem.*, in a very able manner. Bro. Wilson observed that he had for very many years of a long life been connected with the Craft, and it was with feelings of considerable gratification that he had accepted at the hands of the M.W. the G.M. the duty of consecrating that lodge. It was much regretted by the M.W. the D.G.M. that he was prevented from performing this

ceremony himself. It, however, would afford him much pleasure to learn how successfully and brilliantly the ceremony had gone off, and the happy auspices under which this lodge had been consecrated, and he concluded by congratulating the lodge on the accomplished Mason they had chosen for their W.M., for whom, from his manner of performing his onerous duties that day, he predicted a highly successful year of office.

The health of the Initiates was responded to by the Senior Initiate, and Assist. Surgeon of the Corps, Dr. TRIPE. He assured the company that he had been highly impressed with his share of the ceremony of that day. He had already seen sufficient of Masonry to be convinced that to be a good Mason was to be a good Christian, and that the better the Mason the better the man. He hoped himself and his brother initiates would prove their sense of the kind reception they had that day met with, by endeavouring to perfect themselves in the Craft, and by ever seeking, by their lives and actions, to adorn the title conferred on them.

The W.M., in proposing "The Health of the Visitors," expressed the deep gratification he felt at being honoured with the attendance of so many Past Masters and brethren skilled in the Craft, this feeling being shared in by the members of the lodge. He saw around him many brethren from that Volunteer army in which he was proud to hold a commission, and among them he could not forget specially to mention the W.M. of the Lodge of Antiquity (No. 2)—Antiquity's pride he had on his side, to advance the reputation of the Tower Hamlets Engineers' Lodge—and the W.M. of the Fitzroy Lodge, Bro. May, of the Hon. Artillery Company, with Captain Field, and his brethren in arms in that corps, had also come forward in a truly fraternal spirit to assist in that evening's interesting ceremony. He also saw on his left two excellent and well-known engineers as well as Masons—Bro. England and Bro. Bazalgette—while before him were Bro. Shirley, the father of No. 63, and several of his sons, excellent Past Masters of that lodge. He called upon the brethren to welcome the visitors with that warmth which was peculiar to Masons alone.

Bros. MAY, W.M. No. 830; BARRON, W.M. No. 2; ENGLAND, P.M.; and Captain FIELD severally responded, and alluded to the very gratifying manner in which the W.M. had discharged the duties of his office that evening, especially in the working of the first degree, wherein he had admitted five brethren to a participation of Masonic privileges.

Bro. Captain GREGORY, J.G.D., Captain-Commandant of the Corps, then proposed "The Health of the W.M." He remarked that he was now an old Mason, and had seen most of the ceremonies of the Craft performed, and performed very impressively, but he never remembered seeing a ceremony solemnized with the earnest display of talent afforded by his brother the W.M. He was sure the W.M. must have worked hard to make himself the accomplished Mason he had that day proved himself. It was a proud moment for him (Captain Gregory) to see his brother Wigginton in that chair, and it was a proud thought that the Corps with which he was more intimately connected should have inaugurated a lodge which should have received as its first initiates four of the Officers and the Senior Non-commissioned Officer. He hoped those initiates would prove as worthy Masons as the W.M., and study to adorn the Craft by their talents, as he had done that day. In other respects—in social relationships—he was sure their initiation as Masons could only result in increasing and intensifying their virtues, moral, social, and domestic. He did not mean to say but what a man might not be a Mason, and yet feel sensitively his obligations, social and kindred; but he did say that Masonry intensified these obligations of relationship, and that a Mason, from the mere fact of his Craft, must prove a better son, a better father, a better brother, a better husband, and a better man. He then gave "The W.M."

The W.M. in responding said that he could but very inadequately thank his veteran brother, the Captain Commandant of his Corps, for his great kindness to him that evening, the more especially for his brotherly feeling in foregoing the proud position of Master of No. 1204, in order that he might fill it. It was so long since he had worked an office in lodge—not since he left the province of Worcester, in the Prov. Grand Lodge of which he was proud to have held office—that he was afraid he was very rusty, notwithstanding the generous assistance afforded him by the W.M., Past Masters, and brethren of the Constitutional (No. 63), a lodge to which he should be ever indebted. He trusted, however, that by hard labour he would be enabled to do the work satisfactorily, it would be his aim to accomplish that. In proposing "The Health of the Officers of the Lodge"

the W.M. said that as necessary were good working Masons to support the Master, as thoroughly efficient officers were to aid the Commanders of Volunteer corps, and to perfect the grand cause in which most of them laboured. He could refer with pride to his officers, his Senior Warden Bro. Grumbridge having not only worked his mother lodge well as its Master, but his Lodge of Instruction, too, as Lecture Master. His Junior Warden, Bro. Compton, was an indefatigable Mason, and a good worker, as were the whole of the assistant officers, and he was indeed honoured by having such Masons with him—Masons who would at once establish the reputation of the Tower Hamlets Engineers' Lodge.

Bro. GRUMBRIDGE (P.M. 63), S.W., and Bro. COMPTON (S.W. 63), J.W., responded to the toast, and assured the brethren that they were determined to discharge their duty to the lodge, considering it an honour to be ranged under its banner, and to hold the offices that had been entrusted to them.

The last toast having been given, the brethren separated, having spent one of the most pleasant Masonic days that had for a long time fallen to their lot.

Bro. SAQUI and his talented vocalists enlivened the evening by singing some appropriate and soul-stirring airs.

SOMERSET HOUSE AND INVERNESS LODGE (No. 4).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday last, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. Edde, when it was discovered the business could not be proceeded with, he being the Master of another lodge. The confirmation of that portion of the minutes relating to the election was therefore adjourned until the next meeting, that a dispensation may be applied for in the meantime. There is no real ground for granting the dispensation, and it will be a departure from the usual course to do so.

KINGS ARMS LODGE (No. 30).—At the meeting of this lodge on Monday evening, Mr. Russell, the Master of the Boys' School, was initiated into the Order.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 169).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday last, Bro. Graygoose, W.M., presiding, when Mr. Waddle was initiated into the order, and Bros. J. H. Gaball and J. W. Adams elected joining members.

LODGE OF SINCERITY (No. 203).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place at Bro. Wright's, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars, on Wednesday, 19th Feb., and was attended by a large number of brethren. The lodge was opened with solemn prayer in the first and second degrees, by the newly installed Master, Bro. Candler. Bros. Steel, and Thomas were passed to the second degree, the lodge was then resumed to the first degree, and Messrs. V. Belcher, Capt. Wichbold, and J. Jonas were initiated into the mysteries of the Order. The W.M. (for the first time) going through the whole of the ceremonies most excellently. The lodge being closed, the brethren preceded to the banquet, provided by the worthy host, Bro. Wright, on his usual liberal scale, evidently evincing his opinion that Masons should eat as well as work. After the usual toasts were responded to, some excellent songs were elicited from several of the brethren, a most convivial evening was spent, and the brethren separated at an early hour.

LODGE OF ISRAEL (No. 247).—This lodge held their regular meeting at the London Coffee-house, on Tuesday, the 18th inst., Bro. L. Engel presiding, supported by Bros. A. M. Cohen, T. Saqui, and T. E. Ladd, P.M.'s; also by H. J. Lyon, S.W.; Simeon Harris, J.W.; J. Bernard, S.D.; J. M. Harris, J.D.; and S. Phillips, I.G. The lodge being opened in due form, the minutes of the former meeting were read, and received confirmation, after which Bro. Marks was passed to the second degree. This was followed by Bro. Bowes being introduced, and raised to the third degree, the ceremony being most perfectly and effectively performed by the W.M. The business of the lodge ended, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, when the W.M. gave the loyal and Masonic toasts, which were received with the usual amount of enthusiasm.—Bro. T. E. LADD said that he was extremely gratified with the way in which the working of the lodge was carried out by the W.M., for though a young Mason, he had never experienced a greater treat than in witnessing the excellent working of the W.M., who had performed the duties in a manner to afford instruction to many Presiding Masters. It was not long since Bro. Engel had been placed at the head of the lodge, but from the great ability he had shown, the lodge would not lose any of its *prestige* during the present year, either from its working, or the way in which the authority of the chair was exercised. He was sure

they would unite with him in drinking "The health of the W.M.," who responded to the toast in a very neat speech, and in conclusion proposed "The Health of the P.M.'s," coupling with it the name of Bro. Saqui, to whom he owed a vast debt of gratitude for his able tuition and assistance, he having been his only Masonic instructor.—Bro. SAQUI, in responding to the toast, said that he felt highly flattered at the kind feeling of the W.M., and also at the cordiality with which those remarks had been received by every brother present. It was highly pleasing to him at all times, whenever called upon, to afford Masonic instruction; impressing upon those brethren seeking Masonic knowledge, that it was only from those who are capable of giving instruction they could expect properly to receive it, and if he had been the means of qualifying various brethren to perform their Masonic duties, he had only done that which, as a Mason, he was imperatively called upon to perform. The various ceremonies were much enhanced by the introduction of an harmonium, at which Bro. Saqui presided.

CITY OF LONDON LODGE (No. 1203).—This lodge met on Monday, 17th inst., at the City of London Freemason's Club, 23, Little Bell-alley, Moorgate-street. The members present were:—Bros. Chas. Southall, W.M.; E. Sisson, S.W.; T. G. Collier, J.W.; S. Osmond, S.D.; J. H. Wynne, W. Southall, A. Weissenburger, A. Higgs, Sleaman, Leon, Gaskell, Maas, Case, Bloomenthal, Goode, and several visitors. Messrs. E. Salisbury, J. Walker, C. Belcher, Upfield Green, and T. Nutlunon were balloted for and initiated. Bro. Maas having very ably passed the usual examinations, received the second degree, and Bro. Leon was afterwards raised to the degree of M.M. The whole of the ceremonies were performed most effectively by the W.M., and all the officers of the lodge proved themselves well up to their work.

PROVINCIAL.

HAMPSHIRE.

SOUTHAMPTON LODGE (No. 551).—PRESENTATION OF A

TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. RANKIN STEBBING.

This lodge met on Thursday, 20th ult., to celebrate the Festival of St. John, when Bro. Wm. Hickman, the immediate P.M., was again installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Stebbing. Amongst the brethren present were Adm. Sir Lucius Curtis, *Bart.*, Prov. G.M.; Chas. Ewens Deacon, D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. John Hayward, P.M. 401, Past Prov. S. G. Warden; Bro. Fred Perkins, P.M. 152, Mayor of Southampton; Bro. J. R. Weston, ex-sheriff, P.M. 462; Bro. Dr. Henry Clark; C. Bromley; G. Martin; G. Lumley, P.M. of the lodge; Bro. Josiah George, Mayor of Romsey; Rev. W. S. Oke; Rev. Bro. Hawkins; Rev. Dr. Bradshaw (W.M. 401); and several other members and visitors.

The following officers were invested:—Bros. Wm. Furber, S.W.; J. George, J.W.; Dr. Clark, Treas.; G. Dymott, Sec.; Rev. Oke, Chaplain. The brethren having adjourned from labour to refreshment, about thirty sat down to a splendid banquet, supplied by Bro. Brixey, and an evening of great enjoyment passed. The usual loyal and masonic toasts having been given, The W.M. proposed the health of Bro. P. M. Stebbing, referring to his long and valuable services to the lodge and to masonry generally; his readiness at all times to perform any of the ceremonies and do any good work for masonry. He was their mainstay and guide in all masonic labour, and they were proud to acknowledge it; not only so, but they wished to give a substantial form to their estimation of his services and strong personal friendship, and begged his acceptance of a brief and expressive address, written on vellum, and signed by every member of the lodge, and a P.M.'s jewel and silver salver, with similar words engraved thereon.

To the Worshipful Brother,

JOSEPH RANKIN STEBBING,

P.M. No. 555, and also P.M. of No. 152, No. 462, and No. 108,

Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes;

P.Prov. S.G.W. of Hampshire;

&c. &c. &c.;

We, the W.M., officers, and brethren of the Southampton Lodge (No. 555) of Free and Accepted Masons, beg to present you with a P.M.'s jewel and silver salver, as a testimonial of the kind

and fraternal feelings we entertain towards you personally, as also of our gratification on the deservedly high position you hold in masonry, and in recognition of the many and valuable services you have rendered to this lodge and masonry in general.

The W. M. added that they felt that the lodge was honoured by Bro. Stebbing's distinguished position at the Board of General Purposes, and by the estimation in which he was held by so many members of Grand Lodge, and they were desirous by their testimony, to exhibit how highly his own lodge and the brethren in Southampton esteemed and sought to honour him, in the selection of the jewel they wished him in lodge to be reminded of their regard, and by the salver to have a constant record at home. The W. M. then presented the address and salver, and adorned Bro. Stebbing with the past Master's jewel, the brethren warmly responding to the act and accompanying toast of "Long Life, Health, and Happiness, to Bro. Stebbing."

Admiral SIR LUCIUS CURTIS, *Bart.*, begged to be allowed before the toast was given, to express his gratification at being present, and to add his testimony to the services of Bro. Stebbing, not only in that lodge but throughout the Province, and proceeded with great good feeling to support the high compliment paid by the lodge.

The toast was drank with great enthusiasm and kindness, and the presents having been passed round the table and much admired, the W. M. called to order.

BRO. STEBBING said he rose to thank them under much physical disadvantage, labouring, as he was, under a severe cold, as his hoarse and feeble voice would indicate, but how much more difficult than the utterance of words was the power to find those sufficiently fervent and grateful to express his deep sense of obligation as well as gratification. He had over a long series of years enjoyed in that lodge some of the happiest hours of his life, and formed therein some of those enduring friendships that were in truth the charm of existence, so that he looked round with pride and pleasure, on the mutual confidence and esteem which masonic intercourse had inspired, and friendship truly entwined, yet these were mere social, though happy, ties and alliances which resulted from the pleasing and confidential associations which Masonry so essentially promoted, and therefore he had in his own mind carried his reflections further. For nearly thirty years he had been an active and somewhat zealous Mason; for nearly twenty years he had been a constant attendant at and member of that lodge; when half the former period had elapsed he should in the common course of things rest from his Masonic labours, should it please the beneficent Creator so long to spare his life and contemplate on the past, and therein realise the conviction of the utility of a large devotion of his time to Masonry, and the benefit which such an institution as theirs was calculated to confer upon its member; had he gained some social happiness and formed some lasting friendship, or had he done far more than that. Was Masonry more than sociality, or was it a glorious charity ever spreading influence over the minds of its members and, in its machinery, uplifting the weak and fallen, and endeavouring to restore to society the brother who had seen better days, or the widow of some brother whom death had left without those means which he thought he had secured to her, and perhaps a scene he witnessed last evening would best answer the enquiries which these considerations brought before their minds. Last evening he had attended the Board of Benevolence of the Grand Lodge of England; there was a numerous attendance of some of the leading Masons of the metropolis, his (Bro. Stebbing's) object being to support the application for help for the widow of a lamented brother, long a valuable member of the principal lodge in that town; he had died suddenly to their great grief, for they all loved and respected him, and he had, by his life assurance, left something for his widow and children, and the brethren of Southampton and of Hampshire had generously added nearly £100 to that provision of the worthy brother; the grave and the tomb erected by the brethren remained, all else but their sorrows had passed away; no blame to the widow, but she was now penniless, yet £50 would place her once more in the way to support herself and family. She sought help from the Board and he had earnestly supported the poor widow's application, that sum was last night given with cheerfulness, with perfect unanimity, and he knew that he gladdened the heart of every brother when he made the announcement; but the widow's was not an isolated case. He sat at that Board and saw an amount of good effected that warmed his heart and made him proud of Masonry; a better commentary on the advantages of Masonry could not be cited than the

proceedings to which he referred. At that Board an application was made by an American, who came to England with competent means some two years since—so competent that with a generosity characteristic of a genuine brother, he had for some kindness presented a masonic jewel to an English brother with whom he formed a personal and Masonic friendship; and then with his means in hand, and remittances for which he had provided ere he left his native land, he happily passed his time in England. The American difficulty, that has changed everything in the United States, and made even the rich poor, stopped his remittances, and left him helpless in England. Waiting for better times, hoping to get supplies over, he gradually became impoverished, and at length destitute. As a last hope he came to Grand Lodge, knowing that with the means of reaching his native land he should be at least free from want, and thus he urged his prayer. That day his passage was paid to New York, and seven pounds given him, in cash, to meet some pressing necessities here, and to land him on the other side of the Atlantic with two or three pounds in his pocket. No one said was he a Federal or a Confederate? No; he was a brother and in want, and he went on his way rejoicing. But there was another case. A poor Frenchman, a man of talent, a musician, attracted by the Great Exhibition of 1851, who had come over to England, and had an excellent engagement. He played upon a rare and not much used instrument, but attractive in a full orchestra, and greatly admired. Many of the brethren were astonished to find him so broken down; but the nature of his special talent made his employment almost restricted to a few months in the year, and, a retiring, though highly talented man, he was less and less employed, till a bad season and bad health left him destitute, so for subsistence, for love of home, his heart yearned for his native land; there he had friends, there he believed his troubles would cease. His anxiety will soon be over, the Board ordered his passage to France and some addition that will place him once again amongst his countrymen with more than one sovereign in his pocket and a warm recollection of old England in his heart. These were foreign brethren, for Masonry knows no distinction of race, nor any question of international feuds, neither does our institution know anything of politics, save to exclude it from our lodges and never let it interfere with our benevolence. At the same meeting to which he alluded, was an application brought forward from a brother who not more than three or four years since was the member in Parliament for one of the largest constituencies in England; he sat in Parliament with an income of one or two thousand a year; in the changes and uncertainties of life he is now the supplicant to his friends and to his brethren for the means of emigrating to a British colony, with seven children dependent on him for support, a good sum was raised, but there was not enough, and when he came in to hear the decision of the Board he expressed his thanks for the kindness shown him, and left with a sufficient sum to enable him to leave his native land, and in a new struggle, and in a new sphere, again it is hoped realise an independence. And the case was full of interest, and tells a tale that warns us all of the uncertainty of riches, and the instability of all human greatness. A British merchant who, not long since, was known to have possessed £12,000, free from all liabilities, but with whom matters went wrong and all was lost, but lost with so little to condemn him that his friends found him £6000 more, but a continuance of misfortune again laid him low. From affluence to destitution is sometimes a rapid path, and so it proved with him, he could no longer appeal to his friends, and yet with only £50 he has prospects of keeping himself from want and of supporting his family once again; he is in the prime of life, he has saved his character, and as the Board has recommended him to Grand Lodge for a grant of £50, it is hoped he will receive it once more, if not in affluent, yet in somewhat comfortable circumstances, be spared the misery of destitution, and feel that Masonry is a reality and not a name. There was, however, another case, a sad and melancholy picture, and one that saddened the heart of all, a distinguished brother, too ill to be present, but whose name has been, in former years, a household word in Masonry, was lying helpless and destitute at (he believed) a public hospital; one who had himself been a Life Governor of more than one of the Masonic Charities, who had, from his high social position, his wealth and talent, presided on two occasions at the Masonic festivals, and whose eloquence had for years charmed and instructed the members of Grand Lodge, and many, very many who were present at the Board of Benevolence bore testimony to his ever-ready help and eloquent

pleading in the cause of charity, he was now so destitute himself as to crave the assistance he had always so willingly given, and so powerfully advocated, and one hundred pounds will forthwith be placed at his disposal, but beyond that he will, no doubt, ere long, be placed on the list of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Annuity Fund, and have a permanent Masonic income. You will say how comes it that such a man shall reach so low a state? Brethren, there is a plague spot in this country that, under the name of justice, too frequently destroys its victims, not by mercifully depriving them of life, but by slow degrees bringing them to want, and in the misery of hope deferred, maketh the heart sick; that plague spot is the Court of Chancery, and there our poor brother is shipwrecked in mind, body, and estate. His miseries began in comparatively olden times, and although Chancery is better than it was, it need to be better than it is, for I speak from my own knowledge when I say I am just settling a suit which has only had the mere preliminaries in Chancery, and in three months we have spent £3000; I am a winner to a satisfactory extent, but I can sympathise with a poor brother literally reduced to poverty and despair, by what is called the justice of his country. A lucky decision may, it is hoped, place him once more in the possession of abundance; but what shall ever restore the lost happiness and atone for the torture of many years' anxiety, the deprivation of almost the very necessities of life? Brethren, there were last night many other sad, sad cases; twenty-three in all, that had the benevolent attention of the Masonic body with whom he had the gratification of associating last evening, but the severe cold under which he laboured compelled him to leave; he had, however, pourtrayed to them a lesson of the deepest interest, full of food for reflection, and affording instances of Masonic charity, worthy of an ancient and honourable institution, and this alone, if there were not abundant other reasons, answered his reflections in the outset of his address, had he been associated in a glorious charity spreading its beneficent influence over the minds of the brethren, and conducting to the comfort and happiness of mankind; but, continued Bro. Stebbing, I am not here to exhibit to you the excellence of Freemasonry, so much as to express my own thankfulness on this occasion; but these events, so gratifying and yet so sad, so rich in benevolence and yet so full of interest to the thoughtful mind and the feeling heart, events occurring within twenty-four hours force from me some expressions of admiration when we meet together, old friends and brother Masons, in the performance of a different, but another act of kindness, so truly characteristic of Freemasonry—I mean that which your W.M. has so gracefully performed to-night; he had this gratification in receiving their brief but expressive address, and the beautiful jewel and accompanying salver on which it was placed, that he had in no degree contributed to the compliment, that it was the spontaneous act of his too kind and most worthy brethren, little as he deserved it; the design was theirs, and the kindness also; it was as unexpected as it was liberal, and friendly, and Masonic, amply rewarding his poor services to Masonry, and giving him in his hereafter life a never-ceasing subject of happiness and a lively feeling of gratitude. He hoped most sincerely that, like his father, and many of his family he might live to a good old age to be useful to Masonry and to his lodge, and be cheered onward in every anxiety by the kindness and sympathy of the Brethren in every anxiety, and the rich treasure of their friendship and affection in every circumstance of life. But whilst these personal feelings moved him and found such poor utterance as he could give, let him offer hearty prayers for their long and happy association in the Southampton Lodge; that none of them at least should ever be the practical recipients of that charity which he had endeavoured to pourtray; but many nay all—of similar distinguished compliments to which they had delighted to pay him; that, untouched by the vicissitudes of life, they might all with their good names and fame transmit wealth and independence to those nearest and dearest to them and in their children's happiness and prosperity, pass into the calm and unruffled period of hale old age, dignified by a well-spent and useful life, and cheered by the recollections of benevolence and charity that had so much of divinity in their nature and no tarnish in its work, he was unable to say all he had intended from physical suffering and poverty of words, but his heart was full of gratitude, and he could never, never, forget their kindness, and never cease to entertain the liveliest recollections of the great happiness he had experienced in Masonry, and the lasting friendships and brotherly love he had so long passed in its happy association, and which he truly hoped and

trusted would ever continue to be the greatest triumph of the Southampton Lodge, and the cement and cope-stone of all their masonic work. After many excellent speeches from various brethren, the lodge was called to labour and closed in form, the brethren separating with great gratification with all the proceedings.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Lodge of Peace and Harmony* (No. 462).—A very numerous meeting of this lodge was held on the 19th ult., Bro. Thomas P. Payne, W.M., in the chair, and at which all the lodges in the town (four in number), were fully represented. The usual business having been transacted and a subscription voted to the Boys' School, on application of Bros. Stabbing and Hayward, Stewards this year for Hampshire, the interesting ceremony took place of presenting the immediate Past Master, Bro. J. R. Weston, ex-Sheriff of Southampton, with an elegant Past Master's jewel, supplied by Bro. Abraham. The W.M., in a most kind and suitable manner referred to Bro. Weston's valuable services to the lodge as Master during the past year, and as Secretary to the Royal Gloucester Lodge, to which many of the members also belonged, and stated that a due estimation of those services and the strong personal regard entertained for him had induced the brethren with perfect unanimity to subscribe together and purchase the beautiful jewel which he had the pleasure of placing on his breast. The W.M. appropriately expressing the gratification which the presentation afforded, and which was responded to by the hearty concurrence of the brethren. The jewel bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. J. R. Weston, P.M. No. 462, by the members of the lodge, in testimony of his valuable services as W.M., and of their personal regard, 1862." Bro. Weston expressed himself highly gratified by the compliment paid him, he had already experienced the greatest pleasure by the manner in which his services had been acknowledged at the last meeting, but the most kind and valuable token of approbation and regard would be treasured up by himself and his family as referring to one of the happiest periods of his life.

KENT.

CHATHAM.—*Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity* (No. 20).—The regular lodge meeting was held at the Sun Hotel, on Wednesday the 19th inst. The lodge was opened at six o'clock, when Messrs. Dyas and Warman were ballotted for and accepted by the members present. Bro. George Arthur Everist, W.M., initiated them into the mysteries of Freemasonry in a very able and impressive manner. The usual proclamation being given, The W.M. proposed that £10. 10s. be voted from the lodge funds for the benefit of the Boys' School. Bro. Cooley, P.M., seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously. It was also agreed that a further subscription be made from an individual collection, and the whole handed over to Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M., who has kindly undertaken to act as Steward for the Institution at the next Festival. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet. The usual masonic and loyal toasts were given and responded to. A very convivial evening was spent. The brethren separated with this motto—"Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again."

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge of Freedom* (No. 91).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Town-hall on the 17th inst. The lodge was opened a seven o'clock precisely, when Messrs. Hollingum and Jacobs were ballotted for and accepted by the brethren. The W.M., Bro. T. French Nettlingham, proceeded to initiate the candidates for the mysteries in a very excellent and impressive manner, after which he gave them the charge. The usual proclamation being made, it was proposed by the W.M., and seconded by the Secretary, Bro. Spencer, that £15. 15s. be voted from the funds of the lodge No. 91; also that £5. 5s. be voted from the funds of lodge 709, which was unanimously carried by the brethren; the above sums to be devoted to the benefit of the Royal Institution for Boys; the same to be handed to Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M. for Kent, who has kindly engaged to take the office of Steward at the forthcoming Festival.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Light* (No. 173).—Sir and Brother,—As this is probably the first report you have received of the proceedings of this old established lodge, I take the liberty of putting my communication in the form of a letter, as the doing so will give me an opportunity of touching upon other business

than that which was transacted at our last meeting. There is no doubt but this town was many years since a stronghold of Freemasonry. History informs us that Sir William Ashmole and others were initiated at Warrington in 1689, being one of the earliest instances on record of the admission into our order of persons not directly or indirectly connected with architecture or practical masonry. Unfortunately however the gentle craft has for some years past been in a languishing condition here, the causes of which, although not difficult to discover, I will not dilate upon, as I could not do so without being invidious; and I am, moreover, in hopes that we are, by gradually removing those causes, in a fair way of improvement and revival; and I trust that when we attain our centenary in 1865, we shall have regained that position which, from the age of our warrant, we ought to hold. We have lately passed the following resolutions:—"That in future the practice of paying for refreshments out of the lodge fund be discontinued;" and "That it is desirable that a Lodge of Instruction be established, and that private rooms be obtained for transacting Masonic business, instead of continuing to hold the lodge at a house of public entertainment." Our bye-laws are also being revised. We have been greatly indebted for some months past to Bro. James Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., for his kind assistance in performing the various ceremonies. Monday, Feb. 24th.—The regular monthly meeting was held at the Blackburn Arms Hotel, at 7 o'clock, p.m. The W.M. being absent, the lodge was opened by Bro. Hamer (P.M. 267), Prov. G. Treas., assisted by Bros. Aldritch (P.M. 267), as P.M.; H. B. White, S.W.; Knight, J.W.; and other members of the lodge. Mr. John Pierpoint, having been unanimously approved on ballot, was initiated in a most effective manner by Bro. Aldritch, Bro. Hamer officiating as J.D. and the working tools being presented by the S.W. The lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees, and Bros. Bowes and Higginbottom having satisfactorily passed their examinations were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons by Bro. Hamer, in his usual solemn and impressive manner. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, when Bros. Hamer and Aldritch, being pressed for time, withdrew, and the chair was taken by Bro. Maxfield, P.M. An animated discussion on the proposed new bye-laws then took place, in which Bros. Maxfield, P.M., Chorley, P.M., White, S.W., Knight, J.W., Veeves, Sec.; Spinks, and Walmsley took part, when it was ultimately resolved to hold a Lodge of Emergency on Monday, March 10th, to take the bye-laws into consideration. The auditors reported the result of their audit of the Treasurer's accounts, which having been discussed, the lodge was closed in harmony at half-past ten o'clock.—H.B.W.

OXFORDSHIRE.

BANBURY.—*Cherwell Lodge* (No. 373).—On Monday the 17th inst., the installation of the Worshipful Master elect., Bro. Dr. Griffin, took place in the lodge-room at the Red Lion Hotel, when there was a large attendance of the brethren resident at Banbury, Oxford, and other places, including the Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire, Captain Bowyer; the D. Prov. G.M., Alderman Spiers; Past Masters, Thompson, Houghton, Owen, Bevers, Rainsford, R. Havers, Cooke, Looker; Bros. Captain Bartlett, Hon. W. North, Rev. J. Russell, Holford, C. Risley, F. W. A. Bowyer, Chamberlin, Rye, Lodgley, Hartley, Park, Ringrose, Richards, T. Fowler, Juggins, Harrison, Welchman, Margetts, Sawman, Coleman, S. P. Spiers, Birch, Stevens, Joshua Plowman, &c. The ceremony of installation was performed in a very impressive and effective manner by Richard Havers, P.M., whose masterly delivery of the charges was followed by much applause. On the conclusion of the ceremony the W.M. nominated his officers for the year as follows:—Holford C. Risley, S.W.; F. W. A. Bowyer, J.W.; Rev. J. Russell, Chap.; P. M. Cooke, Treas.; P. M. Looker, Sec.; W. Chamberlin, S.D.; Dr. Rye, J.D.; Sawman, Dir. of Cers; Lodgley and Fowler, Stewards; Harrison, I.G.; Moss, Tyler. The W.M. addressed each officer as he was presented to receive his insignia of office, and each was complimented by the brethren with demonstrations of applause. Previous to the ceremony of installation, P.M. Bro. Havers presided, in the absence of the W.M., Bro. Scoggs, whose engagements prevented his attendance. The sum of five guineas was voted from the charity fund to the Provincial Charity Committee. The lodge has lately received a very valuable and appropriate addition to its furniture in the gift of three splendid carved oak chairs for the W.M. and two Wardens, by Bro. Hon. W. North, son Colonel North, *M.P.*, of Wroxton Abbey. The chairs were greatly admired, and the carving and workmanship, especially

of the W.M.'s chair, have rarely been surpassed. The business being brought to a termination the brethren proceeded to the ball-room at the hotel, where a sumptuous banquet, provided by Mrs. Fowler in her usual liberal and excellent style, awaited them. Everything was served in that complete and perfect manner which distinguishes the Red Lion Hotel. The champagne, of which there was a most abundant supply, was the gift of the Prov. G.M., Captain Bowyer, who was the first Master of the Cherwell Lodge, and has always taken the deepest interest in its prosperity. The W.M., Dr. Griffin, presided with great ability and introduced the various toasts in appropriate and stirring terms. During the evening some excellent addresses were delivered by the Prov. G.M. and other brethren, and the proceedings were diversified and enlivened by many excellent songs. Soon after ten the brethren from Oxford, who mustered in strong force, were obliged to leave by special train, being loth to do so, and will long remember with grateful and pleasurable feelings, the kindness, hospitality, and generous welcome which they received at the hands of their brethren of the Cherwell Lodge.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*Lodge of Honour* (769).—The brethren of this lodge assembled on the 14th ult. for their monthly meeting. Every officer was present, besides a good attendance of members and visitors, amongst whom were Bros. Humphrey, P.M.; King, P.M. (607); Haseler, P.M. (607); Cooper, W.M. (607); Dr. Wollaston. The principal business was the passing of Bros. G. P. Aston Pudsey, the Rev. R. Baker Stoney, and William Aston, who, having been duly initiated at the previous meeting, and satisfactorily proved the proficiency they had subsequently made, were advanced to the Fellow-Craft's Degree by the W.M. Bro. Charles Matthews. The charge was delivered by Bro. Dr. Fraser, I.G. Communications relating to the votes, &c., of some masonic charities were directed to be forwarded to the Prov. G.M., Col. Vernon, according to the custom of the lodge. The names of two gentlemen were submitted, as is required by the Bye-laws, previous to their being proposed for initiation at the next meeting; that of a joining member was also so mentioned. The W.M. and officers appear to have plenty of work in hand before the vacation of their posts in June next, on which we not only congratulate them, but wish them all success. The craft must indeed be well and ably supported in Wolverhampton, which can boast of two good well-worked lodges, who have no lack of members, and have of late initiated several brethren.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

HOLMFIRTH.—*Holme Valley Lodge* (No. 937).—The regular lodge meeting was held at the Victoria Hotel, on Friday, the 14th February, at half past five in the afternoon. In the absence of Bro. John Harpin, *J.P.*, the W.M., the lodge was presided over by Bro. J. M. Woodhead, P.M., supported by Bros. Joseph Mellor, P.M. and Prov. G.D.; G. N. Nelson, P.M.; John Burton, P.M.; Frank Littlewood, P.M.; and Bros. George Taylor, P.M.; C. H. Redfearn, P.M.; and John Taylor, J.W., from the Lodge of Peace (No. 174). The lodge having been duly opened in the first degree, and the minutes of last lodge read and confirmed, the lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. the Rev. John Fearn, having satisfactorily proved his proficiency was raised to the sublime degree of M. M., by Bro. Charles Taylor, P.M. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, when Mr. Matthew Henry Nelson and Mr. John Marsh were ballotted for, and unanimously elected; their initiation was at once proceeded with, the ceremony with the first candidate being ably gone through by Bro. G. N. Nelson, P.M., and the latter by Bro. Charles Taylor, P.M. There was an average attendance of brethren who passed an agreeable evening such as none but Masons can.

ROYAL ARCH.

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Cabbell Chapter* (No. 1109).—This excellent chapter held a meeting at the Masonic Hall, St. Stephen's, Norwich, on Thursday, Feb. 20th, for the purpose of exalting the following brethren as companions of this noble order:—Bros. Donald Dalrymple, late Sheriff of Norwich; Francis Stone Hodgson, Prov. G. Chap. of Norfolk; James W. Lacey,

and James Woods. The ceremony was performed by Comp. Henry Jno. Mason, Principal Z., in his usual clear and masterly style, assisted by Comps. Le Strange, H., and Henry Underwood, J. Comp. William Leedes Fox, Prov. G. Sec., the Principal Sojourner of the chapter, deserves great praise for the impressive manner he delivered his portion of the ceremony. There were upwards of thirty companions present on this occasion. Seven brethren of various lodges were proposed for exaltation at the next quarterly meeting of the chapter. After business the companions retired to the banquet, and enjoyed a social and pleasant evening.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

SCOTLAND.

PRIORY OF AYR (No. 4).—This Encampment held a meeting in the Tam O'Shanter Hall, on Monday night, February 17th, the Sub-Prior, Sir Knight Andrew Glass, presiding. There was a goodly attendance of members, the Conclave embracing two of the oldest pilgrims of the Order in this land, viz., Sir Knight John Lauchlan and Sir Knight John Boyd, the first named being considerably beyond four-score years, and the latter over three-score and ten. The presence at their meeting of these two old worthies is much valued by the Sir Knights of Ayr Priory, who emulate each other in conferring all possible respect upon them. The special business of the evening was to receive the resignation of the Prior Sir Knight Major C. E. Thornton. The gallant Major has for some years past held the post of Staff Officer of Pensioners for the Ayr district, and the Sir Knight of the Priory of Ayr, looking forward to the prospect of his being stationed here for a long time to come, and with the prolongation of his stay among them, a guarantee that the dignity of the Order of the Temple would be well sustained by the Priory under his command, last year unanimously elected Major Thornton as their Prior. The War-office having now arranged for the amalgamation of the Ayr Pension District with those of Paisley and Carlisle. Major Thornton's removal to another part of the country is rendered necessary, thence his resignation of the command of the Ayr Priory. On the letter received from the Prior being read, Sir Knight D. Murray Lyon, the Secretary, addressing the Sir Knights, said they must all feel disappointed and grieved at the purport of their respected Prior's communication. He would not say that Major Thornton's removal would endanger the existence of the Priory, but it would doubtless materially affect its prosperity. On his assuming the command of Ayr Priory, the Major found its walls in a rather dilapidated condition, and its members in a somewhat dispirited mood; but like a skilful general, Major Thornton's first care was to infuse into his followers a spark of the fire of Masonic enthusiasm, which flowed within his own breast; and successfully did he succeed; for within one month of his joining the Priory no fewer than half-a-dozen novitiates had plucked the palm branch from the banks of the J. and presented themselves for the honour of knighthood at the hands of Ayr Priory, one of them being an officer in Her Majesty's Yeomen of the Guard (Captain Rickford). Indeed (continued Sir Knight Lyon) since coming among them, Major Thornton had borne out the high character his masonic antecedents had established for him. His exertions in raising the Royal Arch Chapels of St. Andrew-in-the-East, Poonah, were no doubt great; but when compared with what his energy had effected for the Knights Templars in Scotland, his masonic services in India were in a measure thrown into the shade. It could not be otherwise than disheartening, then, for the Sir Knights to know that Major Thornton's connection with the Priory of Ayr was about to be severed. It was but an echo of the sentiments of the Sir Knights, when he (the secretary) expressed a hope that wherever Major Thornton's lot might be cast, the religion of the Cross might continue to cheer and animate him; and when his earthly pilgrimage terminated, might he form one of the happy company whom St. John in a vision saw standing with psalms in their hands, around the throne of the great Architect of the universe. Under the circumstances in which they were placed, he begged to move the following resolutions:—"That the Priory accept the resignation of their Prior, Major Thornton, and in so doing, beg to express their unfeigned regret that his duties as staff officer of pensioners should necessitate his removal from this district, and his consequent retirement from

active participation in the working of the Priory, in the successful resuscitation of which he had taken a prominent and honourable part; and farther, that the Priory tender to their late Prior a most cordial vote of thanks for the great service he has rendered to the order of the Temple in the west of Scotland, and in an especial manner to the Priory of Ayr, since coming to reside in this country." Which resolution was unanimously adopted, and the Secretary instructed to furnish Sir Knight Thornton with a copy of the same. Certain other business having been dispatched, the Sir Knights retired to partake of refreshments, when the sub-prior occupied the chair, faced by Sir Knight Donald McDonald, and supported right and left by Sir Knights James Jones, Sergt. David C. Wallace, John Lauchlan, John Boyd, John M. C. Williamson, and others. Several excellent addresses were given, and a most harmonious re-union enjoyed, the Secretary in the course of the evening directing attention to the claims for support which the London FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE had upon all interested in Masonic affairs. With a staff of talented contributors to its pages, Sir Knight Warren, the editor, had raised that magazine to the very highest place amongst the Masonic periodicals of the world; and he hoped soon to see it in active and extensive circulation throughout Ayrshire. It was anything but complimentary to Scotland to say that it could not support a Masonic periodical of its own; but, till that could be done, let the patronage of all reading Masons be extended to their brethren over the border, who so zealously catered for the literary appetite of the intelligent portion of the British brotherhood. How was it that so much ignorance prevailed among the Craft in respect to the laws and usages of the Order, and of what was transpiring in Masonic circles in other lands? Simply because they were not *reading* members of the Order, and consequently in too many cases the blind leaders of the blind. Craftsmen well read in Masonic lore would not rest satisfied under the rule of an ignorant Master, and the more deeply read they became just in proportion would the standard of qualification for office be raised, and the uninformed amongst them be banished from their Masonic Chairs.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

THE MOUNT CALVARY CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX held a meeting at the London Coffee House, Ludgate Hill, on Monday, Feb. 24, 1862. Present, Comps. L. Lemanski, M.W.S. 30°; Purdy; Shuttleworth; C. Elliott; Thompson; Braithwaite; Swan; Simons, &c. The chapter was opened in due form, when Comps. J. M. Thearle and J. Irvin were duly installed as Sovereign Princes of Rose Croix. The chapter was then closed, and shortly afterwards, at the same place, a Conclave of Knight Templars of the Mount Cavalry Encampment was held. Sir Knts. Capt. Braithwaite, E.C.; L. Lemanski; Thompson; Purdy; Shuttleworth; Elliott; Swan; Simons and Thearle were present, when Comps. H. J. Mason, of the Cabbell Chapter, Norwich; Capt. T. C. Hutchison, of West Coast of Africa; G. G. Dromtro, of the Yarrow Chapter (No. 812), were duly installed as Knight Templars. Sir Knt. Meymott, was a visitor. After the business of the encampment was closed, the Sir Knights adjourned to banquet, and retired early, having spent a very happy and pleasant evening.

MARK MASONRY.

WOOLWICH.—*Florence Nightingale Lodge* (No. 10).—This admirable lodge held its usual meeting at the Masonic Hall William-street, Woolwich, on Tuesday the 18th inst. The officers present were Bros. Dr. Hinxman, R.W.M.; Col. Clerk, M.O.; Carter, S.O.; Hassal, J.O.; Laird, Sec.; and Henderson, T.K.; as well as Bros. Lyons, Capt. Thompson Wilson, P.Prov.G.M. of Canada, Hughes, and Russell. There were a goodly number to be advanced, of which the following came up, and were made Mark Masters, viz., Capt. Boyle, Peter Hay, J. Thomson, Pogue, Malings, Bayly, Page and Swyer. The ceremony was very efficiently performed by the officers, and at its conclusion the brethren adjourned to Bro. De Grey's to refreshment. After the cloth had been removed the R.W.M. proposed "The Health of Her Majesty the Queen," with whom

the Masons of every degree in this kingdom most affectionately sympathised in her recent bereavement.—The R.W.M. next intimated that, as in other meetings held there, toasts were not the business of the evening. They met as brethren to converse, share such knowledge as they each could bring, and to promote good-fellowship with one another. But they never omitted the pleasing duty of drinking the health of the newly advanced Mark Masters. It was a great pleasure to the older members to see brethren of position join their lodge, and so long as that continued the prosperity and success of the lodge must be ensured.—Col. CLERK, proposed “The Health of the R.W.M., Dr. Hinxman,” who was very modest, but painstaking, as all must have seen who had witnessed his care in working that degree.—The R.W.M. Dr. HINXMAN was taken by surprise, because he had not long since stated that they did not drink formal toasts, but his very excellent Bro. Col. Clerk, in his kind way, and with his kindliness of disposition all there were pretty well acquainted, had been pleased to propose his (Dr. Hinxman’s,) health. He felt when such was the case it was his duty to respond, and to thank Col. Clerk, and the brethren, most cordially for their kindness. In that, as well as other degrees practised at Woolwich, he was ever their humble servant, to do whatever was required of him, and to officiate in any office, however humble, to stop a gap.—Bro. BAXTER, had hoped that some one else would have thought it right to have returned thanks for the toast of the newly advanced brethren, but as no one had volunteered he could not allow it to pass in silence. He had heard most of those who were standing with him express the great pleasure they felt in being advanced to that degree, and how interesting the ceremony was. On their, and his own behalf, he tendered thanks for the toast, and in conclusion would take upon himself to propose another, viz., “The Healths of the Officers and Senior Members of the Florence Nightingale, Mark Lodge, No. 10.” After pleasant discussion and the interchange of ideas elucidating many points connected with the degree, and with a feeling of gratification at the pleasant and profitable way the evening was spent, a system which is so charmingly carried out at the Woolwich meetings, the brethren separated at an early hour.

SCOTLAND.

ST. JOHN’S DAY IN AYR.

(From our own Correspondent.)

“There’s columns II., and pillars V.,
Support and grace our halls of truth;
But none such sparkling pleasure give
As the column that adorns the S.!”

‘HIGH XII,’ the J. W. calls—
His column grants the festive hour,
And through our antiquated halls
Rich streams of social gladness pour.”

According to previous arrangement the Festival of St. John the Evangelist was this year celebrated in Ayr by the four lodges uniting under the presidency of Ayr Kilwinning (No. 124), and the result of the experiment has, we believe, been such as will in all likelihood commend the arrangement to the brethren for permanent adoption. While Ayr Kilwinning is the senior lodge in the county town, having now completed its 96th year, we are not to suppose that no other lodge existed in Ayr anterior to the erection of No. 124. From notes introduced by the present indefatigable and learned Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, into *Laurie’s History of Freemasonry*, we find that “The Lodge of Ayr” was working 140 years prior to the birth of Ayr Kilwinning; and very possibly it was in this ancient lodge that our eminent townsman, Chevalier Ramsay, was first introduced into the Order in which he was destined in after years to play such a conspicuous part.

Early on the morning of the festive day, the officials of the Craft were about preparing the warp for the reception of the woof, by the combination of which, the web “Union and Fraternity” was that evening to be woven; and the banners waving from the “upper stories” of the different rendezvous of the Craft proclaimed to out-siders the advent of some high Masonic Festival. In the afternoon there were meetings of Lodges Nos. 124 and 138 for initiation, and the members of No. 165 dined together at the Star Hotel—R.W.M. Pollock in the chair, with

Bro. Bone in that of the Croupier. At half-past seven the martial strains of the Ayr Volunteer Band, under the very able leadership of Mr. Sutherland, indicated that the *fête maçonnique* was about to begin, and as the band perambulated the streets, escorting the different deputations to the scene of festivity, they were followed by crowds of people who had thronged the thoroughfares in anticipation of the exoteric display of the mystic brethren.

Among the first of the arrivals were the blue-jacketed sons of Navigation Troon, with their respected R.W.M. at their head Irvine St. Andrew were next, waited upon by the Deacons, and, accompanied by the band, threaded their way through the crowd until, when opposite the Star Hotel, they halted, took open order, and received with all the honours the deputation from the Ancient or Mother Lodge—mother and daughter proceeding in company to the Assembly Rooms. The other lodges were, in a similar way, escorted to head quarters. Sir James Fergusson, as Prov. G.M. of Ayr Province, received a special invitation, but kindly sent a letter of apology for non-attendance. It was nearly ten o’clock ere the doortyled upon the last arrival; and when all were seated we observed the following lodges represented:—Mother Kilwinning—headed by the Secretary, Bro. Wylie, and supported by the Past Junior Warden, Bro. D. Murray Lyon, Bros. John Kerr (Her Majesty’s Inspector of Schools), Walter Stewart, William Park, and Dr. Burns. Navigation Troon (No. 86).—R.W. Bro. Imrie, Bro. David Hutcheson, McNeillage, Black, and about 15 brethren. Kilmarnock St. Andrew (No. 124).—R.W. Bro. Caldwell, and about 18 brethren. Ayr Operative (No. 138).—R.W. Bro. George Welson, Bros. Thomson, Agnew, Hunter, Picken, Fergusson, Irvine, Bryden, Martin, and about 20 brethren. Irvine St. Andrew (No. 149).—R.W. Bro. Dr. Gray, and about 20 brethren. Ayr Royal Arch (No. 165).—R.W. Bro. Pollock. Bros. Scott, Hunter, Bigham, R. Goudie, Bone, Muat, and about 60 brethren. Mauchline St. Mungo (No. 179).—Bros. Dr. Foulds, James Logan, and other three brethren. Maybole Royal Arch (No. 198).—R.W. Bro. Jack, Bros. Lambie, McClure, and about 15 brethren. Ayr St. Paul (No. 204).—R.W. Bro. Livingston, Bros. John Lauchlan, Stevenson, Watson, Chambers, McPhie, D. McDonald, R. Winter, and about 30 brethren. The company, which numbered not less than 320 brethren, being in full masonic regalia, the meeting wore a gay aspect.

It is unnecessary to give in detail the various toasts proposed during the evening. Suffice it to say that ample justice was done to “The Queen and the Craft,” “Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the Duke of Athole,” and others whom, amid their convivialities, all true craftsmen ought to remember. Scanning the sea of faces before us, our eye caught the venerable form of Bro. Deacon Lauchlan, a bright link in the chain connecting the past with the present generation of craftsmen. Bro. Lauchlan is a P.M. of Ayr St. Paul, and the only survivor of the original members of that lodge. What memories, what reminiscences must have welled up in the bosom of this aged brother as the ring of the Master’s gavel brought to “perpendicular” the lodge which, sixty-two years ago, he had taken such an active interest in getting formed for the special benefit of his brethren in arms of the Ayr and Renfrew Militia? Another noteworthy feature of the evening was the re-appearance of an old, but long-absent friend in the person of “St. Mungo, Mauchline.” It is, we understand, seven-and-thirty years since Ayr Kilwinning was favoured with a visit from this famed lodge—a lodge in which Hamilton (the “masonic friend and patron” of Burns), Dugald Stewart, and other eminent contemporaries, had fraternised in the light of Freemasonry. It was no small compliment paid to Ayr Kilwinning that Mauchline St. Mungo should thus come forth from her comparative seclusion to renew her acquaintance with the Ayr lodges. The deputation from No. 179 contained one brother—James Logan—who had accompanied Dr. Hamilton of Beechgrove, on his last fraternal visit to Ayr Kilwinning, in December 1824, when all the brethren of the Mauchline deputation were made honorary members of the lodge of which they were then the guests. The recent death of Sir William Miller, Bart., of Barskimming, having rendered vacant St. Mungo’s principal chair, Bro. Dr. Foulds was deputed to act as Master, and right well did he discharge his duties, and had the honour of giving the only technical toast of the evening. The “Presiding Master” was suitably given by the Acting R.W.M. of the Mother Lodge, Bro. Wylie; and “the Masters of the other three Ayr Lodges,” proposed by Bro. Dr. Gray—Bro. A. Guthrie replying to the former, and Bro. George Wilson very felicitously to the latter toast. “The P.M. Bro. George Good,”

by the R.W.M. of Ayr St. Paul (Bro. Livingston), and the other office-bearers of Ayr Kilwinning, received due attention.

The hilarity of the evening was much increased by the many excellent songs contributed by various brethren. Altogether the united co-operation of the Ayr Lodges, in the celebration of the Festival of St. John, has been a great success, and contributed very materially to the personal comfort of brethren coming from a distance, and to the intellectual pleasure of the whole.

AYR OPERATIVE.—Some delay has been caused in completing the list of office-bearers of this lodge, in consequence of the resignation of Bro. Wm. Bryden of the Mastership, to which he had been elected in November last. At the urgent and unanimously expressed desire of the members of No. 138, P.M. Wilson has consented to give them the benefit of his valuable services for another year, and the office-bearers for 1861-62 now stand thus:—G. Wilson (formerly of the Lodge Journeymen, Edinburgh, No. 8) R.W.M.; W. Bryden, Depute; C. Picken, S.W.; J. Fergusson, J.W.; D. Hunter, Treas.; D. Irvine, Sec.; J. Rae, Chaplain; W. Duff and W. Agnew, Deacons; A. Reid, Tyler. At a special general meeting of the above lodge, held in their new hall, Gemmell's Wheat Sheaf Inn, on the motion of the R.W.M., it was unanimously resolved to confer upon Bro. D. Murray Lyon, P.J.W. of Mother Kilwinning, a seat in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, by commissioning him as Proxy-Master of the Lodge Operative—the commission being forthwith signed and despatched to Edinburgh. Grand Lodge having sustained the commission, Bro. Lyon took his seat at the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held in Edinburgh in the beginning of February.

INDIA.

BOMBAY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

CONCORD LODGE (No. 1059).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this lodge was held on Saturday evening the 21st December, Worshipful Bro. James Gibbs, P.M., C.S., in the chair. Present: Past Masters, W. Bros. G. S. Judge, D. Hepworth, Hodgart, and between 50 and 60 members of the lodge and visiting brethren. The first business of the evening consisted in the election of the W.M. for the ensuing year, and the ballot having been taken, the election was declared to have fallen upon Bro. the Rev. J. J. Farnham, S.W., who had been in charge during nearly the whole of the year, the late W.M. having resigned and left Bombay. Bro. M. Meekins was chosen Treasurer, and Bro. W. R. Watson, Tyler; after which Bros. Stevens, E. Smith, Seager, and Aga M. Kazim were examined and passed to the F.C. degree. The installation of the W.M. elect took place on St. John's Day (Dec. 27th, 1861.) The ceremony was performed by W. Bro. G. S. Judge, P.M., Prov. G.M. Bengal, whose well-known and proved ability displayed itself most conspicuously on the occasion. There were present also the following Past Masters: W. Bros. Wyckham, P. Prov. J.G.W. of Bengal, and J. Gibbs. Among the visitors were Bros. Goolden, of Smyrna; Barton, of Lodge Perseverance; Manockji Rhersetje, P.M.; and Cama, P.M. of Lodge Rising Star. R.W. Bro. G. Taylor, Prov. G.M. of Bombay, would have been present, had not the arrival of relatives from England on the same day prevented his attendance. The W.M., having been duly installed according to ancient usage, proceeded to the appointment of his officers, and invested the following brethren with the insignia of their respective offices, viz.: Bros. A. King, as S.W.; W. H. Walker, as J.W.; R. Farrow, as S.D.; W. Abraham, as J.D.; McMeekins, as Treas.; W. H. Smith, as Sec.; and Donaldson, as Dir. of Cers., after which the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet. The usual toasts were given with suitable addresses. The toast of the evening was "The Health of the newly-installed W.M.," which was proposed by W. Bro. Judge, who in highly eulogistic terms, dwelt upon the great talent, remarkable zeal, and truly Masonic spirit W. Bro. Farnham had evinced in the conduct and government of Lodge Concord as acting W.M. Among other jocular witticisms he said, Brethren, when we were upstairs in the lodge-room, our W.M., taking advantage of the little instrument in his hand (the hiram) said to me "you be hanged," well knowing that so much power and virtue resides in it that I should be unable to answer him. Now I am happy

to say the tables are turned, for in a rash moment of misplaced confidence he has entrusted me with that instrument, and I at once avail myself of the opportunity of paying him off by wishing him a rope, and a good strong one too. The hanging process to which our W.M. alluded was, as you are well aware, that of hanging my portrait in the lodge-room, and the rope I wish him is one of which the strands are composed of good and true Masons so closely united by brotherly love that it will bear any strain without breaking. Such a rope he already possesses in the members of this lodge now under his rule, for we are all united in "Concord," and ready to assist him and each other, whenever required to do so, but I hope before his year of office is out, that this rope, now of a respectable length and thickness, will be increased in every way threefold, and I am sure from what I know of our W.M., that he will endeavour to promote union in "Concord" and increase his resources both in men and material. You have all seen how indefatigable our W.M. has been since he has been in charge of this lodge as S.W., a period which has extended nearly over an entire year, in consequence of our having lost our late W.M. shortly after his installation, and you must have appreciated his exertions, or you would not have elected him to the chair of W.M., in which I had the honour and pleasure of installing him this evening. None, however, but those who have filled that chair can fully appreciate those exertions, and, therefore, I, who have held that honourable office, feel that I should not be doing my duty if I were not to tell you that he has performed the various duties that have fallen upon him in a most zealous and exemplary manner. For this reason, and because, both as a friend and a brother, I am well acquainted with his many virtues, the enumeration of which I will spare you on the present occasion, lest I should make him blush, I sincerely congratulate you in having secured him for your W.M. during the current year. I need not, therefore, ask you to rally round him and assist him in carrying out the duties of the lodge during his year of office, for you are all too zealous to be lax in the performance of your duties, but I ask you to rally round me and join me in drinking his health and prosperity, and success to his exertions as W.M. of Lodge Concord. I now give you the "Health of our W.M. and Rev. Bro. Farnham," with all honours.—Bro. the Rev. J. J. FARNHAM rose to return thanks, he said he had first seen the light of Masonry in the Jordan Lodge, and he had not found the Jordan by any means a "hard road to travel," but had spent so many pleasant hours there that even the exceeding great kindness of the brethren of the Concord Lodge since his arrival in India, had not caused him to forget his mother lodge. Still he felt most deeply the obligation he was under to this lodge for having conferred upon him the highest honour a lodge could bestow on one of its members. During the whole course of his life he had set before him for his guidance a motto taken from that sacred volume which every Mason professed to take for his guide, the words of the great master, King Solomon, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." He had striven to do heartily whatever he had undertaken, and it was his intention to follow out the same line of conduct as Master of Concord Lodge. He hoped that while he held the Hiram of the Lodge he should exercise his power with firmness and discretion. He felt assured that the brethren who had shown their kindly feeling and respect by putting him in the chair, so far from giving him any occasion to exercise his power in any unpleasant way would always support him, by strict Masonic conduct. Bro. Judge had first spoken of his being condemned to capital punishment, but had afterwards (he supposed on the recommendation of the jury), commuted the sentence to one year's hard labour. Now he believed that this hard labour consisted in a continuous walking up stairs; if he were wrong, perhaps some brother could correct him (laughter and loud cries of "name, name.") He hoped that in this respect his year of office would resemble the hard labour he had alluded to, and which allusion seemed for some reason to be taken personally by some of the brethren. (Laughter.) He should certainly try to get higher and higher, and he hoped with better success than some who were under a similar sentence, for he hoped that the "Concord" would flourish more and more, and that when his sentence had expired they would give him a ticket of leave—leave to retire with honor and with increased mutual esteem and concord. Several other truly Masonic and eloquent speeches were made during the evening by Bros. Gibbs, Wyckham, Goolden, Barton, and Manockji Rhersetje. The pleasures of the evening were enhanced by the wit of Bro. Barton, a recitation by Bro. Judge, and several excellent songs.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

DURHAM.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—*Harbour of Refuge Lodge* (No. 1066)—On Thursday, the 6th inst., a grand ball was given by this lodge in aid of the funds of the Indigent Sick Societies of Hartlepool and West Hartlepool. Financially it was a failure, there being only some thirty couples at the dance; in every other respect, however, the thing was a great success. Mr. Walsor's Quadrille Band of Newcastle, about the best in the district, undertook the musical department, and very ably performed their part. Bro. Murray, P.M., was the purveyor for the occasion, and gave an excellent supper, which was of course duly appreciated. Bro. Stutcliffe, W.M. (No. 1066), the M.C. for the evening, announced that the lodge had determined that, although the ball had not been supported as it should have been by the public, the charities should not suffer, and the whole of the expenses would be defrayed by the lodge, the full amount of tickets sold, without any deduction whatever, being, handed over to the charities named. Such generosity is worthy of record. Viewed in this light the ball was a success.

Poetry.

ONO: THE VALLEY OF THE CRAFTSMEN.

ADDRESSED TO THE JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN OF AYRSHIRE

By BRO. ROB. MORRIS, *LL.D.*, KENTUCKY.

Where is the true heart's Mother lodge;
Is't where perchance the earliest heard,
The frightful voice from rocky ledge
That told the horrid deed of blood?
Is't where his vision earliest saw,
And hands enclasped that golden thing,
The symbol crowned, the wondrous Law—
The noblest work of heavens king?

No—though his fancy oft may turn
In pleasing reminiscence back,
As happiest hearts at times will yearn
To tread again youth's flowerer ytrack:
The true heart's Mother Lodge is found,
Where truest, fondest hearts conspire,
To draw love's deathless chain around;
And kindle up love's deathless fire.

Methinks that *here*, dear friend must be
Ono, the Craftsmen's happy vale,
And you, true labourer, brave and free,
The Master of this peaceful dale!
So let me fancy, and when bowed
In daily adorations due,
I will intreat our common God
To bless the Craftsmen here, and you!

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty's ship *St. George* arrived at Queenstown on Tuesday from Bermuda, with Prince Alfred on board. His Royal Highness at once proceeded to Cork, and left that city the same evening *en route* for Osborne, where he arrived on Wednesday.—In two touching letters the Queen has signified her wishes respecting the form the National Albert Memorial should take, and expressed a desire to be permitted to join with her subjects in rearing a fitting monument to the deceased Prince. Her Majesty has come to the conclusion that "nothing would be more appropriate, provided it is on a scale of sufficient grandeur, than an obelisk, to be erected in Hyde-park, on the site of the Great Exhibition of 1851, or on some spot immediately contiguous to it." Her Majesty suggests that the base of the obelisk might be decorated with various groups of statuary: and she has called to her assistance a small com-

mittee to aid her in the choice of a design, and in arranging for the execution of the details. The letter in which the Queen claims the privilege of contributing towards the realization of this great work, is a most affecting document. "She is aware that she could not with any propriety contribute, as a wife, to a monument to her husband; but she is also the Sovereign of this great empire, and, as such, she cannot but think she may be allowed to join with the nation in the expression of a nation's gratitude to whom it owes so much." No one knew, as the Queen knows, how his every thought was devoted to the country; and it is added, that "his untiring exertions in furtherance of these objects tended, in all probability, to shorten his precious life."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords on Thursday, 20th inst., the Committee on unopposed railway bills was reappointed.—On Friday Lord Truro took up the cudgels on behalf of Lord Ranelagh, whose ambition to command the volunteers at Brighton on Easter Monday has been frustrated by "official interference." We gather from Lord Truro's remarks that there are two great volunteer camps in the metropolis—the Elcho camp and the Ranelagh camp. The noble Lord charged Lord De Grey with favouring the pretensions of Lord Elcho, while Lord Ranelagh "had had a most unworthy slight passed upon him." He deprecated Government interference with such displays; and although "every volunteer would feel it an honour to serve under Lord Clyde, he regretted that the noble and gallant Lord had allowed himself to be made use of in this manner, and hoped the Government was not commencing a practice of refusing large commands to volunteer officers." Lord De Grey repelled the charge of favouritism, and stated that the rules laid down by the War Office with respect to field days would be adhered to. He submitted that volunteer officers—who were allowed to command brigades—"would be more likely to learn how to handle large forces under an experienced general than by their own unassisted efforts." After a few remarks from Lord Hardinge, the subject dropped.—On Monday another bill—the sixth introduced this session—dealing with the subject of titles to land, was brought in by Lord St. Leonard's, and was read a first time.—On Tuesday Lord Derby gave notice of his intention to bring under the notice of their Lordships an extraordinary proclamation, said to have been published in the Neapolitan papers. "The proclamation," said the noble Earl, "sets forth that, after a certain day, no person shall set foot in a certain district; that all houses, or hovels and cabins, of every description, are to be levelled to the ground; and that the inhabitants of every farmhouse, in which more than a day's food is found, shall be treated as brigands, and shot." Lord Russell stated that he had no information of the publication of such an order, but Lord Derby offered to supply him with a copy.—In the House of Commons on Thursday, the 20th inst., the Under-Secretary for the Colonies confirmed the reports of the almost fabulous mineral wealth of British Columbia, official accounts of which are about to be laid upon the table. The gold-fields are, however, remote from the coast, and the country wants the means of communication.—Mr. Berkeley moved the issue of the writs for the election of two members for Gloucester, which have long been suspended. The hon. gentleman complained of the treatment which that city has received, and vindicated its right to be represented. On the part of the Government, Sir G. Grey offered no opposition to the motion, and said that they should also acquiesce in Major Edward's motion for the issuing of a writ for Wakefield. Mr. Disraeli considered that no other course was open to the Government, and proceeded to argue that the temporary disfranchisement of Gloucester had been arbitrary and unconstitutional, inasmuch as no legislation on the subject had taken place. After some discussion, the motion was agreed to. Sir R. Peel moved for leave to bring in a bill for the registration of births and deaths in Ireland. Mr. Hennessy strongly objected to the employment of constabulary in connection with the proposed registration, that being a feature of the measure. In the discussion which ensued Mr. George complained that the bill did not deal with marriages, as well as with births and deaths. Mr. M'Mahon also touched upon the same question. The motion was agreed to. The O'Donoghue moved for several returns respecting the Southern blockade. He said he was anxious that the House should be in possession of accurate information on the subject. All the facts they had went to demonstrate the complete efficiency of the blockade, and he emphatically protested against any idea of recognising the inde-

pendence of the Confederate States. He was also anxious to know whether British vessels conveying contraband of war for the South had been allowed to refit in the harbour of Nassau? Mr. Layard said that the Government were unable to give the information which was asked for; and after a few remarks from the Solicitor-General, the matter dropped.—On Friday another long discussion took place on the condition of Ireland—Sir R. Peel reiterating his former statement that the assertions of Mr. Maguire on the subject were exaggerated, and Mr. Maguire and other Irish members contending that the picture drawn of the state of the country was not at all over-coloured.—On Monday the House was enlivened by an episode of a most exciting and unusual character. In the course of his reply to Mr. Maguire, on Friday night, Sir Robert Peel referred in contemptuous terms to the attempt recently made at the Rotunda, in Dublin, to revive the era of treason and agitation in Ireland. He spoke of the persons who assembled at that meeting as “mannikin traitors who sought to imitate the cabbage-garden heroes of 1848,” but who failed to induce a single person of respectability to join the “national” movement. The O'Donoghue presided over this meeting, and it is asserted that when the impetuous Chief Secretary poured ridicule upon the “mannikin traitors,” he waved his hand in the direction of the “Chieftain of the Glens,” who is described as a person of anything but Titanic proportions. We gather from a statement made by Lord Palmerston, that the O'Donoghue, stung by what he believed to be a personal insult, resolved to send a challenge to Sir Robert Peel. The noble Lord was made aware of the intention of the member for Tipperary immediately after the adjournment of the House, and he at once penned a letter to Sir Robert, pointing out that if the O'Donoghue sent him a hostile message, the act would be a breach of the privileges of the House, and warning the right hon. Baronet that if he accepted the challenge, he would become a party to that breach of privilege. “Your duty in such a case,” added the noble Lord, “would be to decline the invitation.” On Saturday Sir Robert was actually requested to “name a friend,” and Lord Palmerston told him to name him (the noble Lord) “though not with the view of making arrangements for a hostile meeting.” The Premier felt it his duty to bring the matter before the House, and he gave notice of his intention to do so to the member for Tipperary. Major Gavin, the member for Limerick, who acted as the O'Donoghue's “friend” in this business, explained that he considered Sir Robert Peel's remarks so offensive, that no gentleman could permit them to pass unnoticed. He waited upon the right hon. Baronet, who, instead of offering an apology, declared that he adhered to all he had stated in the House. Sir Robert was then requested to name a “friend.” Lord Palmerston's name was given; but the gallant Major, on waiting upon the noble Lord, was informed that the matter had been taken up “officially.” The Speaker now called upon the O'Donoghue to apologise for his contemplated breach of privilege, and also to give an assurance that the matter should go no further. The O'Donoghue complied with the mandate, but not without having a “fling” at Sir Robert Peel, and declaring that he should have considered himself disgraced, and unworthy of his name, if he had not resented the insult offered to him. The subject then dropped. On the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, Mr. Lindsay submitted that the event had proved that the apprehensions expressed last year by Lord C. Paget as to the naval preparations of France were illusory. Lord C. Paget asserted, that “every word” stated by the Government, last year, with reference to the naval preparations of France, was correct.—On Friday Mr. Walpole announced that he would bring forward his resolution on the “revised code” on the 25th of March. Mr. Bentiuck proposed an alteration in one of the rules of the House, which would have the effect, whenever a count-out took place, of giving publicity to the name of the counter-out, as well as to the names of the members who were in their place when the House was counted out. The motion was opposed by Sir George Grey and Mr. Bernal Osborne, and, on a division, was lost by a large majority. Sir George Grey obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the acts relating to the payment of the expenses of prosecutions; and Mr. Horsfall announced his intention of moving a resolution, on the 11th March, on the subject of maritime law as it affects belligerents and neutrals.—On Wednesday Mr. Hadfield moved the second reading of his whipping bill, proposing to deprive visiting justices of the power of inflicting the punishment of the lash; and to require magistrates, in passing sentence upon juvenile offenders, to specify the number of strokes

and the nature of the instrument to be used. After considerable discussion, the motion for the second reading of the bill was withdrawn. The Metropolitan Local Management Acts Amendment Bill was read a second time. On the motion for the second reading of the Conveyance of Voters' Bill, Mr. Cave delivered a speech against that measure. Various speakers having expressed their opinion on the subject, Mr. Collier, as the author of the bill, replied to objections, and remarked that if it was right to pay the elector's expenses, he could not see where the line was to be drawn. Sir G. Grey supported the bill, and thought it should apply to all boroughs without distinction. The vote was, for the second reading, 130; against, 160. A better fate attended Mr. Hadfield's bill for the abolition of the oath which Dissenters as well as Churchmen are required to take when they are elected to municipal offices. Mr. Newdegate moved its rejection, but the third reading was carried by a majority of 13.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in London varies with the weather, and that, as all Londoners know, has of late been exceedingly variable. Last week the death-rate, which had been decreasing for the previous two or three weeks, went up again, and all but touched the corrected ten years' average, though keeping within its limit. It amounted altogether to 1415. The births are also below the average, which is not so usual, the number being 1065, while the average of the ten years, if the increase of population were allowed for, would give 1994.—The army and navy estimates have been issued. The net total for the effective and non-effective services of the army is £15,302,870; there was voted for 1861-2, £15,246,100; the net total increase thus being £56,770. For the navy the estimates amount to £11,794,305, being a decrease upon last year of £846,233.—An important deputation from the manufacturing districts waited upon Lord Palmerston and Sir Charles Wood on Monday to remonstrate against the import duties levied in India on cotton twist and cloth, which they said materially aggravated the distress now existing in Lancashire. Sir Charles Wood, in reply, sympathised with the distress, but said the exports from this country to India had been as large, if not larger, since the imposition of the duties than before. He excused the Indian Government for levying them on the ground of necessity, and promised that they should be repealed as soon as the Indian finances could spare them.—The iron-clad frigate *Defence* has just met with a singular disaster. This fine vessel was on the point of starting from her moorings at Spithead for a run over the measured mile, on Saturday, when a gunboat passed under her bow, and, by some means or other, caught one of her anchors, which swung heavily against her bow,—the “fluke” making a hole right through one of the plates, a few inches above the water-line. The trial of speed was, of course, abandoned, and the ship was taken into Portsmouth for repair.—We learn from the report of the Directors of the Great Ship Company that the hull of the *Great Eastern* has proved, on examination, to be perfectly sound, and that the injuries sustained in her last attempt to cross the Atlantic are being rapidly repaired. It is proposed to have the ship off the gridiron by the next “springs,” but if the tides are not sufficiently high to enable them to do this, it will be impossible to float her until the middle of March. As soon as she can be got ready for sea, the ship will be again sent to New York.—A large number of the Americans residing in London breakfasted at the Freemason's Tavern, on Saturday, in celebration of Washington's birthday. The Bishop of Ohio presided, and among the speakers were Mr. Adams, the United States' Minister, Mr. Morse, the United States' Consul in London, and Mr. Cyrus Field, who recently came over to this country with the view, if possible, of inducing the Government and people of England to support the project of a new Atlantic telegraph. Slavery was spoken of as the grand source of the present troubles in America, and the ultimate triumph of the Union cause was predicted with confidence. The toast of “The Queen” was received with great enthusiasm, and every expression of a desire to see England and America maintain relations of cordial friendship was greeted with assenting cheers.—We deeply regret to have to report the occurrence of another appalling colliery accident. The scene of the present disaster is the Cethin Pit, near Merthyr Tydvil. It appears that on Wednesday week an explosion of gas took place, which resulted in the immediate death of nearly fifty of the poor men. The whole of the missing bodies have been recovered—unfortunately in every case a blackened corpse. There is, therefore, no one left to explain the origin of the accident, though the general opinion of those acquainted with the workings of the pit is

that an air door was incautiously left open while the men were at dinner. The proprietor, Mr. Crawshaw, challenges the most searching inquiry into the efficiency of the means he had employed to ventilate the pit as well as to prevent accidents, and the general impression is that he may well do so, as there are no mines in the country where more attention is paid to the welfare of the workmen than there was in this mine, and all those under the charge of Mr. Crawshaw.—A case of libel was tried on Tuesday before the Lord Chief Justice and a jury, when Mr. Ledger, the proprietor of the *Era* newspaper, sought damages against Mr. Benjamin Webster, of the Adelphi Theatre, for a libel contained in one of his playbills. There had been a dispute between the two parties relative to the criticisms in the *Era* on the ridiculous entertainments at the Crystal Palace for the Dramatic College, and Mr. Webster had given notice that none of his advertisements should be inserted in the *Era*. Mr. Ledger then inserted an advertisement of Mr. Toole's benefit gratuitously, on which Mr. Webster rejoined with some expressions in his next playbill, at which the plaintiff took exception, and hence the present action. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff with a shilling damages. The whole of the parties concerned are members of our Craft, and had been, until the foolish dispute took place, bosom friends.—The General Omnibus Company was, on Saturday, cast in an action which a gentleman brought against them for injuries sustained by him on the top of an omnibus when the driver drove up against one of the tramway carriages. The evidence was, as usual, conflicting; but the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—Damages, £900. In the Secondaries Court Mr. Shaw obtained a verdict of £700 for damages occasioned by a collision on the North Staffordshire Railway.—At the Cumberland assizes William Charlton, an engine-driver on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, was found guilty of the murder of an old woman, named Emerson, who was gatekeeper at a level crossing on the line—the jury appending to their verdict a recommendation to mercy, on account of the previous good character of the prisoner. Charlton was sentenced to death. On Tuesday, three men, named Robert Robinson, William Robinson (father and son), and Hugh Earl, were tried for the wilful murder of Atkinson, the river watcher, at Brockleworth, on the 15th of last month. It will be remembered that the deceased and three other men were guarding the water against poachers, when they came upon the prisoners, who attacked them with bludgeons. The jury found the prisoners guilty of manslaughter, but recommended the elder Robinson to mercy. Robinson, sen., was sentenced to 12 months' hard labour, while the two younger men were each ordered to undergo 10 years' penal servitude.—Some time ago the Bishop of Exeter prohibited a clergyman from preaching in his diocese because he had given a public reading of Hamlet. Some curious correspondence has since been published from which it appears that the bishop has now a better opinion than he had of the Rev. Mr. Young's character, though he still thinks it was necessary to inhibit him. This is perhaps as much of a retraction as could be expected from the Bishop of Exeter. Mr. Young is a beneficed clergyman in the diocese of Worcester; and it appears that that prelate also objects to clergymen reading Shakespeare to public assemblies for money. It ought to be noticed, however, that the money in Mr. Young's case was given to increase the funds of the Torbay Infirmary. Mr. Young is a son of the distinguished tragedian.—There has been another fall in the Waterloo-road pavement. It is time that the Legislature, or the Board of Works, or the district surveyor, or the vestry, or the constituted authority, whatever that may be, to interfere.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The draft of the address about to be returned by the Legislative Body to the Emperor Napoleon's speech, declares that "the Emperor has acted wisely in recognising the kingdom of Italy," and that "France, Catholic and liberal, wishes the head of religion to be independent and venerated, but always favours true liberty and the moral and material progress of population."—The vacancy created in the French Academy by the death of Father Lacordaire has been filled up. The Duke de Broglie was elected to be the *fondateur*.—The health of the Empress of Austria is stated to be so completely re-established that no dread of a relapse is any longer entertained. The Empress is still in Venice, and the Emperor is expected to arrive there at Easter, when both will return together to Vienna.—The Austrian government has succeeded in temporarily alleviating the embarrassments of its treasury by obtaining a loan at a low rate of interest from the National Bank, in return for a renewal of the

bank charter for a term of 25 years.—The commercial treaty between France and the Zollverein, so often said to be near conclusion, is once more alleged, by a telegram from Berlin, to be "on the point of being concluded."—We learn from Thorn that the Governor of Poland has issued an ordinance that there shall be no further judicial investigations or arrests for offences committed prior to the state of siege. This is a step in the right direction, and if followed up would gradually allay the spirit of disaffection and rancour that at present exists among the Poles.—The Greek government has forwarded to Paris and London a despatch declaring that "the whole country and the troops which have been despatched against Nauplia are inspired by the best spirit," that the insurgents have been defeated outside Nauplia, and that great discouragement prevails among those remaining in the place. Nevertheless, it appears from other accounts that, in spite of the "excellent spirit" of the people, the government has deemed it prudent to arrest many persons, including "senators, officers, advocates, and journalists."

AMERICA.—The news from America, brought by the *Africa*, to the 12th inst., is again favourable to the Federal arms. General Burnside's expedition had taken possession of Roanoke Island, and completely destroyed the Confederate fleet. The Federals had also occupied Elizabeth city, and were advancing on Eden Town. The fighting was very severe, and it is stated that there were 1000 killed and wounded on each side. The only impediment to the Federals marching on Norfolk was said to be the swamps, marshes, and sickness. Success was also attending the proceedings of the Federals in Tennessee; they had seized the bridge across the river, and cut off the main communication between Memphis and Columbus, and General Grant was preparing to attack Fort Donaldson with eight batteries of artillery. It was rumoured that the Confederates had evacuated Bowling-green. The House of Representatives had passed the Senate Bill for the issue of demand notes to the amount of 10,000,000 dollars. Advices from Vera Cruz to the 21st ult. state that the allies had advanced to Espiritu Santo without fighting.—The captain of the Confederate steamer *Sumter*, we learn from Madrid, had been arrested at Tangiers. The arrest, we are told, was made at the instance of the American Consul at Gibraltar, and of the commander of the *Tuscarora*, but the charge on which the arrest was made is not specified.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The overland mail puts us in possession of papers from Calcutta to the 23rd January. In Calcutta public attention was directed to the proceedings of the new Legislation Council, the first sitting of which took place on the 22nd. The composition of the assembly, a mixture of Europeans and Asiatics, the latter in their peculiar Oriental costumes, had a very peculiar effect. Some very successful experiments in cotton cultivation had been brought to a conclusion. The news from China relates principally to the proceedings of the rebels. At Ningpo they behaved in a very brutal manner to the woman and children who were left in it; but towards foreigners they had shown great moderation. The Christian ministers, however, had been warned by the British Consul to withdraw. Terror, also, is stated to reign within the walls of Nankin, the population of which consisted of only two classes—the soldiers and helots. The capture of Hangchow by the rebels had caused some fears for the safety of Shanghai. At Peking all was quiet, and Mr. Bruce and Prince Kung were acting together with much harmony.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- S. T.—We shall be glad to receive the "Vernons."
J. J. T.—The S.W. rules the lodge in the absence of the Master, but if a P.M. be present it is usual, and certainly the most convenient to allow him to do so.—2nd. The S.W. can legally confer degrees sitting either a little in advance or to the right or left of the Master's chair; the right is the most convenient.—3rd. If the S.W. has been an Installed Master he may take the Master's chair.
B. B.—It is correct in the second and third degrees.
Bro. WHITE is thanked. We shall at all times be happy to hear from him. We have not forgotten the meeting.
Bro. T. B. HARRIS HAMILTON, Canada West, is thanked for his communication and remittance.
ROYAL CUMBERLAND LODGE, BATH.—We are requested to state that the jewel noticed in our last number was designed by Bro. Moring, of Holborn.