

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1864.

LIGHTNING.

We have received some extraordinary communications from the Grand Secretary, professedly written under the direction of the Grand Master, to which we forbear more particularly to allude for the present, as we shall certainly endeavour to get some further explanation with regard to them—especially with respect to the manner in which a particular law is interpreted; for, should the official interpretation be supported and carried out to the fullest extent, it would entirely destroy all the prerogatives of the Grand Master, whilst the private lodges would be reduced to such a state of vassalage that no independent man could consent to belong to them. And should the explanations we seek not prove satisfactory, the Craft may rest assured that we shall not shrink from taking the opinion of Grand Lodge on the subject. One thing the brethren may be certain of, we will not be “muzzled” by the Grand Secretary, nor will we fail, even at the risk of expulsion from the Craft, to denounce acts that we feel and know to be illegal, however it may suit the convenience of any brother to try to crush us to uphold red tapeism and illegality. The heads of the Order may recollect that they have before now tried to struggle with the Press, and with what success we need not say. Fortunately for the interests of Masonry it contains but one Gray Clarke.

THE BOYS’ SCHOOL.

The Anniversary Festival of this institution was celebrated on Wednesday last, with Bro. A. Smith, M.P., Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall, in the chair, owing to the illness of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle. We are sorry to hear that scarletina has entered the School, but it is satisfactory to know that though at least a dozen boys a week have, during the past five or six weeks, been confined to the infirmary, that as yet there have been no fatal cases. We trust there may not. The proceedings of Wednesday were very satisfactory—the subscriptions announced being upwards of £4,200, with twenty lists to come in.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The committee of this institution have determined to recommend the election of twenty annuitants—fourteen men and six widows—at the approaching annual meeting in May next.

THE MASONIC UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.

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

DEAR BROTHER,—Having, as an “A.M.” of the Masonic University of Kentucky, been favoured by its President, Bro. Rob. Morris, LL.D., with a sketch of the institution from its foundation, I beg to send for insertion in the MAGAZINE the following extracts, called for the further information of your readers.

I am, yours fraternally,
D. MURRAY LYON, of Mother
Kilwinning.

Ayr, March 9, 1864.

FUNK SEMINARY.

On the 22nd of February, 1842, the 110th anniversary of the natal day of Washington, the Legislature of Kentucky passed a bill—the governor, the Hon. Robert P. Letcher, approving—entitled “An Act to incorporate the Funk Seminary at La Grange, Kentucky.” This was the germ of the present Masonic University of Kentucky. A public-spirited citizen of Henry County, Kentucky—William M. Funk—who had lately deceased, had left in his last will and testament the generous bequest of 10,000 dollars for the establishment of an institution of learning in La Grange, County of Oldham, Kentucky; and the present act of incorporation was granted to enable his executors to carry the noble design into execution. The Act of Feb. 22, 1842, bestowed upon the proposed seminary a college charter, with the usual privileges. It was enacted, in set form, “that there be, and hereby is, a collegiate institute for the instruction of youth in the various branches of science and literature, the useful arts, agriculture, and the learned and foreign languages.” Twenty-one trustees were named, respectable gentlemen of the vicinage, to whom the customary powers were given, as a body “politic and corporate, having perpetual succession, a common seal,” &c., with power to receive bequests, make purchases, &c., not exceeding in whole the sum of 75,000 dollars. They were authorised to elect a faculty, establish statutes and by-laws, and generally “to do all acts necessary and proper to promote the interest and well-being of the institution.” It may be remarked, as showing the legislative bent of this Goshen of the Western States, Kentucky, that the trustees of the Funk Seminary were specially empowered in their act of incorporation to establish a Department of Agriculture. It was required in the act cited above that the bequest of Mr. Funk should be invested as a permanent fund, the interest only to be used for the payment of salaries, &c.; but, by a supplementary act of Feb. 13, 1844, the board was authorised to employ a considerable part of it in the erection of suitable buildings, and the purchase of a library, philosophical apparatus, &c., in their discretion. The funds in their hands, enlarged by donations

of the citizens of Oldham County, were thus appropriated, and a handsome and commodious edifice was erected.

THE MASONIC COLLEGE.

The Grand Lodge of Kentucky (the oldest of the Western Grand Lodges, established October 16, 1800) had for several years prior to 1843 contemplated the establishment of an educational institution of some sort, and in 1840 made application to the Legislature of the state for a bill incorporating the Grand Lodge "with power to hold sufficient property for an Orphan Asylum and School." This bill, approved January 29, 1841, sets forth in the preamble "that the Grand Lodge of Kentucky wishes to establish an asylum for the nurture and education of indigent orphans of both sexes, and the support of poor and indigent persons." The Grand Lodge was empowered to receive either real or personal estates, by gift, devise, or purchase, and was fully recognised under legislative indorsement as the patron of education. Various plans occupied the attention of the Grand Lodge at its respective sessions of 1841, 1842, and 1843. By many a self-supporting school was advocated, upon the manual labour system. The best intelligence of the state was brought to bear upon the subject, until, in 1844, the Funk Seminary, which had been offered the Grand Lodge upon generous terms, was adopted as the Masonic College of Kentucky. By the terms of the transfer, which was drawn up with legal precision, the Grand Lodge obligated itself to carry out the intentions of Mr. William M. Funk, the founder, and to maintain an institution of learning perpetually. An act was procured from the Legislature authorising the transfer and granting the necessary powers. This act so amended the charter as to reduce the number of Trustees to nine, and to make them elective annually by the Grand Lodge. Thus the Masonic College of Kentucky was set into operation, under the direct auspices of the Craft; and the Grand Lodge pledged itself not only to a moral, but a direct pecuniary encouragement.

THE MASONIC UNIVERSITY.

To increase the dignity, scope, and usefulness of this institution, fostered by Masonic charity, the Board of Trustees, at its meeting July 23, 1849, made the following order:—"The following resolutions were offered by Mr. Robert Mallony, and adopted: 'Resolved, that at the next session of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, this Board will make application for University powers and privileges to be conferred on Funk Seminary, the Masonic College of Kentucky, and for such other changes and amendments in the charter, as already amended, as may be necessary or thought expedient and proper by a committee to be appointed for the purpose of carrying this resolution into effect.'" The Legislature, which has ever viewed this institution with

favour, acceded to the request, and on the 4th of March, 1850, passed a bill conferring upon the Masonic College the amplest University privileges. The act gave to it the name of the Masonic University of Kentucky. It empowered the Trustees to receive property, real and personal, for the benefit of the University, so that the annual income thereof shall not exceed 50,000 dollars. The following sections of the act are conceived in such a generous Masonic spirit, and expressed in such choice terms, as to justify their insertion here:—

"Sec. 3. That the President and Trustees of said University shall have power to confer degrees in any and all the faculties, arts, sciences, and liberal professions, and also the honorary degrees usually conferred in any of the colleges and universities in the United States.

"Sec. 4. That the said University, recognising the being and government of Almighty God, shall be founded and continued on the plan of the great social and political institutions of the United States, having respect to the liberal and enlightened principles on which they are founded; and that no laws, rules, or regulations of a sectional or party character, either in religion or politics, shall ever be adopted or imposed, by which any student shall be subjected or made liable to any disabilities or disadvantages whatever, on account of his political or religious opinions.

"Sec. 5. That the President, with the consent and approbation of said Trustees, shall have power to confer the title of *Magister Docendi* upon such students as, upon examination, in the presence of the Trustees or a committee by them appointed, shall be qualified to act as teachers, and shall be found worthy of the honour."

At various periods the Board of Trustees have bestowed collegiate honours upon various gentlemen distinguished for their literary or their Masonic acquirements. The first president under the University charter was Dr. Henry Moore, LL.D., a gentleman of great scholastic acquirements and an educator of long experience. Under his administration a Medical Department was established at Louisville, Kentucky, as a branch of the Masonic University, by the title of the Kentucky School of Medicine; and his connection was maintained until the Kentucky School of Medicine applied to the Legislature for an independent charter. From 1850 to April 1859, the University experienced a varied fortune, sharing in the exigencies of the times. The Trustees then called Bro. the Rev. John Tremble, jun., D.D., to the Presidency, securing, by this act, the services of one of the best educators and ripest scholars in the State. Under Dr. Tremble's auspices, the classes were soon well filled, and the highest promises of the University seemed destined to be realised, when the breaking out of the civil war fell like a thunderbolt upon the Institution. The students from the South hastened home in consternation. Those

from contiguous States, dreading the horrors of invasion, became uncertain in their attendance, and, early in the autumn of 1861, it became evident that the doors must be closed. Dr. Tremble removed to Chicago, Illinois, his faculty was dissolved, and for eight months the voices of teacher and scholars were silent here. On the 24th June, 1862, the Board of Trustees re-organised the whole by the appointment of Bro. Dr. Rob Morris, President; Hon. R. A. Logan, A.M., Professor of Constitutional Law and Political Economy; and Rev. G. T. Moore, Principal of the Grammar School. By the present arrangement it is designed to maintain the Grammar School, keep alive the germs of the classes, and await the better days, when a quiet country and re-animated business will enable Grand Lodge to fulfil the high purposes contemplated in the establishment of the Masonic University.

THE SPIRIT OF GOTHIC ART.

"And there, how picturesquely tall above,
The moss-clad tow'r o'ertops the umbrageous grove;
While o'er its Gothic honours, hourly shed,
There, azure tints fantastic lichens-spread."

Man is the only animal that may be said to possess the power of aggregate existence; all other animals exist individually; the aggregate powers of any one of their classes remain without any material change. They may diminish or increase, according to the plan set forth by Darwin—by "natural selection in the struggle for existence," but their faculties remain ever the same. With man how different is the case? He not only makes observations and draws deductions from them, but he reasons upon the probable causes and finalities of those things which he observes, and communicates the knowledge so obtained to his descendants, and they carry the process still further—ever further, in what I may perhaps be allowed to call everlasting progression. Thus the experiences of ages furnish an accumulated and accumulating stock of knowledge, which man applies to his own use.

It therefore follows that, whatever tends to facilitate the communication of ideas, must have a direct tendency to exalt the human family. By these means, too, the famous dead ever live in our midst, and the great past in the living present! and so the immortality of man is distinctly shadowed forth in his works. Oh, what a power is that of the intellect of man; how vast the scope of his ken; how godlike in his majesty! He wends his way in the wind tracks of heaven, and walks in the depths of the vasty deep; he has described the mighty circles of science and the magic lines of art; subjected old earth to his power and girdled it with chains; he rides upon the sea-foam and makes the turbulent element to serve him. But where shall we stop? He measures the stars, their courses, periods, and revolutions, and has realised the fable of Prometheus, by extracting fire from the clouds. But all this progress, has not been the result of hysterical starts, but rather of slow gradual growth.

Now, as the knowledge of the universe, so the knowledge of his own capabilities, in imitating what is around, above, beneath! Thus arose the arts, poetry, painting, sculpture, architecture, music.

As the cultivation of these, so their vast influence in aid of virtue upon the mind; and, as Horace truly says—

—"Pictoribus atque poetis
Quidlibet audendi semper fuit æqua potestas."

The advance of art has not been produced by servile imitations and transcendental copyism, but by throwing off the trammels of what we moderns call "red-tapeism," and giving loose to the powers of the imagination; striving ever,—

—"To give to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name."

making ideal beauty the study, and selecting and arranging *all* those redundant beauties which are ever surrounding us.

Now, as of old, it is still important that the artist should ever be striking out new rules, according to the bent of his own genius, provided, of course, that his brain is not akin to that of Touchstone, "so crammed with observations, the which it vented in mangled forms." There is too great a tendency at the present time to pooh-pooh every new thing—new idea—new arrangement—too great a tendency to consider that it is impossible to go beyond what was done some 500, 2,000, and 3,000 years ago respectively; as if a command had gone forth, "Thus far, and no farther, shalt thou go!"

It was not thus that present beauty was attained; for,—

"Past and Future are the wings,
On whose support, harmoniously conjoin'd,
Moves the great spirit of human knowledge."

The origin of the styles of art should, perhaps, be primarily attributed to climate and national habits, and not so much to religious differences as some imagine. Such differences may have guided, but not given birth to them. The religious feeling has in all time been the great prompter, which directed to their legitimate goal the finer aspirations after the loftier, the nobler, the more beautiful in art; therefore it is, that in the mundane dwelling of the Deity, we always find the completest development of artistic beauty. It is the same with the Jew, the Pagan, and the Christian, and rightly so too!

"There is nothing," says Baptista Alberti, "in which there ought to be employed more thought than in that of laying out and adorning a temple, not to mention that a temple well built and handsomely adorned is the greatest ornament a city can have, but is, moreover, the habitation of the gods; and if we adorn and beautify the house where a king is to dwell with all the art we are masters of, what ought we to do to those of the immortal gods, whom we expect, when we invoke them, to be present at our sacrifices and to give ear to our prayers! And, though the gods may despise these perishable things which we most highly value, yet men are moved by the purity of beautiful materials, and raised by them to reverence and devotion for the Deity to whom they are sacred. It is certain temples may be of great use for stirring up men to adoration, by filling their minds with delight, and entertaining them with admiration of their beauty. Seeing that when the temples are most frequented religion is most honoured, I would have the temple made so beautiful that the imagination should not be able to form an idea of any place more splendid; and I would have every part so contrived and adorned as to fill the beholders with awe and amazement at the consideration of so many noble and excellent things, and almost force them to cry out with astonishment, 'This place is certainly worthy of a god!'"

Thus the Pagan thought, thus the Jew thought, and thus the Christian *has* thought, and probably is beginning to think so again. The Pagan idea was expressed in temples of no great elevation; generally without any windows, which, in another style,

"Shoot down a stain'd and shadowy stream of light;"

and, moreover, usually without any roof, so that the light and air might play freely amid the long colonnades of the peristyle, the forms of which were pure and elegant, and the proportions exquisite.

The Jewish idea was expressed in a temple, likewise of no great elevation, and, for the most part, without roof, adorned with the most lavish and gorgeous sculpture and colours,—columns massive and strong, and with complicated arrangements, typical of the greatness of Jehovah, and the mystery of His nature,—shadowing forth the vastitude of His splendour and majesty, and the profuseness of His beneficent loving kindness. It was, in the words of its own laureate, "The perfection of Beauty,"—"Beautiful for situation and the joy of the whole earth." And though not a vestige remains,

—"There survives a tinge of glory yet,
Which, though the lustre, of its day hath set,
Tells of the joy and splendour that hath been."

The Christian idea was expressed in those lofty temples whose turrets and pinnacles seem darting up towards God, as they stand out against the deep blue sky, like mystic open lace-work. The *Master* had ascended up on high, and so the grand art feeling of his servants could not but flither tend. It sought in the far-stretching vistas and "starry-pointing" spires to symbolise the ever-vanishing, ever-approaching perspective of Eternity, and the communion between the Eternal and the human,—connecting heaven and earth by those "cloud-capped" spires whose fine-less points shadow forth the terminated course of man's supplication, and the source of his hope, and illustrating that bounteous mercy which ever flows downward, like "the precious ointment which ran down even unto the skirts of Aaron's clothing."

Thus, in the Gothic era, we have arrived at that interesting period when the new impulse of Christianity so greatly affected the world of art. The old mythologies, theologies, and idolatries had had their reign, and right glorious had it been. Beautiful exceedingly were the fictions of the early world: all the dark and mysterious events of life, and the marvellous phenomena of nature, were embodied and explained in their poetical and dreamy faith. And now they had passed away, those old-world dreamers. They have gone to the great hereafter, and the broken relics of their beautiful temples still survive, like wrecks upon the ancient sands of time: precious fragments which have escaped the sweeping dash of Time's ever-rolling sea. And as we wander upon the shores of that solemn soundless ocean, we hear ever and anon sorrowful sweet voices sighing up from the mysterious billows, and whispering, in tones of dull pulsating music, tales and legends of the olden time.

From the god-like *old* evolved the heaven-like *new*, which has literally entangled the imagination in the magical web of enchantment, recalling to memory the poet's description of the Grotto of Antiparos, with its countless glittering stalactites. Who is there who cannot exclaim with the poet—

"Oft enraptured have I loved to roam,
A ling'ring votary, through the vaulted dome,
Where the tall shafts, that mount in massy pride,
Their mingling branches shoot from side to side;
Where Elfin sculptors, with fantastic clew,
O'er the long roof their wild embroidery drew;
Where superstition, with capricious hand,
In many a maze the wreathed windows pann'd!"

All art is symbolical, and none is more so than Gothic art. The proper display of purpose and the immediate expression of feeling are therein beautifully portrayed, the first and greatest of its objects being to express the elevation of holy thoughts—the loftiness of meditation set free from earth, and proceeding unfettered to the heavens. It is this finely-embodied Christian idea which at once stamps itself on the spirit of the beholder, however little he may himself be capable of analysing his feelings when he gazes on these far-stretching columns and airy domes—

"Not for a prelate, nor a warrior's glory,
Nor pride of kingly throne;
For God—for God alone,
Were raised these sumptuous shrines, august and hoary."

A complex inquiry into the origin of the Gothic art would, I fear, only serve to land us in complexity; therefore I shall but refer to some of the theories which have been put forward. It is generally admitted that Gothic art came to this country from France; but whether France or Germany have the priority in point of adoption or invention, I do not know. I think the first building erected in this country in the new style was that of St. Cross, at Winchester, about the year 1130. This was begun by Henry of Blois, after he became established in this country, he having previously been a monk at Clugny. It is the intersection of some circular arches in this church that Dr. Milner thinks gave rise to the Gothic art; but this is very improbable, when we consider that Henry must have been familiar with the Gothic erections of Clugny long before he left it.

A very singular theory has been advanced by some, I should fancy straight-laced Puritans, that for the first three centuries after Christ there was no such a thing as a church, as we understand the term, and that when it did arise it was the offspring of the Papacy; all forgetful of the fact that the surname of their own Bethels has a far more distinct connexion with the Papacy than the word church has. Now, Dr. Mead has most elaborately shown, from St. Austin, St. Basil, Jerome, Chrysostom, and a host of other well-known "early Fathers," that there were such places even in the first century. Moreover, Roman Pagan authors inform us of the same fact. It were, therefore, idle to go into the subject, the object being to prove that any barn is good enough for the worship of the living God.

One theory attributes the invention of Gothic art to the Ostro-Goths, the ancient inhabitants of Scandinavia, who, in the beginning of the fifth century, ravaged the fairest portions of Europe. Another theory makes the Saracens to be the inventors; a third, the Moors; a fourth, the Visi-Goths, the ancient inhabitants of Spain; a fifth, the Freemasons, artisans of all nations, who, during the Middle Ages, roamed from nation to nation, building castles, abbeys, monasteries, churches, and cathedrals. Probably, these men played no mean part in the perfection of the art, even if they were not the inventors.

Another fruitful source of inquiry has been,—What prototype suggested the art? Mr. Warburton suggests that natural groves supplied the primitive idea; the trunks, branches, and foliage of the trees being represented in pillars, arches, and tracery. Sir James Hall suggests that the whole style, in all its varieties, is but an imitation of wicker-work. Sir Christopher Wren considered that the Freemasons gathered the idea from the Saracens. Some German writers consider the idea to have been an imitation of the acute-angled ceiling of the Egyptian pyramids. Dr. Whittaker and many others tell us that the pointed arch was known and practised by the Romans, and was originated in cross vaults, as seen in the Palace of Diocletian, at Spalatro, in Dalmatia.

Such are a few of the "thousand and one" theories which have been advanced, and hotly contested, about the origin and invention of Gothic art. For Classic art there are numerous books of rules for our guidance; but, as for Gothic art, no such books have come down to us,—indeed, no such books appear to have been written. The art seems to have been the child born of Christianity, in her desire to give expression to her wants and to embody herself in a material form.

The artists seem to have considered that greatness of extent and height, variety of forms, and fairy-like lightness, each and all suggested by the Christianity from whence the art sprang, and all combining to produce majesty and magical beauty, should be the chief end in view, and well did they succeed! The wondrous variety introduced into the art is truly magical; Genius alone could so invest it. Witness the matchless sculptures; slender columns, whose deep mouldings produce such beautiful

shadows; niches filled with statues of prophets, apostles, saints, and benefactors to the church:—

“Figures that, with one broad glare, the gazer strike,—
Kings, bishops, saints, apostles, all alike.
Artist! 'tis thine, from the broad windows' height,
To add new lustre to religious light;
Not of its pomp to strip the ancient shrine;
But bid that pomp with purer radiance shine;
With arts unknown before to reconcile
The willing graces to the Gothic pile.”

Nothing can be more beautifully suggestive than the ideas conveyed to the mind by the details of the Gothic art—ideas calculated to soften the stubborn heart, to impress the wondrous loving kindness of the All-Father, to cheer the melancholy, to raise and exalt the lowly, to teach the ignorant, and to keep before the minds of all the sublimest truth of the Christian religion. These seem also to have been the same, for the most part, in all the previous temple buildings, both Jewish and Pagan; yet it was only as the true light shone abroad on the earth that such allegorical teaching could have its legitimate import.

As Paganism grew old, it renewed its youth by allegory, until its mythological circumstances became philosophical emblems of life, death, the soul, and immortality. This was the utmost that the philosophy of Paganism could attain, and the wonder is that it ever attained to this. When Christianity had increased in the world sufficiently to form a body politic, and governed in every province by a regular system, then it appropriated many of the old pagan symbols; as, for instance, that well-known allegory in the catacombs, where Jesus Christ is represented as converting the world, under the figure of Orpheus playing on his lyre, and soothing the wild beasts, the trees, and the rocks. Indeed, nothing was more common in the early days of Christianity than to see rivers, cities, mountains, day and night, represented as divinities. The god of the Jordan, for instance, resting on his urn, is present at the baptism of Christ. Immortality and the Resurrection, too, are shown by Pegasus rising to heaven, attended by the goddess Victory; and sometimes even by Cupid and Psyche—Love and the Soul. Pegasus was the name of a poetical winged horse, generated from the blood of Medusa, who became transformed into a constellation.

On the tomb of St. Calistus, Christ is represented by Pluto sitting on the judgment-seat, with Mary, as Proserpine, attended by five veiled women, representing souls, one of whom has a tambourine, an instrument used in the Greek mysteries. Those five women are led by Mercury Psychopompus, conductor of souls, wearing his winged hat, with wand in hand, and tunic girt up. The origin of the worship or adoration of Mary is thus, I think, very significant.

If we pause for a moment to examine the human mind, we shall very soon perceive how strongly the love of the allegorical is implanted therein. It is a part of our very nature, and cannot by any means be dis severed from it. Language itself may be termed an allegory of the soul. The imaginative faculty, for which man is so pre-eminently distinguished above the other animals, is highly allegorical. The Great Teacher himself taught by its means—nay, spoke of His own person and attributes by the most beautiful allegory. It is only allegorically that we know anything of the Eternal! The rhapsodies and pæans of Heaven, as far as we know anything of them, are significantly allegorical. The whole Jewish polity, from first to last, was one splendid allegory.

If, in imagination, we glance back afar, along the deep profound vistas of time, to the early dawn of the palæozoic age, and trace each geologic era as it evolved in the revolutions of eternity, down to the latest tertiary, and onwards to the human era, the senses reel, and become drunk with the profound grandeur of the allegory in each; pointing

to, and centring in, Emmanuel,—and so onwards, to the culmination, when we shall reach to the divine,—the philosophic acme of our being! Is it to be wondered at, that in all time God has spoken to man, and by means of allegory made known His will? The last time such a communication took place in Patmos, it gave the world a most sublime piece of allegorical writing.

There is, therefore, nothing remarkable, that symbolism is the very soul of Gothic art, seeing that, as man is constituted, all the results of his imaginative faculty must of necessity be symbolical or allegorical, for I use the terms synonymously.

FRANCIS DRAKE, in the *Builder*.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL ARCH.

(Continued from page 182).

Between that portion of the ritual of the Royal Arch which refers to the destruction of the first temple, and that subsequent which symbolises the building of the second, there is an interregnum (if we may be allowed the term) in the ceremonial of the degree, which must be considered as a long interval in history, the filling up of which, like the interval between the acts of a play, must be left to the imagination of the spectator. This interval represents the time passed in the captivity of the Jews at Babylon. That captivity lasted for seventy years, from the reign of Nebuchadnezzar until that of Cyrus, although but fifty-two of these years are commemorated in the Royal Arch degree. During this period many circumstances of great interest and importance occurred, which must be perfectly understood to enable us to appreciate the concluding portion of the ceremonies of that degree.

“Babylon the Great,” as the prophet Daniel calls it, the city to which the captive Jews were conducted by Nebuchadnezzar, was situated four hundred and seventy-five miles in a nearly due east direction from Jerusalem. It stood in the midst of a large and fertile plain on each side of the river Euphrates, which ran through it from north to south. It was surrounded with walls which were eighty-seven feet thick, three hundred and fifty in height, and sixty miles in compass. These were all built of large bricks, cemented together with bitumen. Exterior to the walls was a wide and deep trench, lined with the same material. Twenty-five gates on each side, made of solid brass, gave admission to the city. From each of these gates proceeded a wide street, fifteen miles in length, and the whole was separated by means of other smaller divisions, and contained sixty hundred and seventy-six squares, each of which was two miles and a quarter in circumference. Two-hundred and fifty towers, placed upon the walls, afforded the means of additional strength and protection. Within this immense circuit were to be found palaces and temples and other edifices of the utmost magnificence, which have caused the wealth, the luxury, and splendour of Babylon to become the favourite theme of the historians of antiquity, and which compelled the prophet Isaiah, even while denouncing its downfall, to speak of it as “the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency.”

To this city the captives were conducted. What was the exact number removed we have no means of

ascertaining. We are led to believe, from certain passages of Scripture, that the deportation was not complete.* Calmet says that Nebuchadnezzar carried away only the principal inhabitants, the warriors and artisans of every kind (which would, of course, include the masons), and that he left the husbandmen, the labourers, and, in general, the poorer classes that constituted the great body of the people. Among the prisoners of distinction, Josephus mentions the high priest, Seraiah, and Zephaniah, the priest that was next him, with the three rulers that guarded the temple, the eunuch who was over the armed men, seven friends of Zedekiah, his scribe and sixty other rulers. Zedekiah, the king, had attempted to escape, previous to the termination of the siege, but being pursued was captured and carried to Riblah, the headquarters of Nebuchadnezzar, where, having first been compelled to behold the slaughter of his children, his eyes were then put out, and he was conducted in chains to Babylon.†

A Masonic tradition informs us that the captive Jews were bound by their conquerors with triangular chains, and that this was done by the Chaldeans as an additional insult, because the Jewish masons were known to esteem the triangle as an emblem of the sacred name of God, and must have considered its appropriation to the form of their fetters as a desecration of the Tetragrammaton.

Of the road pursued by the Chaldeans with their prisoners we can judge only from conjecture. It is, however, recorded that they were carried by Nebuzaradan, the captain of Nebuchadnezzar's army, direct from Jerusalem to Riblah, where Nebuchadnezzar had fixed his headquarters. Riblah was situated on the northern border of Palestine, about two hundred miles north-east of Jerusalem, and was the city through which the Babylonians were accustomed to pass in their eruptions into and departures from Judea.

From Jerusalem to Riblah, the journey is necessarily through Damascus, and the route from Riblah was direct to Palmyra. Hence, we have every reason for supposing that the Chaldean army, with the captives, took that route which is described by Heeren,‡ and which would have conducted them from Jerusalem, through Damascus, to Riblah in a northerly direction. Here Nebuchadnezzar commanded Seraiah the high priest, and the rulers, to the amount of seventy, to be put to death. Thence directing their course to the north-east, they arrived at Thapsacus, an important commercial town on the Euphrates, which river they crossed somewhat lower down, at a place called Circesium. They then journeyed in a southerly direction, through the Median wall and along the east bank of the Euphrates to Babylon. By this route they avoided making a large circuit to the north, or crossing an extensive desert which could supply no water.

The condition of Jerusalem after the departure of

* Jeremiah (li. 16) says that Nebuzaradan left "certain of the poor of the land for vine-dressers and for husbandmen."

† These circumstances are detailed in the degree of "Super Excellent Master"—a degree not used in our chapters. The tradition of this degree says that the thumbs of Zedekiah were cut off, but this additional punishment is not mentioned either by Jeremiah or Josephus.

‡ In his Appendix "on the Commercial Routes of Ancient Asia," affixed to his Historical Researches.—Append. xiii. ii. 2.

the captives is worthy of consideration. Previous to the departure from Jerusalem, Nebuzaradan appointed Gedaliah, who was the son of Ahikam, a person of an illustrious family, the governor of the remnant of the Jews who were left behind. Gedaliah is described by the Jewish historian as being of "a gentle and righteous disposition." He established his seat of government at Mispah, and induced those who had fled during the siege, and who were scattered over the country, to return and cultivate the land, promising them protection and favour if they consented to continue peaceable and pay a small tribute to the king of Babylon.

Among those who had fled on the approach of the Chaldean army was Ishmael, one of the royal family, a wicked and crafty man, who, during the siege of Jerusalem, had sought protection at the court of the King of the Ammorites. Ishmael was secretly instigated by Bealis, the Ammoritish monarch, to slay Gedaliah, that, as one of the royal family, he might himself ascend the throne of David. Notwithstanding that Gedaliah was informed of this nefarious design, he refused, in his unsuspecting temper, to believe the report, and consequently fell a victim to the treachery of Ishmael, who slew him while partaking of his hospitality. Ishmael then attempted to carry the inhabitants of Mispah into captivity, and fled with them to the King of the Ammorites; but being overtaken by the friends of Gedaliah, who had armed themselves to avenge his death, the captives were rescued and Ishmael put to flight. The Jews, fearing that if they remained they would be punished by the Babylonians for the murder of Gedaliah, retired to Egypt. Five years after, Nebuchadnezzar, having invaded and conquered Egypt, carried all the Jews whom he found there to Babylon. "And such," says Josephus, "was the end of the nation of the Hebrews." Jerusalem was now desolate. Its king and its people were removed to Babylon, but it remained unpopulated by foreign colonies, perhaps, as Whiston suggests, "as an indication of Providence that the Jews were to re-people it without opposition themselves."

Let us turn now to the more immediate object of this lecture, and examine the condition of the captives during their sojourn in Babylon.

Notwithstanding the ignominious mode of their conveyance from Jerusalem, and the vindictiveness displayed by their conqueror in the destruction of their city and temple, they do not appear, on their arrival at Babylon, to have been subjected to any of the extreme rigours of slavery. They were distributed into various parts of the empire; some remaining in the city, while others were sent into the provinces. The latter probably devoted themselves to agricultural pursuits, while the former were engaged in commerce or in the labours of architecture. Anderson says, that Nebuchadnezzar, having applied himself to the design of finishing his buildings at Babylon, engaged therein all the able artists of Judea and other captives to join his own Chaldean masons.* They were permitted to retain their personal property, and even to purchase lands and erect houses. Their civil and religious government was not utterly destroyed, for they retained a regular succession of kings and high priests, one of each of whom returned with them, as will be seen

* "Book of Constitutions," p. 17, edit. 1723.

hereafter, on their restoration. Some of the principal captives were advanced to offices of dignity and power in the royal palace, and were permitted to share in the councils of state. Their prophets, Daniel and Ezekial, with their associates, preserved among their countrymen the pure doctrines of their religion, and taught that belief in the Divine Being which constituted the most important principle of Primitive Freemasonry, in opposition to the spurious system practised by their idolatrous conquerors. "The people," says Oliver, who adhered to the worship of God, and they were neither few nor insignificant, continued to meet in their schools, or lodges, for the undisturbed practice of their system of ethical Freemasonry, which they did not fail to propagate for their mutual consolation during this calamitous reverse of fortune, and for the benefit of their descendants.*

The rabbinical writers inform us that during the captivity a fraternity was established, for the preservation of traditional knowledge, which was transmitted to a few initiates, and that on the restoration, Zerubbabel, Joshua, and Esdras carried all this secret instruction to Jerusalem, and there established a similar fraternity. The principal seats of this institution were at Naharda, on the Euphrates, at Sora, and at Pompedita.†

Among the remarkable events that occurred during the captivity, we are to account the visit of Pythagoras to Babylon. This ancient philosopher was, while in Egypt, taken prisoner by Cambyses, during his invasion of that country, and carried to Babylon, where he remained for twelve years. There he is said to have had frequent interviews with Ezekial, and to have derived from the instruction of the prophet much of that esoteric system of philosophy into which he afterwards indoctrinated his disciples.

Jehoiachin, who had been the king of Judea before Zedekiah, and had been dethroned and carried as a captive to Babylon, remained in prison for thirty-seven years, during the long reign of Nebuchadnezzar. But at the death of that monarch, his son and successor, Evilmerodach, restored the captive king to liberty, and promoted him to great honour in his palace. Evilmerodach, who was infamous for his vices, reigned only two years, when he was deposed and put to death by his own relations, and Neriglissar, his sister's husband, ascended the throne. Jehoiachin is said to have died at the same time, or, as Prideaux conjectures, he was, as the favourite of Evilmerodach, slain with him.

After the death of Jehoiachin, Salathiel or Shealtiel, his son, became the "head of the captivity," or nominally the Jewish king.

Neriglissar, or Niglissar, as he is called by Josephus, reigned for forty years, and then was succeeded by his son Laborsordacus. This monarch became by his crimes hateful to the people, and, after a short reign of only nine months, was slain by his own subjects. The royal line, whose throne had been usurped by Neriglissar, was then restored in the person of

Belshazzar, one of the descendants of Nebuchadnezzar. Belshazzar was an effeminate and licentious monarch, indulging in luxury and dissipation, while the reigns of government were entrusted to his mother, Nitocris. He was, therefore, but ill prepared by temper or ability to oppose the victorious arms of Cyrus, the King of Persia, and Darius, the King of Media, who made war upon him. Consequently, after an inglorious reign of seventeen years, his power was wrested from him, the city of Babylon was taken by Cyrus, and the Babylonian power was for ever annihilated.

After the death of Shealtiel, the sovereignty of the Jews was transmitted to his son, Zerubbabel, who thus became the head of the captivity, or nominal Prince of Judea.

While the line of the Jewish monarchs was thus preserved, during the captivity, in the house of David, the Jews were not less careful to maintain the due succession of the high priesthood; for Jehosadek, the son of Seraiah, was the high priest that was carried by Nebuchadnezzar to Baylon, and when he died, during the captivity, he was succeeded in his sacred office by his eldest son, Joshua.

In the first year of the reign of Cyrus the captivity of the Jews was terminated. Cyrus, from his conversations with Daniel and the other Jewish captives of learning and piety, as well as from his perusal of their sacred books, more especially the prophecies of Isaiah, had become imbued with a knowledge of true religion, and hence had even publicly announced to his subjects his belief in the God "which the nation of the Israelites worshipped." He was consequently impressed with an earnest desire to fulfil the prophetic declarations, of which he was the subject, and to rebuild the temple of Jerusalem. Accordingly, he issued a proclamation, which we find in Ezra, as follows:—

"Thus saith Cyrus, King of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judea. Who is there among you of all his people? His God be with him, and let him go to Jerusalem, which is in Judea, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (he is the God), which is in Jerusalem."

With the publication of this proclamation of Cyrus, commences what may be called the second part of the Royal Arch degree. The whole space of time occupied in the captivity, and the events connected with that portion of the Jewish history, are not referred to in the ceremonies, but constitute, as we have already remarked, an interval like the period of time supposed to pass in a drama, between the falling of a curtain at the close of one act and its being raised at the commencement of the subsequent one. But now there are "glad tidings of great joy," as given in this proclamation to the Jews. The captives are liberated—the exiles are permitted to return home. Leaving the banks of the Euphrates, they direct their anxious steps over rough and rugged roads to that beloved mountain of the Lord, where their ancestors were so long wont to worship. The events connected with this restoration are of deep attraction to the Mason, since the history abounds in interesting and instructive legends. But the importance of the subject demands that we should pursue the investigation in a separate lecture.]

(To be continued.)

* "Historical Landmarks," vol. ii. p. 410.

† See Mackey's "Lexicon of Freemasonry," word *Naharda*. It is but fair to remark that the authors of the "Encyclopedie Methodique," in common with many other writers, place the establishment of these colleges at a much later date, and subsequent to the Christian era. But Oliver supposes them to have been founded during the captivity.

TEMPLAR FUNERAL SERVICE.

A few weeks ago you favoured your readers with the American Service. It is difficult to see how they have improved on the following Ancient Service, which I find in the pages of a contemporary. In this, as in everything Masonic, the ancient working is the best.—△.

[When a Templar died he was dressed in his habit, his legs crossed in imitation of the posture of our Lord when hanging on the cross, placed in a wooden coffin, and buried. The burial took place at midnight with the most solemn ceremonies. For a description of these we are indebted to an early number of *Blackwood's Magazine*.

The walls of the chapel were covered with black cloth, and on a trestle in the centre was placed the coffin containing the mortal remains of the departed Knight. Nine skeletons stood near the coffin, each bearing a lamp, which threw a dim religious light over the lower part of the spacious edifice, leaving the higher portion in deep shadow. Upon the upper end of the coffin lid lay a chaplet of white roses, below which were the insignia of the order, and the sword of the deceased Templar; and upon a table near the coffin was a skull surrounded by seven large candlesticks, moulded like sphinxes, but bearing no lights. The Grand Master, followed by seven of the Preceptors, seven of the Knights, and seven of the Serving Brethren,* all bearing tapers, and attired in black, with scarfs of crape, now entered the chapel one by one and silently as shadows. The brethren placed themselves opposite to the skeletons and the coffin, and were addressed by the Grand Master, who, in few words, informed them that the purpose of their assemblage was to hold a judgment on the Knight, whose mortal remains lay before them.

"It is midnight," the Grand Master continued, "and the grave is ready; our brother has finished his earthly probation. Let us look back upon his life, and see how he has stood the test. If any of you can accuse the deceased of wrong let him stand forth and declare it."

A deep, unbroken silence prevailed throughout the assembly, and, after a long pause, the Senior Preceptor advanced to the head of the coffin, begged permission to speak, and thus began:—

"Grand Master and Brethren,—It belongs not unto man but unto God to judge the dead. He alone can reward and punish. He alone can look into our souls, and know our most secret doings. Therefore, Grand Master! wert thou to call upon us even thrice to accuse our departed brother, thou wouldst call in vain, for we are all brethren in Christ our Lord."

"It is my bounden duty," resumed the Grand Master, "again to ask you. Brethren! We are free members of the Order. Speak, if ye have aught to speak against the departed." Again he paused, but the death-like stillness remained unbroken. Then the Grand Master exclaimed, with a loud voice, "As there is no accuser, there can be no judgment. Does no man accuse the dead?"

And all the Templars, kneeling down, answered, "God is our judge." The Grand Master then raised an iron hammer, struck with it three heavy blows upon

* I have just found some memoranda of 1830, stating that 21 constitutes an Encampment.

an iron cross placed at the head of the coffin, and called aloud, "Open the gate of death."

The Serving Brethren then rolled up the tapestry which covered the floor on the left side of the trestle, and discovered an open grave close to the coffin. The three junior Serving Brethren decked the brink of the grave with garlands of red and white roses; and, while they were thus employed, the Grand Master said, "Preceptor, give answer to my questions. When will God judge the dead?"

First Preceptor. On the day of judgment.

Grand Master. Who will be man's accuser?

Second Preceptor. His conscience.

Grand Master. Who his defender?

Third Preceptor. No one.

Grand Master. Who will have mercy on him?

Fourth Preceptor. No one.

Grand Master. No one?

Fifth Preceptor. God is our judge.

Grand Master. Is not God almighty?

Sixth Preceptor. Almighty and all just.

Grand Master. Hear then, brethren! God is Almighty and all just, therefore obey His laws.

Seventh Preceptor. The grave is ready; commit our brother to his mother earth.

Again the Grand Master struck the iron cross thrice with his hammer, and the brotherhood knelt around the grave, and kissed the earth in silence.

The Serving Brethren then removed the coffin-lid and exposed to view the body of the deceased Templar in a white shroud. The hands and feet were tied with cords, the temples were adorned with a chaplet of laurel and vine leaves—on the breast lay a golden cross, sparkling with jewels, and on the heart a bunch of fresh-culled violets.

"Serving Brethren," said the Grand Master, "give heed to my commands, and answer to my questions. What means the chaplet of laurel and vine leaves?"

First Serving Brother. It means that man was born to honour and enjoyment.

Grand Master. Better things await him in a better world. The laurel and the vine decay and perish. Strip the dead of such vain distinctions."

The Serving Brother took the chaplet from the temples of the deceased.

Grand Master. What means the sparkling cross?

Second Serving Brother. It means that man striveth after wealth and splendour.

Grand Master. How did man come into the world?

Third Serving Brother. Naked and poor.

Grand Master. Then must he return to his mother earth naked and poor as he was born. Strip the dead of such vain adornment.

The Serving Brother took the cross from the breast of the deceased.

Grand Master. Why are his hands and feet bound with cords?

Fourth Serving Brother. To show that in this life man is the slave of sin.

Grand Master. Death has overcome the dominion of sin. Release the freedman from his earthly bondage.

The Serving Brother did as he was commanded.

Grand Master. What means the bunch of violets on his heart?

Fifth Serving Brother. It is the emblem of humility, and the offering of brotherly love to the departed.

who deserved the tribute, because during life he was humble and pure in heart. Blessed are such, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Grand Master. Know ye of a truth that our brother in the coffin is dead, and ripe for the long sleep of the grave?

Sixth Serving Brother. (Taking the hand of the dead.) The flesh cleaveth not unto the bones, nor the skin unto the flesh. He is dead.*

Grand Master. How looks his grave?

Seventh Serving Brother. (Looking down into the grave.) Deep—dark—narrow—cold.

Grand Master. Knights, do the last kind office to the departed, and give him a brother's blessing, for he was one of you.

And the seven Knights slowly approached the coffin, and placed their right hands upon the head, eyes, face, mouth, heart, hand, and feet of the departed brother, each accompanying this solemn rite with a fervent blessing; after which the Serving Brethren replaced the lid upon the coffin, and nailed it with seven nails.

Then sang the Preceptor, to a low accompaniment from the choir above, the awful words, "Ne recordensis, Domine! peccate illius, dum veneris iudicare socculum per ignem." After which, all the assembled Preceptors, Knights, and Serving Brethren chanted the *De profundis*, while each, in succession, sprinkled holy water on the coffin, saying, "My brother, thou art dead to this world, and livest now in the Lord."

Then invisible choristers in the gallery began to chant the *Libera*, and their voices sounded afar off, like the answerings of departed spirits. Every taper, save that of the Grand Master, was now extinguished, and all the Knights and Preceptors, prostrating themselves in the figure of a cross, prayed silently. Meanwhile, the Serving Brethren gently and slowly lowered the coffin into the grave, and the Grand Master, *again raising the iron hammer, struck the iron cross three times*, and said with deep and solemn unction,

"I bless thee in the name of the triune God, in the name of the Order of Knights Templars, in the name of the Preceptors, Knights, and Serving Brethren here assembled." This closed the ceremony.

Masses were afterwards said for the repose of his soul, and his arms were given back to the Marshal, while his clothes were placed at the disposal of the draper for distribution among the poor.

By chapter 20 of the rule of St. Bernard, there was given to each professed Knight, in winter and summer, if they could be procured, white garments, that those who had cast behind them a dark life might know that they were to commend themselves to their Creator by leading a pure and white life. "For what," continues the chapter, "is whiteness but perfect chastity, and chastity is the security of the soul and the health of the body. And unless every Knight shall continue chaste, he shall not come to perpetual rest, nor see God as the Apostle Paul witnesseth. Therefore, follow after peace with all men, and chastity, without which no man shall see God." By chapter 22, it was granted to none to have white habits, or to have white mantles, but the above-named knights of Christ. By

* Brethren who have any knowledge of "ancient" Masonry, will readily understand this. Ought there ever to have been a union of ceremonies?

† Masters will understand this. There was an allusion to some of the five points in the present knightly degree a few years ago.

chapter 37, it was ruled that neither gold or silver, which were the marks of private wealth, should ever be seen on the bridles, breastplates, or spurs of the knights, nor was it permitted to any brother to buy such. If indeed, such like furniture should have been charitably bestowed upon any one, the gold and silver was to be so coloured that their splendour and beauty might not impart to the wearer an appearance of arrogance beyond his fellows.*]

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS.

Can the Union Lodge, York, be induced to a faithful publication of the documents named by "E. W. S., Bradford?" I have recently discovered a few documents bearing on the history of York Masonry, which I will send to you ere long, if you think them worth publishing. Also will Bro. Robt. Mitchell, of Glasgow, favour us with a copy of the 1057 charter of Glasgow? His description would seem to assign it an undoubtedly genuine origin. Can he vouch for the presence of the document in the records of the see of Glasgow? I am told that, with the exception of one or two clauses, it is identical with the so-called Kilwinning charter, including the portion to "Mack, instruct, and teach the Masonry of St. John, like belted knights and cross-legged knights in armour; for the care and keeping of our holy religion."—△.

THE ILLUMINATE.

Four Secret Societies have borne the name of Illuminate. The first was founded in Spain, 16th century; the second in France, 17th century; the third in Belgium, latter half of the 18th century; the fourth in Germany. The date of the foundation of this last is 1776—of its suppression 1784. This was the Order of Illuminate with which numerous Freemasons became connected. Adam Weiss-Naupt, the originator of it, died at Halle, in 1830. A student of the University of Louvain, a few years ago, gave me some particulars of his life, written in Latin. The manuscript is in Lincoln's Inn Library.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

HARMLESS QUIZZING.

[Some funny fellow has sent us an elaborate drawing of a dining table, set for dinner, with its proper appointments for a well-ordered repast, and has inscribed beneath it, "The Working Tools of Freemasons in general. Wanted, an explanation of them." It is about six months ago that a friend, an eminent architect, came up to us in the Reading-room of the British Museum, and placing a neat envelope before us bowed and passed on. On opening it we discovered an individual formed of a level, and plumb rule for his body, and a square for the legs, whilst the arms were represented by a pair of compasses holding, at each extremity, a bottle and glass respectively. The inscription was "Fancy portrait. A Freemason; respectfully dedicated to Bro. —." In neither of the above cases do we see anything beyond a mere exuberance of fun, and treat them both as a huge navy is said to have done his diminutive wife when she slapped his face, who, on being interrogated by those who saw her strike him as to how he could put up with it, replied, "Why, you see, it pleases her and doesn't hurt me." So we, in a similar strain, say, if our friends will send us such pretty drawings, and it

*What a contrast! How much inferior in display to our present costume.

pleases them to continue so doing—why in won't hurt us, or Freemasonry either.]

ANCIENT FREEMASONRY.

"J. J. E., P.M. 77," writes:—"A friend has furnished me with the following copy of a MS. (modernised) taken from the original, which is in the Bodleian Library, in the handwriting of King Henry VI., on Masonry, about the 14th or 15th century." Will "J. J. E.'s" friend kindly furnish a clue to the collection, in the Bodleian, where this MS., in the handwriting of King Henry VI., about the 14th or 15th century, is to be found? It looks very like another version of the spurious Locke MS., and it certainly is not made any clearer by "J. J. E.'s" statement that the King wrote it about the 14th or 15th century. Henry VI. reigned from 1422—61. He might have written it in the fifteenth century, but certainly could not have done so in the 14th, seeing he was not born at its expiration.—MATTHEW COOKE.

The note of "J. J. E., P.M. 77," relative to "Ancient Freemasonry," and to the modernised copy of a MS. furnished him by a friend, has taken me to my own collection on the subject. Sometime back I turned my attention to the question of this MS., which is mentioned in all Masonic works, but could find nothing certain or satisfactory. I applied among others to the sub-librarian of the Bodleian Library, the Rev. Alfred Nachman, who thus writes in reply:—"I believe that the MS. on Masonry, said to have been transcribed by Leland, is a myth." I remember Dr. Bandinell making thorough search for it to no purpose, and he seldom gave a case up till it was hopeless. The tract in the "Gentleman's Magazine" purports to be printed from a small pamphlet published at Frankfort in 1748. I much suspect the truth even of that. At least I can find no trace of it in any German bibliographical work. In Huddersford's "Life of Leland," mention is made of the MS., in these words:—"It also appears that an ancient MS. of Leland's, has long remained in the Bodleian; but no reference is given, and in the appendix the tract is reprinted from the "Gentleman's Magazine." I should be glad, therefore, if the friend of "J. J. E." would give me a reference to the original from which he has taken the modernised copy, and which is still, he tells us, in the Bodleian Library, in the handwriting of Henry VI., about the 14th and 15th century. If this statement is correct the value of the document can be soon settled. I confess that I have the greatest doubts as to the genuineness of the supposed MS., and can only regard it as the "pious fraud" of some well meaning, but mistaken, brother in former days.—A. F. A. WOODFORD, E.C., Swellington, Leeds, March 7, 1864.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

A MODEST REQUEST.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As I understand the direct sanction of the M.W. the Grand Master to your insertion of reports of Masonic proceedings in Craft Lodges, furnished you by your regular and

acknowledged correspondents, is limited to the extent that the lodge shall not, as a lodge, have declared against the publication of any of its proceedings, I wish you clearly to understand the position in which you now stand with the Glamorgan Lodge (No. 36).

Be it known, then, to yourself and to the Masonic world, that the official communication which appeared in your last week's MAGAZINE under the heading "A Modest Request," was the (illegitimate) offspring of a lodge composed, besides the W.M. and Past Masters, of ONE officer and FIVE members. I trust, therefore, that the expression of such a "hope," said to be that of "the W.M., Officers, and brethren," will have its due weight, particularly when I inform you that at the next meeting a proposition will be made to the effect that the minutes of the former crowded lodge be not confirmed, the debate upon which, should an assembly worthy the name of a lodge take place, I will communicate.

One word in reference to a comment I have heard upon the *apparently* discourteous reply vouchsafed this weighty communication, and that will be to express an opinion, by no means singular, that you only obeyed the dictates of our grandest parallel, and answered a foolish request "according to its folly."

Yours truly and fraternally,

A CORRESPONDENT.

Cardiff, 7th March, 1864.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—As an old and perfectly independent member of Lodge 43, although not fond of rushing into print, allow me to assure you and your readers that the sentiments conveyed in the "Modest Request" of our Secretary last week, do not at all represent the feeling of myself, or, I believe, of a majority of the brethren, but are only the opinions of a small body, who have for the last few years been doing everything likely to destroy good feeling in the lodge, to whom, however, we are indebted for the flourishing Bute Lodge, and whose mouthpiece our "absent" Secretary was made. Let us hope that during his mastership next year things will take a turn, as I am sure, if he does not sell himself to a *clique*, he will be able to do much to save the lodge.

I have not been a regular attendant at the lodge lately, but am given to understand, upon good authority, that the reports you have inserted, by whomsoever written, have contained only an accurate account of the proceedings; and that one of the opponents of the Masonic press has admitted, in open lodge, that they certainly have steered very close to the wind. I trust, therefore, you will not take the "Modest Request" of the Secretary as the ultimatum of the lodge, but wait for a resolution passed by a majority assembled in something like a large lodge.

Yours truly and fraternally,

AN ENEMY OF MASONIC CLIQUES.

Cardiff, 8th March, 1864.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The sixty-sixth anniversary festival of this excellent institution was celebrated at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday last, when the chair was occupied by Bro. Augustus Smith, *M.P.*, Prov. G. Master for Cornwall, in consequence of the absence of the Right Hon. the Duke of Newcastle, the Prov. Grand Master for Notts, who had consented to preside, but was prevented from attending owing to indisposition. The R.W. Chairman was supported by Bros. F. Dundas, *M.P.*, and J. Havers, *P.G.W.'s*; Head, *G.D.*; Potter, Hopwood, Giraud, Udall, Gregory, S. B. Wilson, and Capt. Creaton, *P.G.D.'s*; Nutt, G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Symonds and N. Bradford, *P.G. Dir. of Cers.*; H. Bridges and Patten, *P.G.S.B.'s*; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Col. Dalbiac, D. Prov. G.M., Sussex; Nelson, G. Sec., West Yorkshire, and about 300 other brethren. There were also about 150 ladies in or under the gallery.

At the conclusion of a very elegantly served banquet,

The CHAIRMAN rose and said—Grand Officers and Brethren, the first toast to which I shall ask you to fill your glasses will not require any comments from me to induce you cordially to receive it, it being "The Health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen," the patroness of the institution, whose anniversary we have met to celebrate. (Cheers.) The toast is ever received by all Englishmen, and especially by Masons with enthusiasm, not only from loyalty to the throne but from the respect and admiration entertained for her personal character and virtues. (Cheers.)

The toast having been drunk with all the honours, the National Anthem was admirably rendered.

The CHAIRMAN then said—Grand Officers and Brethren, the next toast is of a no less pleasing nature than the last—it being "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." This is the eve of a great event in their lives, and I hope it will prove the precursor of happiness to them, and of satisfaction to the nation. (Cheers.) To-morrow is the anniversary of their Royal Highnesses' wedding day (cheers), and to-morrow, also, we are told, is to witness the celebration of the baptism of their eldest born. (Cheers.) May that son prove a source of happiness and satisfaction to his Royal parents and grand parent, and of hope to the country at large. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN next said—Brethren, we have paid our allegiance to the heads of the realm as Englishmen, and it now becomes my duty to invite your attention to a toast by which we acknowledge our allegiance as members of the Craft to the head of the Masonic realm, "The Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland." (Cheers.) It is but a few days since I had the pleasure of being in Grand Lodge, and witnessing the election of the noble earl to his high office for the twentieth time. Twenty years, brethren, is a long time for any man to hold public office, but during twenty years our Most Worshipful Grand Master has been constantly re-elected with feelings of delight and satisfaction by the brethren. In truth, year after year the feelings of attachment and confidence in the noble earl has been increased and strengthened. Long may he live to hold the high office he has now filled for twenty years, and long may he know that he enjoys the confidence of the brethren. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN said—Brethren, if we are fortunate in having so well and experienced a Mason as the Earl of Zetland at the head of the Craft, we are not less fortunate in having a most zealous and talented young Mason as the Earl de Grey and

Ripon as the Deputy Grand Master. All who have witnessed his career in the great parliamentary lodge, where he holds so distinguished a position, or those who have met him discharging his official duties in our lodges, cannot fail to have observed the sound judgment, ability, and zeal which he brings to bear on all he undertakes, and which gives great promise in the future career of our Deputy Grand Master. (Cheers.) With the toast I shall couple the names of the other Grand Officers, and especially that of Bro. Dundas. (Cheers.)

Bro. DUNDAS, *P.G.W.*, returned his grateful thanks, on behalf of himself and his brother Grand Officers, to the R.W. Chairman and the brethren for the compliment they had been pleased to pay them. He was sure they were all deeply indebted to the right worshipful brother for presiding over them that evening—having taken the chair at a very short notice. He could assure them that he (Bro. Dundas) and those by whom he was surrounded were always anxious to do their best for the promotion of the benefit of the Order and their characters. (Cheers.)

Bro. HAVERS, *P.G.W.*, said they would all know by the fact of his rising that he was about to propose a toast of some importance, and he felt that he had a perfectly easy task, inasmuch as he knew it was one sure to receive a cordial and enthusiastic reception from every Mason. He was about to propose "The Health of their Chairman" (cheers); and he would give them three good reasons why it should be cordially responded to. In the first place their worthy Chairman had undertaken to occupy the position at a moment's notice, in consequence of illness preventing the noble duke who was to preside over them being present. The duties of the chair were at all times onerous, and more especially so when a person had not come prepared to fill it, and that was one good reason for thanking him. (Cheers.) The second consisted in this, that though London was the seat of their Grand Lodge, the London representatives of Masonry could do but little without the support of those good and excellent brethren who were spread over the breadth and length of the land. Indeed, without their support, Masonry in London would be a mockery and a delusion. (No, no.) What he meant to convey was this—that without the support of the country lodges and country brethren, Masonry, as a system, must, of necessity, flag in its good work. (Cheers.) With this explanation, he might observe to those who did not know him, that Bro. Augustus Smith was one of those great Masonic supports of their Order. Member for the ancient Borough of Truro, a large landed proprietor, and King of the Scilly Islands, he was one who upheld alike the institutions of his country and of Masonry; and that was a second, and he was sure good reason for drinking his health. (Cheers.) His third reason was that Cornwall, though a large and beautiful, was also a distant county in England, and the brethren of that province were not so likely to know of the advantages offered by their charitable institutions as those nearer the metropolis. (Hear, hear.) For some ten or twelve years before succeeding to the distinguished office of Provincial Grand Master, which he now held, Bro. Smith had been a most energetic Deputy, and therefore knew the county and the brethren well; and on his return, he would be enabled to tell the brethren of his province, from Penryn to the Land's End, and from New Quay to Tintagel, of the noble doings of that evening. (Cheers.) He would be enabled to tell them of the many intelligent brethren gathered together in the holy cause of charity, and how their efforts were ennobled by the presence of the angels in the gallery. (Cheers.) When their brother who had done them the honour to preside over them this evening told all these things in Cornwall, he was sure it would excite the desire of the brethren of the province to become

stewards at the next Festival, and thus promote the best interests of the institution (cheers), and that was the third reason why they should drink his health with cordiality and enthusiasm. (Cheers.)

BRO. SMITH, Prov. G.M. for Cornwall, on rising to reply, was greeted with renewed cheers. He could assure them that he had no idea, until a very few minutes before entering the hall, that he should have to return them thanks for so distinguished a compliment as that of their drinking his health. He came there to support the noble duke, who was to have presided over them, and when he learned that, owing to the unfortunate illness of that nobleman, they were to be deprived of his services, he little thought that with so many Provincial Grand Masters, that he, one of the junior of the body, would be called upon to take the chair. When, however, he was asked to do so he felt that, though he did not court the honour, he could not refuse it—(cheers)—and, therefore, they must take him for better for worse. (Cheers.) His Right Worshipful Brother on his right had alluded to the office which he held in the distant province of Cornwall. It had been during the last ten years his fate, his pride, and his honour to preside, to a great extent, over Masonry in that province, the late Sir Charles Lemon, though an excellent Mason, from his advanced age having been unable of late years to take but little part in the business of the province. It had been his (Bro. Smith's) good fortune to be present at the consecration of many lodges—from the Dunheved, at Launceston, to Milbrook, and almost to the Land's End—and there was now scarcely a town of any importance without its lodge. (Cheers.) And why was this? because of those excellent principles instilled through Masonry, which tended to bring out all the better feelings of mankind, and bind man to man in acts of virtue and charity. (Cheers.) He thanked them most sincerely for the honour they had done him, and should endeavour to support the Craft and their great institutions to the best of his power and ability. (Cheers.)

The Toast Master having vigorously demanded silence, for an unusual amount of noise then prevailed, and, indeed, the same thing occurred during the whole evening, the brethren being probably overjoyed to meet each other at this Festival, and could not, therefore, restrain their feelings, or put even a temporary curb upon their tongues,

The CHAIRMAN again rose and said—Brethren, your herald prays silence, and I, as your chairman on this occasion, must call upon you and ask for silence, whilst I give you a toast to which I am sure you will all heartily respond. I request your silence, brethren, because I feel that this is the real toast of the evening—(cheers)—and it is on that ground that I feel I shall have to claim your indulgence in stronger terms than I could venture to do in reference to any of the other toasts which have already been given, or, indeed, with regard to any that have yet to follow. I feel that it is not in my power, brethren, owing to my having been so suddenly called upon to fill the duties of the chair, to lay before you, as I ought to lay before you, ample particulars with respect to the nature of the benefits conferred by this important Charity which we have met here to support, and by that support to enable it to bestow still more good upon the bereaved sons of Masons. (Hear, hear.) Brethren, this institution, I need not tell you, is one of those four great Charities which all good Masons throughout the land are so very anxious to aid by their contributions, and which confer so much credit upon the beneficence of the Craft, (Applause.) This institution was founded so long ago as 1798, and has therefore reached that period which, in the case of the life of man, may be characterised as the full period of maturity,

but which, in regard to an institution of this nature, may be said to be only its youth and commencement. (Hear, hear.) Brethren, this institution has very recently—I mean within the last two or three years—taken a great step in advance; it has attained a new foundation, and that new foundation has within the past year had its benefits greatly enlarged. A new and spacious school Wood Green is in course of erection, but whether the hoped-for success shall attend the institution in the future must entirely depend upon the support which it may receive from the Craft at large. (Cheers.) The property at Wood Green, which was purchased in 1856, will be so greatly enlarged that the conductors hope in the future to be able, by your generous help, to have there, under instruction, from 100 to 150 boys. (Cheers.) I am happy to inform you that the foundations, the first stone of which was so auspiciously laid last year, will be completed out of the year's receipts. (Hear, hear.) The estimates for the building are, however, very large, amounting as they do to no less than £16,000. You have the elevation opposite you (a handsome picture of the new school was hung in front of the gallery), and I am sure it is a building that recommends itself to your approval. (Hear, hear.) But still, brethren, very great and extended operations are necessary in order to bring the institution to the perfection which all its friends must wish, namely, the completion of all the indispensable internal and other arrangements well known to be conducive to the proper training and health of the boys, and so that the institution may thoroughly carry out all the great ends for which it was founded. (Hear, hear.) Brethren, I very much regret, and I feel it particularly at this moment, that the noble duke, who promised to be here on the present occasion, to preside over this important festival, has been prevented from coming amongst us by severe indisposition; for his grace would have been so much better qualified than I can pretend to be, being well acquainted with the merits of the institution, to have laid before you its claims in such a manner as would have invoked your liberality towards its funds. I feel that on this occasion you have sustained a great loss by his grace's absence, by the illness of that noble brother. You have not only sustained a great loss by the absence of one of the high officials of the State, but likewise of the attendance of a brother who has the deepest and warmest interest in this and all the kindred Masonic institutions. Our brother on my right (Bro. Havers), hoped that through distant provinces—and particularly through that province over which I have the honour to preside—the sterling merits of this institution would be widely spread. (Hear, hear.) I am happy to state that this institution in particular, and, indeed, all Masonic institutions, have become in a great degree high objects of sympathy with the brethren of that distant part of the country, and what they feel with regard to them is this, that the extent of their liberality will become, in a great measure, advanced, as they become more and more satisfied that these charities are managed as they ought to be, and achieve all the noble ends for which they were established. (Hear, hear.) Brethren, I will not occupy your attention further with reference to the noble institution which we have assembled here to help; for, in fact, it recommends itself. (Cheers.) If there is one Masonic virtue more than another, it consists in advancing the interests of those who have not been fortunate in this world. (Hear, hear.) I have been through my life a great educationalist, and am therefore, as you may imagine, deeply imbued with the importance of early training, and have seen many advantages flow from it. The early training of the young is, I think, one of the four most important things connected with the Craft. (Hear, hear.) I will only, in conclusion, say this,

that I feel I am not able to make an impassioned appeal on behalf of the institution which might have a sensible effect on your liberality, but I may say that I am told this is the largest meeting we have ever had in connection with the institution. (Hear, hear.) I will, therefore, close my remarks by saying, that, as this is the largest gathering we have ever had, I hope the contributions will be the largest we have ever had. (Applause.) I give you, "The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys."

The toast was enthusiastically responded to.

Ballad—"Why Throbs the Heart?" ("Desert Flower,") which led to a rapturous encore.

Bro. BINCKES, the Secretary, then proceeded to read the list of subscriptions, which amounted to £4,213, with 20 lists to come, ten of which he stated he knew would produce fully £150, and concluded by thanking the brethren for their continued and munificent liberality.

The CHAIRMAN then gave, "The Vice-Presidents, Trustees, General Committee, House Committee, and Auditors of Accounts."

Bro. HORWOOD, P.G.D., as a member of the House and General Committee, replied, and expressed the gratification of the officers at the noble results of the evening.

The next toast was, "The Royal Freemasons' Girls' School, and the Benevolent Annuity Funds."

Bro. PATREN, P.G.S.B., Sec. of the Girls' School, acknowledged the toast. He must first congratulate Bro. Fairfield on the handsome results which had attended the festival of the Benevolent Institution in January, and next he must congratulate Bro. Binckes on the very flattering response to his exertions that evening. He begged to remind the brethren that the festival of the Girls' School would take place on the 11th May, when he trusted every brother then present would attend, or send a friend to take his place. He could not invite them all to come and bring a friend, for if they did the house would not be able to hold them. (Laughter.) He had perhaps not quite so strong a case as Bro. Binckes this year, for appealing to them. He could not ask for their support for a whole building in the course of construction, but he would remind them that last year an additional wing had been built to the Girls' School, and that they had taken in twenty extra pupils, making the number 100. That entailed an additional expense of £600 a-year, and he confidently looked to the liberality of the brethren to find the money. (Cheers.)

The Ladies and the Stewards having been duly toasted, and Bro. Benjamin Head having returned thanks for the latter, the company broke up about eleven o'clock.

The musical arrangements of the evening, under the direction of Bro. Wilhelm Ganz, were excellent, he being most ably supported by Bros. Donald King and Wallworth, Mdme. Parapa, Miss Messent, and Mdme. Georgi.

Bro. Thomas Spencer officiated as toastmaster.

The following reports were circulated in the course of the evening:—

ANNUAL REPORT.

The anticipations of success to which expression was given in the last annual report having been in every respect realised, the committee offer their sincere thanks to all those brethren by whose efforts the gratifying results have been achieved, and at the same time desire to enlist their aid in inducing others to follow their example.

The large amount of contributions announced at the anniversary festival in 1863, at which the chair was filled by the R.W.D.G.M. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, when the members of the province of West Yorkshire, over which his lordship presides, subscribed the magnificent sum of £1,500, justified the committee in at once taking the necessary steps for the commencement of the new building; an object, the accomplishment

of which has long been desired. Powers having been given by a Special General Court to expend £15,000, architects were invited to send in plans and designs, for the three most approved of which, premiums of £70, £50, and £30, were offered, and thirty-two sets of drawings were received and exhibited at Freemasons' Hall. The selected design having been in material respects modified, its author, Mr. Edwin Pearce, and Messrs. Stephen, Barton, Wilson, and Son, were appointed combined architects to carry out the work. On the 8th of August last, the first stone of the building was laid with full Masonic honours, by R.W. Bro. Algernon Perkins, Past Grand Warden (whose liberal gift on the occasion the committee desire gratefully to acknowledge), the M.W. Grand Master having convened a Special Grand Lodge. A competition for the construction of the foundations of the entire building was solicited, and a contract entered into with Messrs. Myers and Sons for the sum of £1,580, the lowest tender; at which cost they have been completed. The specification for the superstructure has been prepared, and the committee are waiting the receipt of tenders from twelve selected respectable building firms, it being their intention to proceed with the works early in April, and to hasten their completion with all reasonable despatch. Every care has been taken to render the arrangements as perfect as possible, and it is confidently expected that, when finished, the Institution will possess a building admirably adapted to its requirements,—one that will favourably compare with any existing building of a similar kind, and, by the beauty of its external appearance, be an ornament to the neighbourhood in which it is situated, and an honour to the Craft by whose liberality it has been raised.

The accounts presented show that the receipts during the past year have amounted to £7,328 3s. 3d., and the disbursements to £6,700 3s. 7d.; the net balance in the hands of the treasurer being £935 14s. 10d. The disbursements, however, include a sum of £749 for the purchase of £800 Stock Consolidated 3 per Cents., by which amount the funded property has been increased; thus leaving £5,960 3s. 7d. to be divided between "ordinary" and "extraordinary" expenditure, as specified in the cash statement. The principal item under the latter head is that for erecting and furnishing a separate residence for the head master, which has enabled the committee to render the offices of head master and matron independent of each other. This was impossible while the defective accommodation necessitated the engagement of a married couple for the discharge of the duties of these respective positions.

The new arrangements took effect early in September last, when the head master removed to the residence provided for him, and Miss Elizabeth Hall entered upon her duties as matron. Though so short a time has elapsed, the committee can already congratulate themselves and the subscribers upon the advantage thus gained, and while testifying to the efficient domestic management by the matron, they call attention to the reports of the examinations recently held, as evidencing a most satisfactory progress in the educational condition of the school, and the diligence and attention bestowed by Mr. Russell, the head master, and the assistant master, Mr. Lees, in their respective departments. To the two gentlemen who conducted the examination, the Rev. Dr. Brette and Mr. Henry J. Bowker, the Principals of the French and Commercial Schools at Christ's Hospital, the committee tender their thanks for the interest manifested in the welfare of the school—for their valuable suggestions—and for the care and pains taken in ascertaining the proficiency of the pupils.

It has been represented that the cost of the official department of the Institution is large in proportion to the number benefited; but it must be borne in mind that the mere office duties, arduous as they necessarily are in institutions of this character, would be very little increased if the number of boys admitted to the school were raised from 72 to 150, while the cost per boy would be reduced from £15 2s. 9d. to £7 1s. 4d.; an amount of which no reasonable complaint could be made. While on this subject, it may be stated that, with an increased number of boys, the proportionate expenses of every description would be materially diminished, and the analysis of expenditure compare much more favourably than it possibly can do under present circumstances.

In conclusion, the committee feel themselves justified in continuing to press upon the Craft the claims of the Boys' School. Recognising the necessity of adopting every means in their power to meet the constantly-increasing application for admission, they are prepared to devote the whole of the funded pro-

perty to the completion of the building happily commenced. They trust, however, that the members of the Order will aid in relieving them from the necessity of this sacrifice. An examination of the list of subscribers proves that out of the number of subscribing members of the Order under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England—say 25,000, less than 2,000 contribute to this deserving charity. The committee, therefore, have no hesitation in renewing their appeal for support, seeing how wide is the circle of those, in attracting whose sympathy and assistance they hope eventually to succeed.

By order of the committee,
FREDERICK BINCKES, Secretary.

EXAMINATION REPORTS.

To the Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in presenting to you the following report of the recent examination of your School at Wood Green.

My examination has embraced the following subjects, viz. :—Arithmetic and algebra, Scripture, English and Roman history, geography and knowledge of elementary subjects in natural science and in English reading, and spelling by dictation. The boys in the first class were examined in all these subjects, and the others in a portion of them, and the examination was conducted partly on paper and partly *visà voce*.

The result has been upon the whole so satisfactory as to enable me to congratulate you on the very efficient state of your school. Correct principles in all the subjects taught are evidently well instilled into the minds of the boys, and the teaching is close and accurate.

The exercise for dictation for the first two classes was selected from one of the leading articles of the *Times* newspaper for the day, and was a fair specimen of the best current literature of our time. By reference to the marks awarded to each boy, you will see how correctly that exercise was written by a majority of those boys.

The knowledge of the boys in the upper classes, in arithmetic, in Roman and English History, and in geography, is quite equal to the average of the boys of their age in our best schools, and, what I consider of much importance, their manner of writing that knowledge on paper, shows both intelligence and care.

The young boys did their work equally well in proportion to their age, and were both attentive and anxious to do their best.

The discipline, good order, and cheerful obedience of the boys, are worthy of all praise.

I have been accustomed for so many years to the teaching and management of a large number of boys in a public school, that I cannot conclude this report without congratulating you upon the success with which your school is conducted. You have under your care many boys of much promise, who will, I am persuaded, amply repay you hereafter, for the advantages you are now bestowing upon them.

Believe me to be, Gentlemen,
Your very faithful servant,
HENRY F. BOWKER,
Head Master of the English School,
Christ's Hospital.

Christ's Hospital, 11th February, 1864.

LATIN AND FRENCH EXAMINATIONS.

February 6th, 1864.

GENTLEMEN,—I had much pleasure in examining "The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," and have still more pleasure in sending the report of my examination, to congratulate you on the flourishing state of the education in your establishment. I have examined your boys *visà voce* and by papers, in French and Latin, and I was surprised at their proficiency in French; their pronunciation is excellent (I had to find fault only with one) and their knowledge of grammar very good; they translate very accurately, and they seem quite familiar with the idiomatic expressions. In one word, I could not wish for better.

As for the Latin, I must say, it was not so good; but though the papers of the second class were rather weak, some boys who stand high in the list gave me remarkable translations of Latin into English. On the whole, the papers on grammar were very satisfactory, and, considering the short time the boys have learnt Latin, I think the result of this examination a very good one.

I have been so pleased with the boys' knowledge of French,

that I will give an extra prize (value one guinea), if you kindly allow me to do so, to the boy "Wiber," who is the first of the first class.

Now, Gentlemen, I conclude in saying that your school is, in every respect, in a most satisfactory state, as far as French and Latin are concerned, and,

I have the honour to, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
P. H. ERNEST BRETTE, D.D.
Head Master of the French School,
Christ's Hospital, London.

To the Committee of the
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

To the Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

GENTLEMEN,—Having written our reports of the present state of your school separately, we unite in presenting to you the following recommendations:—We believe the condition of your school to be so satisfactory, that it is capable of any addition to the course of education now pursued, which you may think fit to give it.

The introduction of drawing, under its three most useful divisions of Free-hand, Geometrical, and Model Drawing, would be most valuable to the boys in many ways, especially as many of them display abilities which would enable them to avail themselves of opportunities of entering some of the occupations of professional life, where knowledge of drawing is necessary. In addition to this, we think that it would be an advantage to the upper boys if they were taught the elements of the Greek language.

We offer these suggestions, with the conviction that your school will hereafter occupy a position not inferior to some of the most prominent schools in the country.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your very faithful servants,
P. H. ERNEST BRETTE, D.D.
Head Master of the French School,
Christ's Hospital.
HENRY F. BOWKER,
Head Master of the English School,
Christ's Hospital.

Christ's Hospital, 11th February, 1864.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

BRIXHAM.—*Lodge True Love and Unity* (No. 248).—The monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Wednesday week, at the Masonic Hall, and a large number of members were present to witness the presentation to the lodge of a handsome and valuable inkstand by Bro. John Mitchelmore, P.M. Several speeches were delivered expressive of appreciation of the gift by the brethren, and of the high estimation in which the donor was deservedly held.

DORSETSHIRE.

WIMBORNE MINSTER.—*Lodge St. Cuthberga* (No. 622).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Monday, 7th inst., Bro. Low, W.M., in the chair, who laid several communications before the lodge, the most important being a notice that, on the next meeting, he should propose that a Royal Arch Chapter be formed in connection with the lodge, and that the lodge recommends the same to the Supreme Grand Chapter. The W.M. then presented Bro. Rowe, P.M., with the vouchers constituting him a Life Governor of the Boys' Institution. He observed that it was intended to have presented him the resolution in which it was proposed engrossed on vellum, but he thought before long there would be a jewel for the Governors of the different Institutions, which would be more appropriate. He trusted that he might long enjoy the privilege it conferred, and he had much pleasure in handing it to him. Bro. Rowe briefly returned thanks, when the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. J. M. Montagu, who was present, expressed his pleasure at the business-like working of the lodge, and commended the W.M. and brethren for their exertions to get a Royal Arch Chapter attached to the lodge, of which he had no doubt but they would be successful.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

COWES.—*Medina Lodge* (No. 35).—At the regular meeting of this old and flourishing lodge in January, it was resolved that a Past Master's jewel should be presented by the lodge to Bro. Faulkner, in appreciation of his long continued and strenuous efforts to advance the prosperity of the lodge, and of his zealous exertions in the cause of Masonry. An emergency meeting of the lodge was accordingly convened on the evening of the 3rd instant, for the purpose of carrying out the resolution, and of presenting the jewel in open lodge. The brethren mustered in goodly numbers, and the lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. S. W. Way, who then explained the object of the meeting, and, in a few well-chosen and eulogistic remarks, presented the jewel, and attached it to the worthy recipient's breast, amid general applause. Bro. Faulkner, in returning his heartfelt thanks for the kind feelings which had prompted the presentation of the jewel, and the unanimous manner in which it had been carried out, took occasion to review the career of the lodge during the time he had been enrolled among its members, and congratulated the brethren upon the proud position the lodge now occupied. He then adverted to his experience in Masonry, and urged upon the brethren, especially the younger portion of them, the necessity of study and a regular attendance at the lodges of instruction, in order that they might make themselves acquainted with the many great beauties which Masonry would unfold to them, and concluded an appropriate speech by remarking that an Order which claimed alike the prince and the peasant, which numbered among its members the clergymen and the mechanic, the private soldier and his officer, could not fail to contain within itself something good and great, but which was only to be arrived at by study and research. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Dolphin Hotel, where a capital banquet was provided by the worthy host, Bro. Airs, and presided over by the W.M. The cloth having been removed, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given and drunk, Bro. Harris, S.W., in a speech replete with eloquence and good feeling, proposed the toast of the evening, namely, "The Health of Bro. Faulkner, P.M.," who, he said, deserved every honour which the brethren could confer upon him. The toast was drunk with full honours, and Bro. Faulkner responded in a short speech, in the course of which he strongly advocated the claims of the Masonic Charities, and said that he valued the jewel which had been presented to him all the more because this was only the second instance on record of such a presentation having been made by the lodge—the previous event having been the presentation to the father of the lodge, Bro. Osborn, over thirty years ago. A few other toasts were given, and the brethren separated after spending a most pleasant evening.

ROYAL ARCH.

DEVONSHIRE.

STONEHOUSE.—*Chapter of Fortitude* (No. 105).—This chapter met on the 3rd inst. for the purpose of exalting Bro. Samuel Thomas, S.W. of the Fowey Lodge (No. 977), and also a member of Lodge Fortitude (No. 105), to the degree of a Royal Arch Mason. The ceremony was most ably performed by Comp. Isaac Watts. After the ceremony, the usual ballot took place for the election of officers for the year ensuing. The result was that Comp. Jew was elected Z.; Comps. Rodda, H.; Chapman, J.; Stoneman, Scribe E.; Kent, Scribe N.; Thomas Ash, P.S.; Burniston, S.S.; Samuel Thomas, J.S.; Rowe, P.Z., as Treas.; and Rogers as Janitor.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

WAKEFIELD.—*Wakefield Chapter* (No. 495).—This chapter held its annual meeting for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year:—Comps. Henry Smith, P.Z. 302 and 387, Z.; Rev. Dr. Senior, P.Z., H.; Frederick Lumb, P.Z., J. and Treas. Comp. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P.Z., was elected to fill the first chair, Comp. the Rev. Dr. Senior re-appointed to the second, and Comp. John Gill, P.S.E., the third chair. Comps. Roland Child, S.E.; Captain Williams, S.N.; and Tew, P. Soj. The important office of Treasurer was conferred upon Comp. William Gill. At the completion of this part of the duty, Comp. Tew rose, and in eloquent terms proposed that the thanks of the chapter are due and are hereby given to Comp. Frederick Lumb

for his valuable services during several years as Treasurer. The motion was heartily received and ordered to be entered in full on the minutes. After Comp. Lumb had replied to the compliment, the chapter completed the business of the evening by approving of a set of new by-laws, which were ordered to be printed as soon as the proper sanction had been obtained. The chapter being closed, the companions retired to the refreshment room, where an excellent supper was provided, under the superintendence of Comp. John Gill, who acted as Steward on the occasion. The installation of the new officers will take place on Tuesday, the 5th of April.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—The usual monthly meeting was held at the Masonic-rooms, on Thursday, February 25th. The lodge was opened in the first degree by Bro. Durell, W.M., assisted by Bros. C. Le Sueur, S.W., and J. Le Sueur, as J.W. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. Ph. Le Sueur, Org., and C. G. Renouf, were appointed members of the committee of management in place of two brothers who had left the lodge. For the same reason Bro. Binet was placed on the Library Committee. The lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. J. P. P. Guiton, having passed a most satisfactory examination, was entrusted, and dismissed for preparation. During his absence the lodge was opened in the third degree. Bro. Guiton was again introduced with the usual formalities, and raised by the W.M. to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was resumed in the first degree. Bro. F. H. P. Le Bas was duly examined on it, entrusted, and dismissed. The lodge having been again opened in the second degree, he was re-admitted and passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, the charge being given by the S.W. The lodge was resumed in the first degree. On the recommendation of the committee of management, by whom the list of members and arrears of subscriptions had been carefully examined, it was proposed to erase certain names, unless, on due notice being given to the brethren, they should forthwith make up the deficiency. A candidate was proposed for initiation, and another as a joining member of the lodge. Several accounts were ordered to be paid. Bros. Manuel and Schmitt gave notice of an intention to propose at the next meeting, that twenty more shares in the Masonic Temple should be taken by the lodge. The lodge having been duly closed, the brethren, as usual, retired for refreshment.

INDIA.

(From the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*.)

SAINT JOHN'S DAY IN SCINDE.

The brethren of the Lodge of Industry (No. 873), Kotree, held high festival on Thursday, the 24th December, for the feast of St. John the Evangelist. The lodge was opened at four o'clock by Bro. W. A. Brunton, W.M., assisted by all his officers. The visitors included Bros. Martin, W.M.; Elson, J.W.; Bancroft, Kirkbride, Wood, and Tapp, 350, Scotland; Stone and Phillips, 767, and others. Three gentlemen having been proposed for initiation and a brother for joining, the lodge was adjourned, and the brethren proceeded, under dispensation, and in full Masonic costume, in the usual order, to church, where a very excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. the Chaplain, who kindly held a special service at the request of the lodge. The music was conducted by Bro. Brunton, who presided at the harmonium, Bros. Moffitt, De Rossetti, &c. The little church was very tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens, to the great credit of the Bro. Tyler, who is also clerk of the church, and the effect was rendered quite imposing by the unusual display of the glittering Masonic regalia. Service over, the brethren returned in the same order to the lodge-room, where, after the W.M. of Lodge Hope (No. 350), Scotland, had been elected by acclamation an honorary member of the lodge, as a slight recognition of his eminent services in the cause of Masonry, and after a hearty vote of thanks to the Chaplain, the lodge was closed in due form. The members, with their guests, to the number of about fifty, sat down at half-past six to the banquet, the room being profusely decorated with flags, ever-

greens, and Masonic emblems. Full justice was done to an excellent dinner, and the Master's gavel having called for (and, being rigorously used, having instantly obtained) the W. Master proposed "The Queen, the daughter of a Mason, and the Craft," which was received with full honours, to the great astonishment of most of the unenlightened guests, especially of the fair ones, who "wanted to know what it all meant." The usual Masonic toasts received due honour; after which the W. Master proposed "The Visitors," coupled with the name of Lodge Hope, Kurachee. It was a high pleasure to him and to the Lodge of Industry to invite the many happy guests he saw before him. He trusted the hospitality of the Lodge of Industry would never grow less; and he called on the brethren to drink the health of the visitors and guests with three times three. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. J. J. Martin, W.M. and P.M. Lodge Hope, responded. He said he was exceedingly gratified by the way in which they, the guests, had been entertained. With regard to Lodge Hope, he was proud and glad to see the way in which the two lodges, working under different Constitutions, pulled together. Such Masonic conduct was not only an incalculable benefit to Masonry in general, but tended greatly to promote the pleasure of the individual brethren. (Cheers.) The officers and brethren of the Lodge of Industry had good reason to be proud of their lodge and of their W.M., as he was proud to call the latter his friend. (Cheers.) He knew the members of the lodge would always give Bro. Brunton their cordial support; and, should the lodge ever require it, he (Bro. Martin) could assure him of any assistance on his part, or on that of his lodge that they could render. He cordially thanked the brethren of No. 873 for their kindness, and hoped some day soon to be able to try to return their hospitality. (Great applause.) He said, now ladies, brethren, and gentlemen, I call on you all to drink to the health and prosperity of the Lodge of Industry and its W. Master. Long life to them both. The toast was given with all the honours and great cheering.

The W. Master said: Worshipful Sir, Ladies, Brethren and Gentlemen, I can only assure you of my most hearty thanks for all your kindness, and for the way in which you have drunk prosperity to the lodge. It has been a proud pleasure to me and to the lodge this day publicly and practically to refute the unfounded charges of atheism and infidelity so often brought against our Order. (Applause.) I can assure my uninitiated friends that Masonry is not a mere sick club, nor even a benefit society; but amalgamates the principles and practice of all associations of the kind. Perhaps I need not expatiate, and I do not feel at all inclined so to do now, on the deeper and more hidden objects of our Craft. My brethren all know them well, and they know that the great objects of Freemasonry are promoted, and its benefits are enhanced, by a public declaration that all Masonry is founded on the belief in the Great Architect of the Universe. (Cheers.) And now, ladies, brethren, and gentlemen, again I thank you for the way in which you have responded to Bro. Martin's call, and I ask you to drink prosperity to the Church, coupling with the toast the name of the Rev. Mr. Reynell. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. G. C. Reynell returned thanks. He said he had been delighted to hold a service for the lodge, and to see the Masonic body in Church, and he thanked them for their liberal contributions to the poor box.

Bro. De Rossetti, S.D., begged leave to propose a toast. Having obtained the gavel, he called on all present to charge their glasses, and to drink to the health of the ladies. It was not often that the brethren had the pleasure of seeing ladies at their table; he hoped this would not be the last occasion. (Cheers.) The ladies had that evening seen some of the horrible doings of "those Masons." (Laughter.) He hoped they would keep secret all the mysteries into which they had now been initiated, because it was commonly reported that they couldn't keep anything secret. Here was a chance for them to prove the contrary. (Cheers and laughter.) He had once known a lady who *once* kept a secret—(Oh! Oh! and laughter)—so the assertion was a libel. (Cheers.) He had heard that it had been lately asked, "How are we to salute the ladies?" He thought he knew how. (Laughter.) But he (Bro. De Rossetti) could quite understand their Right Worshipful Brother, the D.G.M. of Ireland, when he said he was afraid to mention the way. (Great laughter.) He gave them "The Ladies," and the toast was received with vociferous applause.

The W. Master proposed "The Army and Navy," which was briefly acknowledged by Bro. Elson, 109th Regiment.

The W. Master then called on the brethren to drink a bumper toast, "Health and Prosperity to Bro. De Rossetti, the Senior Deacon of the lodge." They were all much indebted to him; but none but the members of the lodge could have any idea of the way he had toiled for their entertainment that evening. He (the W.M.) pointed Bro. De Rossetti out to them as an instance of what Masonry could do. (Laughter.) Joking apart, he gave his word to all whom he addressed, that Bro. De Rossetti was a Mason of whom the Craft might well be proud. He did not intend to flatter him, nor was he doing so; but he was sure he would one day see his Brother Senior Deacon in a high place in Masonry, as also he is and always will be esteemed by all who know him. (Great cheering.)

Bro. De Rossetti, in reply, said:—W. Master, Brethren, and Gentlemen all, very grateful for the honour you have done me in drinking my health, I rise to return you most sincere thanks. That which you have expressed in my favour is a further proof of what your feelings towards me are, and I cannot find words to assure you of my gratitude. If I have tried to render myself useful in any way, my duty as a Mason, and as an officer of this my mother lodge (to which I owe the privilege of having the door of Masonry opened to me, of being initiated into the most honourable Order known, and admitted to partake of its benefits), calls me to do my best. (Cheers.) I regret sincerely that nothing I can do can equal the freedom, fervency, and zeal of my dear brethren, and especially of our W.M., who has taken a lively interest in the prosperity of the lodge from its foundation. As Secretary up to the time he succeeded the late W.M., he and our worthy Bro. Goulding, S.W. (cheers), persevered in their exertions to maintain the active working of the lodge, even though everything was against them. And when an unanimous vote of the lodge elected Bro. Brunton Master, he so devoted himself to the good of Masonry in general, and of this lodge in particular, that his exertions have gained us that good name which, with rectitude of action, and with the assistance of our chief, we hope to maintain and continually improve. (Cheers.) Let this splendid example be a stimulus to us, and let us join in doing all that lies in our power, each one in his own office, guided by that brotherly affection which exists between us, and which ennobles our ancient and honourable institution. (Loud cheers.)

The W. Master proposed "The Officers of the Lodge," thanking them for their hearty co-operation in the good work, and for the assistance they had always rendered him.

Bro. Goulding, S.W., replied. He did not intend to say much, so they need not expect it. (Laughter.) But his thanks for the kind toast they had just drunk were none the less sincere. He could assure the brethren that they (the officers) were only trying to walk in the path set before them by the W. Master. They did not deserve all the praise he had given them; it was not only their duty but their pleasure to strive to please such a Master. (Cheers.) Well, there was another thing (laughter); they all remembered the ever memorable signal, and knew that England and Masonry expected every man to do his duty. (Cheers.) It was indeed a great pleasure to the officers to see so many faces at their table; it put them in mind of happy days in old England, where they hoped to meet many of them hereafter, by the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe, to recount their fortune in this far-off land. Once more he returned them hearty thanks.

"The Scinde Railway and its extensions," "The O. I. S. N. Company" (responded to by Bro. Bancroft), and other toasts, followed. The tables were finally cleared away for a dance, and the festivities were kept up well into Christmas morning.

Obituary.

BRO. THOMAS HALLOWES, P.M. 125 AND 709,
P. PROV. S.G.W.

A heavy loss has been sustained in the province of Kent through the death of Bro. Thomas Hallowes, who has for many years taken an active part in Freemasonry.

He was the third son of Colonel Hallowes (late of the 56th Regiment), and was born at Penrith, in Cumberland, in 1796. At eleven years of age, as a naval cadet, he entered his country's service, in which he continued

until the peace in 1815, when, with the rank of lieutenant, he was placed upon the half-pay list.

His Masonic career commenced at Hythe, in 1833, when he received his three degrees in the Prince Edwin Lodge (late No. 147). In 1835 he was invested as J.W., and in 1837 as S.W., and unanimously elected as W.M. in 1838, which office he filled for two consecutive years, and again in 1845. He was a subscribing member to this lodge until the day of his death.

In 1846 he removed to Dover, when he joined the Lodge of Peace and Harmony (late No. 235). He became a Royal Arch Mason at the Dover Chapter in 1844, and after passing the two chairs in 1846 and 1847, was elected as First Principal in 1848. In 1857 he joined in a petition to the M.W.G.M. for the establishment of a lodge at Ashford, to be called the Invicta, which was consecrated the same year, when he was installed as the first W.M., and again in the following year. He also continued one of its most useful and energetic members until his decease. Two of his sons have since been initiated at Ashford.

In the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent he was appointed Grand Record Keeper in 1836, Grand Orator in 1838, and in 1844 Grand Senior Warden, to which office he was re-appointed the two following years.

In 1844 a proposition, emanating from him through the Hythe Lodge, to the effect that every member in the province should subscribe 2s. per head per annum as a fund to assist the lodge in securing the Provincial Grand Lodge at its festival, was carried into effect.

In 1848 he also proposed a resolution with the view of raising an annual fund for the support of the various Masonic Charities, and this doubtless gave rise to that excellent system which was shortly after introduced and adopted in the province, that of every subscribing member paying 2s. per head towards a charity fund.

The effect of these two propositions has been that a sum of £50 is now annually paid to the lodge at which the festival is held, while the charity fund has enabled the Provincial Grand Lodge to give to each lodge a sum of twenty guineas for the Girls' School and ten for the Boys, giving them the powers of life governors, while to each lodge in succession, according to the number of subscribing members, the sum of £20 is now being annually paid, six having already received it, to enable them to become life governors of the Royal Benevolent Institution.

In 1860 the R.W. the Prov. G.M. for Kent, Lord Holmesdale, confirmed upon Bro. Hallowes the rank of Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master. To the great regret of the brethren of the province, however, the M.W.G.M. refused to sanction this distinction, reserving to himself the sole privilege of conferring honorary rank for past services.

The excellent D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Dobson, was desirous of vacating his office for a year, in order that Bro. Hallowes might serve that rank of the which R.W. the Prov. G.M. considered him worthy, but to this step our deceased brother would not consent, on the ground that he considered any change in the office of D. Prov. G.M. would not be advantageous to the Craft in this province.

Bro. Hallowes was an earnest advocate and supporter of the Masonic Charities, and will, for that alone, be remembered by the Masons of Kent, although his many excellent social moral qualities will also not easily be forgotten. He was a man and a Mason, of whom it might truly be said:—"Take him for all and all, we shall not soon look upon his like again!"

He was an earnest advocate for the discontinuance of public processions at the Masonic festivals, as being incompatible with the spirit of the age, and detrimental to the interests of an order desirous of receiving candidates from the educated classes.

His death took place at Tonbridge, on the 6th day of February, 1864, and of him it may be truly said, "He lived respected and died regretted."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and family are sojourning at Windsor. On Friday, the 4th inst., his Majesty the King of the Belgians arrived in town, and proceeded direct to Windsor, where a magnificent suite of rooms has been prepared for his reception and that of his attendants. Addresses of congratulation to the Prince and Princesses of Wales, were presented at Marlborough House on Friday, the 4th, by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The deputation from Oxford was headed by their Chancellor, the Earl of Derby, and that from Cambridge by their Chancellor also, the Duke of Devonshire. All the members of the deputations were habited in their robes of office, and the appearance of so many venerable gentlemen wearing gowns and hoods of various hues—scarlet, violet, and black—attracted much attention in the neighbourhood of Pall-mall. Their Royal Highnesses gave both deputations a courteous reception, and returned gracious replies to the addresses. The Prince is a member of both Universities. Their Royal Highnesses have been visiting different theatres. On Thursday, the 10th, the infant Prince was christened at Buckingham Palace, as Victor Albert. Her Majesty, the King of the Belgians, the Princess Helena, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and other members of the Royal Family, were present.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, the 4th inst., Lord Ellenborough announced the postponement until Monday, of his question as to whether the Government had taken any steps to afford material aid to Denmark. —On Friday there was no business of importance transacted. —On Monday, Lord Derby gave notice of a question relating to the Danish papers.—The allotment of shares in the Kertch prize money to Sir F. Grey, Admiral Boxer, and Sir M. Stopford—not one of whom took any part in the operations which led to the capture of Kertch and Yenikale—formed the subject of another "interpellation;" to which the Duke of Somerset replied by stating that the distribution of the money was made in accordance with the rules usually observed in such matters.—Sir John Lawrence's Salary Bill was read a second time; and the House agreed to a resolution, moved by Lord Granville, that several of the metropolitan railway bills be not proceeded with this session.—On Tuesday, Lord Russell, in reply to a few remarks from Lord Derby, explained that when Austria and Prussia commenced an "unjustifiable" war by invading Schleswig, the Danes retaliated by seizing German vessels. The two German Powers regarded those seizures as generalising the war, and they had, therefore, entered Jutland. It would be inconvenient to produce further papers at present, as Denmark had not yet replied to the proposal of a conference. If Denmark accepted the proposal, fresh negotiations would be entered into, but if, on the other hand, the proposal was rejected, hostilities would be continued on "a war footing." Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was unwilling, under these circumstances, to press the Government to produce further correspondence, but he trusted that before Parliament separated for the Easter holidays, the country would be informed of the final decision at which the Government had arrived on this question. In reply to a question from Lord Ellenborough, Lord Russell said Austria and Prussia still adhered to their original declaration that they would respect the integrity of the Danish monarchy. Lord Shaftesbury trusted that if the Austrian fleet entered the Baltic, a British squadron would be despatched to watch its movements. Lord Russell said the Austrian Government had intimated that the presence of their ships in the

North Sea was intended to prevent a Danish blockade of the Elbe. Lord Ellenborough had no faith in the declarations of Austria, and trusted the Government would state their intentions before the Easter recess. Lord Grey had read the Danish papers "with feelings of humiliation;" while Lord Harrowby suggested that the two Houses of Parliament should strengthen the hands of the Government by "an expression of opinion." Lord Russell told Lord Grey that he might, if he chose, move a vote of censure. The Government were perfectly free to act in concert with other powers, or even to act alone if the paramount interests of England demanded such a step. They would not, however, rush into war if the integrity of Denmark could be otherwise secured. With regard to Lord Shaftesbury's remarks, the noble earl said the Channel squadron was within easy distance, and could be at once dispatched to the Baltic if such a measure were considered necessary. "He should not expect that any fleet of Austria or Prussia would venture to encounter the squadron of her Majesty."—In answer to a question from Lord Truro, Lord Stanley of Alderley said ill-health was the cause of Sir Rowland Hill's resignation.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, the 11th inst., Col. Sykes and Mr. Vansittart called attention to a question which is exciting much interest in commercial circles at the present moment—the desirableness of establishing a gold currency in India. Sir C. Wood said he could not favour the suggestion to re-introduce the gold mohur or to introduce five or ten rupee pieces, but, on the other hand, he should like very much to see the English and Australian sovereigns adopted in India.—In reply to a question from Lord Robert Montagu, the Attorney-General said the Government had so far received from America no information as to the grounds on which the ship *Saxon* was seized by the Federals at Angra Pequena.—Mr. F. Peel in reply to a question from Mr. Hopwood, said that the Post-office authorities were not prepared to sanction the despatch on Sunday of letters posted at the head office in London on that day.—On the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates, Mr. Henry Baillie strongly denounced the reduction of our military establishment at the present moment. Another member of the Opposition—Colonel Edwards—moved a resolution condemning the proposal of the Government not to call the yeomanry out this year for drill. Sir M. Ridley, Gen. Peel, and Sir W. Miles—all Conservatives—supported the motion of the member for Beverley, while it was explained on behalf of the Government that, in consequence of the pressure caused by the New Zealand war, and other exceptional contingencies, it was necessary to economise wherever retrenchment was possible. A division took place, and the Government was saved from defeat only by a majority of one in a House of 315.—In reply to a question from Mr. Roebuck, Sir George Grey said instructions had been sent to the authorities in counties and boroughs prohibiting the employment of the police in ferreting out information for private inquiry agents and societies. The right hon. baronet expressed a strong opinion against the abominable form of espionage, and said he trusted that the measures which had been taken would prove effectual in putting an end to such practices.—Mr. B. Ferrand managed to get up a "scene" by charging Admiral Robinson, the comptroller of the navy, with having taken an active part in the election for Devonport, in 1859. Sir Baldwin Walker, Admiral Robinson, and the Duke of Somerset were, he said, the accusers of the late Mr. Augustus Stafford, and yet they had been themselves guilty of far worse conduct than Lord Derby's unfortunate Secretary to the Admiralty. Sir John Hay read a letter from Admiral Robinson, stating that he had no recollection of the conduct attributed to him, and the other persons included in the indict-

ment also found defenders. Lord Clarence Paget defended Sir B. Walker, and said he would rather take that officer's word than the "oath of the hon. member." The noble lord subsequently withdrew this strong expression; and, after some discussion, the subject dropped.—The Marquis of Hartington then proceeded with the first vote of the Army Estimates. The noble marquis explained that the total amount of the estimates for the coming year was £14,844,888, or £215,000 below the amount last year. A discussion followed, in which General Peel, Mr. G. P. Bentinck, and other members took part, and the estimates were proceeded with.—On Friday Sir William Miles asked whether the Government intended to recognise the services of Captain Speke, the African explorer. Lord Palmerston did justice to the gallantry and endurance of Captain Speke, but said that as much, if not more, had been accomplished by other travellers, and he saw no reason why the discoverer of the sources of the Nile should be taken out of "the ordinary category" of successful explorers.—In reply to a question from Mr. Baxter, Mr. F. Peel confirmed the report that the Galway Company has fairly broken down, and had applied to the Government to have their contract suspended until June, when "parties" with whom negotiations have been opened would be able to resume the service.—A resolution, proposed by Mr. Darby Griffith, in favour of reducing the stamp on proxy voting papers, was withdrawn on an assurance from Mr. Gladstone that this claim for relief would be fully considered before the Budget is brought in.—Colonel Sykes called attention to the Imperialist atrocities at Soochow, and Lord Palmerston was no less severe than the member for Aberdeen in denouncing the conduct of the Chinese authorities. The noble Lord explained that it was thought some benefit might be secured to our commercial interests if British subjects were allowed to assist the Government of Peking in their efforts to tranquillise the country; and hence the orders in Council under which Captain Sherard Osborn and Mr. Lay had been authorised to organise an Anglo-Chinese squadron. The object had, however, been defeated, and the orders had been rescinded.—Mr. Shaw Lefevre raised a discussion on the fitting out of Confederate ships of war in English ports. The hon. gentleman contended that these vessels were really British vessels, and that, if the *Alabama* and her consorts continued their present career of destruction, the Government ought to pursue and seize them. He admitted that the Government had honestly endeavoured to act up to the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act, but that act had been found imperfect and demanded immediate amendment. The Solicitor General denied that the Southern cruisers could be called English vessels, and, with regard to the proposal that they should be chased and captured by British men of war, he reminded the House that once a ship was put in commission, it was impossible to go back to her antecedents. On the other hand, it was open to her Majesty's Government to exclude them from British ports; and an effort would be made to communicate with the Confederate Government on the subject of the *Alabama*, *Georgia*, and other vessels fitted out in this country.—On Monday Mr. Disraeli, like his chief in the Upper House, gave notice of a question respecting the Danish papers; and Lord Robert Cecil promised to call attention on Friday to "certain omissions" in the published correspondence.—Mr. Disraeli asked Lord Palmerston whether he could give any authentic information respecting the invasion of Jutland, and also whether he would state the views of her Majesty's Government on that step. Lord Palmerston said the Government had received such contradictory information on the subject that he was at a loss how to answer the question; but he thought the object of the allies was to obtain possession of Fredericia, a point which the

Germans probably deemed it necessary to hold for strategical reasons. As to the view taken of this measure by the Government he could only repeat what he had said before,—that he regarded it as an aggravation of the outrage committed in the occupation of Schleswig. The German Powers were perfectly informed as to the opinion of her Majesty's Government on the subject, and it was not considered necessary to make a further intimation of it to them. In reply to another question, the noble lord said that the German Diet would not be asked to send a representative to the proposed Conference until the reply of Denmark had been received.—Mr. Roebuck gave notice of a question relating to the alleged Federal enlistments in Ireland.—The Attorney-General, in reply to a question from Mr. R. Long, said a Confederate cruiser would have a right to capture an English vessel carrying contraband of war, provided that the capture was made with the intention of taking the case before a Prize Court.—In reply to a question from Mr. Dalglish, Mr. Layard said the Government was not prepared to accept an assurance from the builders of the suspected Confederate steamer *Pampero*, which was recently seized in the Clyde, that no steps would be taken to fit out the vessel. A long debate took place on the Government Annuities Bill, but no progress was made with the measure.—On Tuesday, Mr. Morrill gave notice of a resolution affirming that the duty on malt ought to be reduced.—In reply to questions from Sir J. Fergusson, Lord Hartington and Mr. Headlam explained the circumstances under which Mr. Smales, late paymaster of the Inniskillings, had been pardoned and put upon half-pay.—Mr. Ward-Hunt called attention to a remark made by Prince Gortschakoff, and reported in one of Lord Napier's despatches, to the effect that there was a question of greater importance to England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, than the Schleswig-Holstein dispute, and that it was, therefore, their interest not to oppose each other in the controversy relating to the Danish Duchies. The hon. gentleman wished to know what the important question referred to was. Lord Palmerston said Prince Gortschakoff was probably alluding to the proposed general Congress; but if the language of the Russian Minister was supposed to mean that there was a combination against France, he could assure the House that there was no ground whatever for such an opinion. A long discussion arose on a resolution moved by Mr. Adderley, to the effect "that grants made from the Treasury to schools for the working classes should not in every case be reduced by the whole amount of all endowments." Mr. Lowe ultimately accepted Mr. Adderley's motion, which was agreed to.—On Wednesday, Mr. Ormsby Gore's bill for assimilating the Irish law of trespass to that in force in England was read a second time.—Sir R. Peel, however, promising to propose amendments in committee. A bill, introduced by Sir H. Bruce, for supplementing the Irish Constabulary by a force for the "watching of towns," was strongly opposed by the Chief Secretary, and, after a good deal of discussion, was withdrawn. Mr. Ewart's bill for the permissive use of the metric system of weights and measures in this country, was read a second time by a majority of 33. Several other bills were advanced a stage.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The deaths in London are rapidly and even unexpectedly rising. The deaths of last week were about 100 in excess of those of the week before, which were again fully 100 above the aggregate amount of the week previous to that.—We regret to have to announce the death of Sir William Brown, of Liverpool. The deceased baronet stood in the first ranks of our merchant princes; but he was not more distinguished for his great success in commerce than for the judicious liberality with which he employed his large resources for the social advancement of the community which now laments

his loss. The Free Library and Museum of Liverpool is an enduring witness to his munificence. Sir William represented South Lancashire in the House of Commons from 1845 to 1859, and last year he was High Sheriff of the county. He was created a baronet in 1863, at the same time that that dignity was conferred upon two other eminent representatives of the commercial class—Sir F. Crossley and Sir David Baxter. His grandson succeeds to the baronetcy.—Sir Rowland Hill—who services in connection with the revolution which has been effected in our postal system it is impossible to over estimate—has, we regret to learn, been obliged by ill-health, to resign his appointment at the General Post-office.—According to the monthly return of Mr. Maclure, there are now 224,118 operatives working full time, 117,952 short time, and 153,864 without work in the mills, "although many of them occasionally obtain some other casual employment." This shows an improvement in the condition of the cotton districts; and further evidence in the same direction is afforded by the decision of the Central Executive Committee to meet once a fortnight, instead of weekly, as hitherto. The committee have still, however, a large aggregate of destitution to deal with, and they wisely decline to "point to any time as the probable period of the termination of their labours."—A great county meeting was held at Stafford, on Saturday, in support of the agitation for the repeal of the malt tax. Lord Lichfield, Lord Hatherton, and Mr. W. O. Foster, M.P., were among the speakers. The meeting unanimously passed resolutions condemning the tax, and it was further decided to petition Parliament in favour of its repeal. At the same time, one of the speakers urged that if they could obtain an instalment it would be unwise to reject it, and insist, as Lord Palmerston would say, upon "going the whole hog."—A meeting of the leading merchants in the City was held on Monday at the London Tavern to take measures for preventing the city from being inundated with the many railway schemes with which they were threatened; Mr. Crawford, M.P., in the chair. It was the general opinion of the meeting that though the recent report of the parliamentary committee was satisfactory as far as it went, it was too limited in the scope of its inquiries to be all that was required. A resolution was carried that, in a space so limited, and with such rapidly expanding business as the City of London, no railway ought to be constructed that was not absolutely necessary. A committee was appointed to carry out the objects of the evening.—A public meeting of the working classes, chiefly those connected with benefit and friendly societies was held on Saturday night in Exeter Hall, to protest against that clause in the Government Annuities Bill which proposes to authorise the Government to take assurances for sums payable at death to any amount under £100, Mr. Potter, of the Joiners' Association, was in the chair, and several speakers addressed the meeting, and resolutions were moved condemning the proposal, as involving the insulting averment that the working classes were unable to manage their own affairs. To this an amendment was moved, approving of the scheme, and the speakers on that side were heard with tolerable patience, but the original resolution was carried by a large majority.—The decision of the Hebdomadal Council and Congregation of Oxford that Mr. Jowett's salary, as Professor of Greek, should be raised from £10 to £100, has been reversed by Convocation. Summoned by urgent entreaties, non-residents flocked into Oxford on Tuesday, and the proposal to increase the pittance which Mr. Jowett annually receives for his labours as Greek professor, was rejected by 467 votes to 395. The minority included Dean Stanley, Dr. Pusey, Mr. Cardwell, Lord Taunton, and Lord Harrowby.—A most painful accident happened on Monday at Merstham, in Surrey. Sir W. Jolliffe, M.P., was

shooting on his estate there. Among the persons employed in beating the wood and covers for him was a lad named Simmons. This lad, for some reason or other, got into a chalk pit, and he was coming out of it—his head being just above the level of the ground—at the moment that Sir William Jolliffe fired at a rabbit. The charge entered the poor lad's head, and injured him so seriously that he soon afterwards died.—One of the most singular cases that ever came before a magistrate was discussed at the Guildhall on Saturday. A Mr. Foerster charged Mr. Sharp, the solicitor to the Russian agency in London, with violently seizing and detaining notes of the Credit Foncier of Poland, to the value of £27,000. Mr. Foerster had gone to Mr. Sharp as to a person likely to cash them; but that gentleman, on seeing their numbers, at once took possession of them as a portion of the property which was stolen from the Warsaw Bank last year. The counsel for the complainant argued that the notes were the spoils of war, and therefore lawfully in Mr. Foerster's possession. Alderman Besley, however, did not take that view, and not only acquitted Mr. Sharp, but expressed his willingness to issue a summons calling on Mr. Foerster and another person to explain how they came into possession of them.—A man named Lyon, is charged with having thrown some poisonous compound into a house at Rotherham, where the children of a neighbour were, all of whom were injured by the noxious fumes, and one, an infant of a year old, died. An inquest was held, when the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Lyon, and he was committed for trial. Two other persons against whom suspicions were entertained, were acquitted by the jury, but are detained in prison to await an examination by the magistrates.—Mr. Justice Mellor has granted an application, for a commission to examine the Pasha of Egypt and other witnesses at Cairo, relative to the steam rams which have been seized at Birkenhead.—The Danish cruisers have, apparently, left the Channel, their presence in that quarter having, no doubt, become too well known to the owners and captains of German merchant vessels. They are, however, trying what may be done at another point of our coast. Two of them have been seen off the mouth of the Frith of Forth this week, and, on Wednesday, a prize, in the shape of a schooner, was made.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—A Berlin journal, the *Kreuz Zeitung*, asserts that, according to trustworthy accounts from Paris, the Danish Government has refused to treat on the basis of a "personal union" between the Duchies and Denmark, and that consequently the negotiations for a conference may be regarded as terminated. The *Kreuz Zeitung* expresses also an ominous apprehension that France can hardly avoid entanglement in the quarrel—an apprehension which has probably given rise to rumours that Austria, Prussia, and Russia have formed an alliance. Some fighting has taken place in Jutland. A Prussian division of the Guards, accompanied by the Crown Prince and Marshall von Wrangel, advanced on Tuesday, and meeting with some Danish forces drove them back upon Fredericia. So, at least, says the Prussian account, which tells nothing of the numbers engaged on either side, and only reports that the Prussians captured a large number of prisoners, with small loss to themselves. The Austrians advanced at the same time towards Veile. They encountered the Danish cavalry south of that place, and drove them back. Three Danish infantry regiments, three batteries, and two cavalry regiments took up a strong position north of the Veile river. An action ensued, which ended in the Danes being dislodged, with considerable loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners. That is the Austrian story as it came from Kolding, but it is partly confirmed by a telegram from Copenhagen. The Danish General Wilster and four other officers were wounded.—Sweden is drawing closer to Denmark, and it seems likely that a Scandinavian league is

about to be inaugurated. The popular feeling was no doubt fairly expressed in the great meeting held in Stockholm a few nights since. The resolutions passed on that occasion expressed the strongest sympathy with Denmark, and declared that the Swedes were prepared to bear the sacrifices which an "energetic policy" would render necessary. After the meeting the Danish Minister received an ovation. It remains yet to be seen whether the sympathy of the Norwegians is so decidedly in favour of a policy of active intervention.—The Emperor Alexander has issued decrees completing the emancipation of the Polish peasants, and organising "communal administration on the principle of self-government in Poland, by which all connection between the nobility and the peasantry is entirely severed."—In Rome, the Pontifical and the French soldiers have had severe collisions, and appear to be animated with the bitterest spirit towards each other. The strife was renewed for several successive days, despite all the efforts of Mgr. de Merode and the appeals of General de Montebello, who seems to have thought, like the keeper of the famed Irish gamecocks, that the French and the Papal soldiers ought not to quarrel, as they are on the same side.—The Archduke Maximilian has at length arrived in Paris, and we may consequently presume that the impediments to his acceptance of the Mexican Crown, which the Emperor Napoleon has procured for him, have somehow been overcome.

AMERICA.—New York advices to the 20th ult., have been brought by the *City of Washington*, but they possess little interest. General Sherman's Federal corps was reported to have advanced beyond Meridian, to have destroyed some bridges on the Mobile and Ohio Railway, and to have severed the communications of General Polk's forces. His cavalry had defeated the Confederate horse between Jackson and Meridian; and there was said to have been a "severe engagement" on the 13th ult., at Enterprise; but its result was unknown. General Longstreet was rumoured to have retired from the neighbourhood of Knoxville, and to have retreated beyond the French Broad river. General Gilmore had returned to Port Royal; and the Federal expedition to Florida was stated to have been successful, and to have resulted in the capture of eight guns, 100 prisoners, and a large quantity of cotton. The principal news brought from New York by the *China*, is the announcement that Admiral Farragut's squadron had been repulsed by the Confederates at Grant's Pass, some 35 miles from Mobile, and that the Federal General Sherman's corps, having marched 150 miles in ten days, had reached Quitman, and was believed to be marching against Mobile. There was a "doubtful rumour"—which may, no doubt, be regarded as altogether untrue—that General Sherman had defeated General Polk's Confederate corps, and had captured 12,000 prisoners. The Canadian mail steamer *Bohemian* was wrecked on the 22d ult., near Portland; and nineteen persons perished. It would appear that the Federal agents are hiring mercenaries in Germany as well as in Ireland. A large number of German recruits having arrived in Liverpool on their way to the Northern States; but it would seem that some difficulty has arisen on the subject of the large bounty offered. The Germans insist upon having the money before they cross the Atlantic, while the recruiting agents are apparently either unable or unwilling to meet this demand. It remains to be seen how this dispute will end.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S.—We have no time to make the inquiry—neither would the information be of any use if we obtained it, excepting to gratify idle curiosity.

K. T.—In Bedford-row.

F. C.—Under Preston the explanation was altogether different, and far more consistent with Scripture.

R. W.—In 1796.

ERRATA.—We are requested to make the following corrections of matters relating to facts in the report of Bro. Havers' speech at Grand Lodge, in our paper last week:—At p. 184, for "19 Masons, of whom seven were English, eight Irish, and four Scotch," read "15 Masons, of whom six were Irish, four Scotch, and five English;" for "less than one-sixth," read "little less than one-sixth;" p. 185 for "he had been told by a brother," read "the next allegation in the memorial was;" for "£1 17s. 6d.," read "London brethren £1 7s. 6d., Provincial 17s., and Colonial Brethren 7s. 6d. only;" for "£26," read "£63."