

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1864.

GRAND LODGE.

Has no one a grievance? Is no one prepared to lead an opposition in Grand Lodge? or are we to be doomed for ever to the inaction which now prevails? Grand Lodge met on Wednesday, and, on looking round the seats, we began to fancy that the autumn was upon us—notwithstanding that we arrived at the hall in great coats—and that the majority of Grand Lodge had gone to the sea side, where we believe nine-tenths of the W.M.'s manage to prepare themselves for installing their successors.

Grand Lodge was, in truth, decidedly empty; the Board of General Purposes was about to be elected without opposition, and the only question of apparent interest was that relative to the letting of the Tavern, which, in sporting language, had been "made safe" before the meeting. When the occupants of the dais entered, Grand Lodge certainly looked a little more lively; but what were the Grand Stewards about, only seven showing out of eighteen, and we are not quite sure that the whole of those seven were Stewards of the year. Is there no fine on the Grand Stewards for non-attendance? If not there should be. Men have no right to undertake duties they do not intend to perform, neither have they a right to wear a distinguishing badge as having gone through a certain office, the duties of which they regularly shirk, never appearing but on the occasion of the Festival. It is time for a reform in the manner in which the Grand Stewards are appointed; and if they do not attend a little better to their duties, we shall feel bound to do battle for the Craft, to ensure a more equitable system of election than that which now exists.

Grand Lodge opened, and the usual preliminaries having been gone through, the President of the Board of General Purposes brought forward a resolution authorising some alterations in the method of stamping the Grand Lodge certificates so as to economise time in the Grand Secretary's office. The resolution was passed, but we trust that due care will be taken to prevent the stamping becoming too easy, so that false certificates may get abroad. We recollect that when Bro. Elisha Cook, of the United States, was here, he—being a great collector of Masonic documents, even to the envelope of a lodge summons, if it only bore the impress of the square and compasses—

was favoured with a damaged form of a certificate, and forthwith boasted of his prize and how easily it would be to make it pass as a genuine one. Notwithstanding, it would have required a little forgery for the purpose, which we are sure the brother was incapable of, though suggesting what under a lax system of guards with regard to certificates might be done.

Then came the real business of the evening, the giving power to the Committee on the Grand Lodge property to let the Tavern in its present and its future state. We have already given it as our opinion that the tenants have a right to know, at the earliest possible period, the real position in which they stand, and we need not therefore say that we rejoice the resolution was unanimously carried—even the voice of the Objector General to all measures not emanating from himself, being for once, and once only in the memory of the oldest Mason, silent. Alas! what are we coming to? Bro. Havers brought forward the motion in as quiet, able, and argumentative speech as ever delivered in Grand Lodge, the one fault we have to find with it being that it was altogether unnecessary, as he only conjured up giants in order to fell them to the earth. We are sure Grand Lodge did not want to be told that the Committee were not actuated by other than the purest motives in making the propositions—for had Grand Lodge believed so, it would not have required a voice to declare it. Neither was it necessary to attempt to prove how much better a small and permanent Committee could manage Grand Lodge property than a large and continually changing body like the Board of General Purposes. Grand Lodge has too vivid a recollection of the course it was forced to pursue less than two years since to relieve that Board of duties it was evidently incompetent to fulfil, to wish to restore them until every arrangement in connection with the new building is satisfactorily carried out. Bro. Havers paid a befitting tribute to the manner in which the Tavern has been conducted by the present lessees, and expressed an opinion with which all but the Senior Grand Warden will agree, that in any future arrangement they should have a preference, even at a slight sacrifice of immediate income, over new and untried men—though, of course, whilst the lessees are justified in endeavouring to get the house for as little as possible, our Committee are bound to obtain for it the best price they can consistent with efficiency of

management. If, however, the S.G. Warden did not exactly go with the rest of Grand Lodge, we presume we must put it down to the fact that, as he told us at the time of his appointment, he is comparatively new to English Freemasonry—and he is consequently unacquainted with the history alike of the Tavern and the Craft during the last dozen years. Having arrived at the highest honours, without any exertion of his own, and for no reason that can be discovered, unless it be that nobody else would accept the office, it would be as well if Bro. Cole made himself acquainted with what has been passing in England whilst he has been abroad, before venturing to take part in the proceedings of Grand Lodge. One most gratifying announcement was made by Bro. Havers, viz., that the first section of the property is to be completed in November next, and that the whole may be placed into the hands of the Craft within two years, when we hope to be enabled to congratulate the brethren on having a suitable building, long wanted, for the due performance of their ceremonies.

Bro. Stebbing then brought forward a motion for getting rid of disagreeable members from lodges; but, owing to an informality, his motion could not be put, it being ruled inadmissible as against the *Book of Constitutions*; but certainly some means ought to be found of preventing one or two men disturbing the harmony of twenty times the number. A few complimentary votes—complimentary in more senses than one—and Grand Lodge was closed.

We ask again, Will anybody help us to a grievance in order to give some life to the proceedings of Grand Lodge?—otherwise, nobody will attend.

BRO. GARIBALDI.

The following resolution of the Caprera Lodge has been forwarded to the M.W. Grand Master of England, and also to the M.P. Sov. G. Com. 33°, for England and Wales, a request having also been forwarded that it should appear in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE:—

A.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: U.:

L.: Caprera,

Sotto l'obbedienza del Sup.: Cons.: G.: O.: d'Italia
residente in Palermo:

Sicilia.

O.: di Valguarnera li 29 Aprile, 1864, C.: V.:

Fratelli liberi Muratori Inglesi,

La □ Caprera compressa da profonda riconoscenza per le affettuose accoglienze da voi manifestate

al P.: S.: G.: C.: G.: M.: Giuseppe Garibaldi nella riunione ordinaria del 27te mese ha deliberato unanimemente dietro proposta del V.: di esternare a voi la piu sentita gratitudine.

Epperò vi esortiamo, O Fratelli, continuare ad aiutarci nei lavori della emancipazione degli altri fratelli Italiani, che giacciono tuttora sotto il pesante ferro del l'Aquila Imperiale e sotto la verga insopportabile del governo deipreti; per occorrere indi uniti alla emancipazione universale degli altri fratelli calpestati derogni despotamondiale.

Salute e fratellanza,

Il V.:

ARENA SEBASTIANO 18°,

Il S.: fte.

M. LANZA MEICHIELE, 3°

TRANSLATION.

A.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: U.:

Caprera Lodge.

Under the superintendence of the Sup.: Counc.: of
the G.: O.: of Italy residing in Palermo.

Sicily.

O.: of Valguarnera, April 29th, 1864, O.: S.:

Free Masonic Brethren of England,

The Caprera □ in acknowledgment of the affectionate reception you gave to the P.: S.: G.: C.: G.: M.: Joseph Garibaldi, have unanimously resolved in their ordinary meeting of the 27th inst. upon the motion of the V.: to express to you our deeply felt gratitude.

And we exhort you, O, Brethren, to continue to co-operate in the labours for the emancipation of the other Italian Brethren who are still bent under the heavy irons of the Imperial Eagles, and the insupportable yoke of the government of priests, in order to strive with united forces towards the universal emancipation of all the other Brethren that are held down by every kind of earthly despotism.

Greeting and fraternity,

The V.:

ARENA SEBASTIANO, 18°,

The S.: fte.

M. LANZA MEICHIELE, 3°

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

A MODEL LECTURE.

(Concluded from page 421.)

"See ye not the man, bowed down with infirmity, age, and sorrow, who has been deeply drenched in the waters of bitterness! Misfortune has deprived him of his substance, and disease has rendered him unable longer to earn his bread. Mark him telling to those whom Providence has blessed with abundance his tale of woe; pleading for himself and little ones who have been turned with him upon the uncertain charity of a cold and unthinking world! Do you note the auditor melted to tears by the eloquence with which poverty appears to all the fine impulses of the human heart? See him give a portion of his bounty, and calling forth a smile of gladness upon that poor man's woe-stricken cheek, and causing his bedimmed eye to sparkle with joy? Do you not feel that it is more blessed to give than to receive? Do you not go in

humility of spirit to the fountain of kindness and mercy, and invoke a blessing upon the giver?

"Thus to give, thus to relieve sorrow, and want, and suffering, and misery, is one of the most pleasing duties of a true Mason.

"Many thousands are yearly relieved from want and sorrow by the lodges scattered over the wide area of the world. In Great Britain, in Germany, in France, and in America, many thousands of dollars are thus annually employed. Thus does this venerable and benign institution step forth as a husband to the widow, and as a father to the fatherless. The particular charities of a Mason, however, he does not proclaim to the world—it is enough for him to be satisfied, that the hungry have bread, and that suffering is alleviated—that he himself will be blessed with an approving conscience and a glad heart, and that He who went about doing good, will reward him openly. The charity of Masonry is not the charity of class or sect; but, like the vast heavens, it envelopes the whole human family. Around its altars and in its solemn assemblies meet the inhabitants of all climes and of all conditions and contracted sentiments and irrational prejudices are dissolved; while its laws, softening humanity, melt nations into brotherhood. The sublime doctrines of religion it cannot increase; but, like religion, it requires love to God and love to man. With the spiritual intercourse of man with heaven it claims no jurisdiction, and usurps no control; but it continually directs him to that all-seeing eye, which penetrates his most secret thoughts, and teaches him to elevate his soul above the gross indulgences of vice, and refine his affections in the crucible of living virtue, purity, and truth.

"Our loved institution has, however, in all ages of the world been attacked and slandered. Mithredath, Bishlam, and Tabeel complained to the Persian King against our early brethren; and from that day to the present, ignorance, prejudice, passion, and envy have preferred the same charges, though refuted ten thousand times. Against it have been hurled the fulminations of the Vatican, when they were not as they now are, powerless as a shaft against the wind; but when even nations trembled and bowed down before them. The bitterest anathemas of the Inquisition have been pronounced against it. Synods and associations without number—religious, social, and political—have spent their energies in attempting to crush it; but, based upon the rock of eternal truth, and supported by wisdom, prudence, charity, universal benevolence, purity, and love, it has withstood the tempests which have assailed it, and, like gold tried in the crucible, it stands forth to the world brighter and more beautiful for the ordeal through which it has passed.

"It is urged against Freemasonry that it is imprudent, dangerous, and sinful to hazard initiation into an order one of whose fundamental principles is never to reveal its mysteries.

"We ask, in reply to this, if every trade, profession, and calling, have not secrets which are never communicated except to those who seek them, and who are qualified to receive them? Are there not many societies now existing which have secrets never revealed, except to those who enter them in the way prescribed by each? Have not the councillors of our Gracious Queen secrets they never reveal except to their successors in office? Have not the various

governments of the world secrets which they ever sacredly conceal? Why, then, should this be urged against Masons? Why should the indulgence of being governed by our own laws, and of admitting such into our temple as choose to apply for admittance on our own conditions, be denied to us? It is of the first necessity that the area of our science be concealed from a class impostors, common in every age and every land; and that the charities of our society be given only to the worthy; yet with that inviolable secrecy and fidelity which characterize Masonry, its benevolence is sometimes betrayed and abused.

It has also been urged against our institution that it may conceal a party dangerous to the state, and thereby subvert the claims of justice. The whole scope and tenor of Masonic teachings are opposed to this absurd and slanderous accusation. Loyalty to the government and strict adherence to the law have at all times been marked traits of the fraternity; and as a consequence of such, our society has even been cherished by the best of kings, the most equitable governments, and the noblest and purest judges. The whole encyclopædia of Masonic science and jurisprudence shows that the moment one of our number unlawfully engages in political intrigues, dangerous to the state and to the stability of government, that moment he departs from the principles and requirements of Masonry—the moment he swerves from the strictest justice in his relations with his fellow man, that moment he forfeits his claim to the protection and esteem of his brethren.

"The misconduct of some of its members has also been pleaded against the Institution. If this charge be valid against Masonry, it is valid against all other societies.

"Do you who are consistent members of a Christian society, condemn the religion of Jesus Christ because of the apostacy and misconduct of those whom you have admitted to membership? Is the hypocrisy of that man, who goes to the house of God on the Sabbath day, and accepts the sacred symbols from the hands of God's messenger as a token of fidelity, and then goes and deviates from the path of honesty and moral rectitude; is this conduct an impeachment of Christianity? Is this an argument against the inherent goodness and purity of the principles he professes and disgraces? If so, then is the Bible itself a myth, and religion a fable. But you will at once reject such an argument and its result, as unjust and absurd as applied to religion, equally absurd and unjust is it as applied to Masonry.

"It is unfortunately too true, that unworthy men have found their way into the Masonic temple, men who know little of Masonry but its name, and as they are bad Masons, so are they bad citizens, bad neighbours, and bad men. This is deeply regretted, and every proper method is used to remedy the evil. There is also in Masonry, as in Christianity, a falling away or fading of the once famed goodness of some of its members. But is not such seen in all societies? Until man's nature is entirely changed, until he ceases to be fallible, frail, and imperfect, this will ever be; but I ask again, if this is an argument against the goodness and morality of a society? Let the answer be given in the spirit of candour, and void of prejudice.

"It is also said that the preservation of the secrets of Masonry is due only to some ridiculous or shameful practices, which compels the initiate to be silent after he has undergone the ceremony. Can any one believe it possible, that the thousands of illustrious men of every rank, age, and country; philosophers, statesmen, judges, divines, princes, kings, and emperors, whose names emblazon the annals of Masonry, would aid in supporting and perpetuating an imposture? The whole world is appealed to, in justification of our moral system; our constitutions are well known, they have been freely submitted to universal investigation, they are solemnly declared to be the principles by which we are governed, the foundations on which we build, and the rules by which we work. It will be seen that the morality of Masonry is on a broader basis than Paley's, and its religion, free from sectarianism, is purity and truth. Every social and moral virtue will adorn those who reduce to practice the teachings of the lodge-room, and the principles upon which they are built.

"But I must bring these remarks to a close, for I fear I have already detained you too long, and wearied your patience. I sincerely thank you for your attention, but permit me in conclusion to *recapitulate* a few of the results of this ancient and noble science.

"It has rendered atheism less popular; for the atheist and irreligious libertine cannot pass the threshold of a Masonic lodge. It has exalted the name of Jehovah as an object of reverence; induced a belief in revelation and directed the attention of mankind to the Holy Scriptures. It tends to circumscribe human passions and to render the conscience more sensitive. It lessens the frequency and reduces the horrors of war, by removing national prejudice and bringing nationalities into communion with each other. It inspires mutual esteem, confidence, and philanthropy, in the breast of man, and implants there habits of self-restraint and benevolence, and finally, it has tended to preserve, perpetuate, and advance the arts and sciences, and every useful branch of human knowledge.

"Such are some of the results and tendencies of Masonry; and if the imperfect sketch I have here presented, should tend to clear away one prejudice, or dispel one doubt, it will be to me a sweet reward.

"To the Worshipful Masters, respected officers, and beloved brethren of the lodges assembled here to-day.

"I should feel that my duty was not accomplished were I to permit this occasion to pass without a word or two to you. Let me remind you, that although Masonry is not a proselytizing institution, neither is it a passive and inert one; but demands constant, unremitting action. To you peculiarly belongs the luxury of doing good. Benevolence in thought, in word, and in deed, is a Mason's bounden duty. That holy spirit you should ever exercise towards each other especially, and towards all mankind. Wait not for objects of suffering and sorrow to be brought to your notice for sympathy and aid by persons of the world; show that the teachings of the lodge room have had their legitimate effect, by seeking them out, and ministering such consolation as necessity requires, and your means will permit. For thus are you summoned by Him, who spake as never man spake. The needy and unfortunate ever demand it of you, the

afflictions of the homeless, the sorrows of the orphan, the woes and tears of the wretched, and the cries of the widow are at all times appealing to you. All the noble and generous impulses which infinite tenderness and compassion have implanted in your hearts call upon you.

"To you, also, is committed the vast responsibility of adorning the Masonic temple. I charge you to be careful how you select the materials for it. Remember that numbers do not necessarily constitute strength, neither does apparent respectability imply fitness. Bear in mind that one faulty stone defaces and weakens the whole structure. The sordid and avaricious man, however respectable in the eyes of the world, is as unfit to enter the portals of our glorious temple, as the physical and intellectual imbecile. Ever keep before you the symbolic teachings of the square, that you may do your duty to your God and your fellow-men. Let the rectitude of your daily life be a living refutation of every slanderous report; copy the example of that pure and holy man, whose day we have assembled to celebrate, and may the great light of the lodge-room illumine your pathway and direct you onward until you gain admission to the Grand Lodge above. Peace be with you, my brethren, in your varied occupations, may prosperity and happiness attend you; and finally, let me part with you in the beautiful lines of a highly gifted Craftsman of another land.

"Trust not the future, the present is open,
Earnestly strive thy vocation to fill,
Would you be useful, take this for a token,
Never from virtuous action be still.
Go to the widow and cancel her weeping,
Harbour the orphan in charity's keeping,
Waken the soul, that's remorsefully sleeping,
All may do good if they have but the will.
Trust not the future, then; be not a dreamer,
Join in the ranks of truth, justice, and love,
Walk in the presence of God your Redeemer,
To-day—the present is yours to improve.
Work for your Maker, it is not laborious,
Work for your brother, the task is all glorious,
Work for yourself, and if only victorious,
Angels will crown you in heaven above."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

GRAND CONCLAVE.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—While disclaiming any wish or intention to enter into a controversy with Bro. Havers on the subject of my remarks at the last Grand Conclave, with reference to his speech when presiding at the annual festival of the Stability Lodge of Instruction, I cannot, in justice to myself, allow the letter in your last publication to pass altogether unnoticed, because I am there stated to be "entirely in error," though the error is kindly admitted as unintentional.

Unfortunately, owing to a misunderstanding, no reporter was present; but I can summon witnesses of character and position to testify to the correctness of my assertions. Some brethren in my immediate neighbourhood, and many in various parts of the room, united with me in regretting the tone of Bro. Havers' remarks, and that, in the exercise of his dis-

cretion in the discharge of the duties of his distinguished position, he should have thought fit at so interesting and agreeable a reunion to introduce subjects of controversy in a manner calculated to wound the susceptibilities of a large number of the brethren then assembled. That such was the result of Bro. Havers' remarks I unhesitatingly repeat; and so far from any expression of "astonishment" having been manifested at the nature of my reply, I can truthfully state, without egotism, that it was very warmly and cordially received; and that on retiring I was met with numerous congratulations, proving that my very imperfect attempt to defend the Orders attacked was not considered "needless," though I must myself demur to Bro. Havers' complimentary description of it as "elaborate."

I readily concede to Bro. Havers the absence of intention to attack "the higher degrees," but that he did take for a text a reference in the splendid oration recently delivered by V. W. Bro. Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, and proceed in a strain that vividly recalled certain passages in allusion to the same question in his speech from the chair of the "Stability Festival" last year, is incontestable. It may be with Bro. Havers, as with others of strong feelings and warm impulses, in treating of an unpalatable theme, zeal sometimes hurries the speaker beyond the bounds he had prescribed for himself.

I am equally at a loss to know what "new degrees have sprung into existence during the last year," and, gratified by the assurance that Bro. Havers "felt and expressed respect for the Templars," can only hope that a more intimate knowledge of the objects sought to be accomplished by the various orders and degrees connected with our ancient and valued institution, may induce a similar feeling of respect from the members of one to the other, even if it fail in inducing approval, or securing unanimity of opinion.

With all deference to Bro. Havers, whose views on any question are entitled to every respect and attention, I must confess my inability to recognise anything unadvisable in my attempting—while responding for our magnificent charitable institutions—to recommend an observance in a peculiar manner in a brotherhood such as ours, of that charity which teaches us to bear and to forbear, and to view with indulgence, and to regard with kindness those differences of opinion which in all large bodies inevitably must have place. Nor can I accept unchallenged his reproof of my easily justifiable allusions at the banquet after the meeting of Grand Conclave, to which Bro. Havers takes exception. I am not only an advocate of charity in its practical application, but I am a Masonic student and inquirer, with a very exalted notion of Freemasonry generally, believing it capable of much higher efforts than it has yet made, but despairing of seeing those efforts result in successful accomplishment until we have all thoroughly imbibed the true spirit of unity and brotherly love.

With those impressions, my remarks on the occasion in question were made; with those impressions, untinged by any unfriendly feeling towards any one, these lines are very hastily penned.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours very faithfully and fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES.

London, May 30th, 1864.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

The Doric Lodge of Instruction has removed to Bro. D. Scurr's, Three Cranes, Mile-end-road, and meet every Friday evening, at eight o'clock.

GRAND LODGE.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

The quarterly meeting of Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, presiding, supported by Bros. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M.; Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. Hants; A. Dobie, Prov. G.M. Surrey; Fawcett, Prov. G.M. Durham; Col. Cole, S.G.W.; Sir John Ratcliffe, J.G.W.; the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, Grand Chaplain; McIntyre, G. Reg.; Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; the Grand Secretary; J. R. Stebbing and Plucknett, S.G.D.'s; H. Maudslay, and J. Dighton, J.G.D.'s; Cockerell, G. Supt. of Works; Albert W. Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; T. Fenn, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Young, G.S.B.; W. Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Stimpson, G. Org.; Dickie, G. Purst.; Emmens, Assist. G. Purst.; Payne, G. Tyler. There were also present the following Past Grand Officers:—Bros. Havers, P.G.W.; Jennings, Hon. P.G.W.; Rev. J. Hyshe, P.G. Chap.; F. Roxburgh, P.G. Reg.; S. B. Wilson, C. H. Gregory, J. Hervey, J. Savage, Captain Creaton, L. Crombie, Blake, Potter, J. Udall, W. P. Scott, B. Head, J. N. Tompkins, Hopwood, and Phillips, P.G.D.'s; Walmisley, Hyde Pullen, Spiers, N. Bradford, C. Elkington, and Empson, P.G.S.B.'s; John Symonds, and S. E. Nutt, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; Adams, J. Smith, and Brightling, P.G. Purst.; the Master, P.M.'s, and Wardens of the Grand Stewards Lodge, and the Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters of various other lodges.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and with solemn prayer.

THE LAST QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

The G. SECRETARY read the minutes of the quarterly communication of the 2nd of March.

The G. MASTER put them for confirmation, and they were unanimously confirmed.

THE GRAND FESTIVAL.

The G. SECRETARY next read the minutes of the Grand Festival of the 27th of April, which were also unanimously confirmed.

BRO. D. R. FARMER, P. GRAND PURSUIVANT.

The G. MASTER moved "That Bro. David Ross Farmer, late Grand Pursuivant, do take the rank and wear the clothing of a Past Grand Pursuivant."

The motion was put and unanimously agreed to.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The following brethren were nominated to form the Board of General Purposes:—Bro. J. Ll. Evans, President; Bros. McIntyre, W. H. White, J. R. Stebbing, J. Hervey, S. B. Wilson, A. W. Woods, Capt. Creaton, Thos. Fenn, and J. Smith. The following were elected:—Bros. F. Bennoch, W.M. No. 1; J. Consadine, W.M. 9; G. Gurney, jun., W.M. 28; J. S. Pierce, W.M. 33; Forster, W.M. 162; W. H. Hubbard, W.M. 173; F. Beale, W.M. 237; S. Tomkins, jun., P.M. 2; F. Adlard, P.M. 7; Cox, P.M. 18; J. Savage, P.M. 19; Pullen, P.M. 46; Kennedy, P.M. 60; Clabon, P.M. 235. There being no more candidates than vacancies.

The G. MASTER declared that they should form the Board of General Purposes for the ensuing year.

COLONIAL BOARD.

The following brethren were declared to be the members of the Colonial Board for the ensuing year:—Bros. Hopwood, President; Le Vean and J. Smith. The following were elected: Bros. Lee, 9; Levinson, 19; J. Horton Smith; Mason, 144; J. Hogg, 172; and Raynham Stewart, 780.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The G. MASTER declared that the following do form the Committee of Management of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows for the ensuing year:—Bros. F. Adlard, P.M. 7; H. Bridges, P.M. 33; A. H. Hewlett, P.M. 23; C. Lee, P.M. 9; M. Levinson, P.M. 19; W. S. Masterman, W.M. 410; J. R. Sheen, P.M. 201; R. W. Stewart, P.M. 108; H. G. Warren, P.M. 172; W. Young, P.M. 60.

The G. SECRETARY then read the report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter.

Bro. JENNINGS, P.G.D.C., moved the adoption of the report.

The G. MASTER put the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

The following grants, on the recommendation of the Board, were then made:—

Bro. J. C., of the Royal Union Lodge (No. 246) Cheltenham	£30
The widow of Bro. E. S. C., of the Royal Albert Edward Lodge (No. 906) Tewkesbury	50
Bro. R. D., of the Vitruvian Lodge (No. 87), London	35
Bro. C. J. M., of the Lodge of Prudent Brethren (No. 145), London	30
Bro. H. B., of the Lodge of Benevolence (No. 336), Marple, near Stockport	30
Bro. H. M., of Saint Davids' Lodge (No. 366) Milford	30
The widow of Bro. J. F. W., of St. Peters' Lodge (No. 419), Wolverhampton	50

To the report was subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 13th instant, showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £1,875 17s. 7d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £1,291 10s. 6d., to the Fund of General Purposes £187 1s. 10d., and there is in the unappropriated account, £447 5s. 3d.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The report of the Board of General Purposes was taken as read, and Bro. Llewellyn Evans (the President) moved that it be received and entered on the minutes.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES then drew the attention of Grand Lodge to the following paragraph in the report:—"It has been brought to the attention of the Board that great inconvenience arises from the manner in which Grand Lodge certificates are now obliged to be prepared for taking an impression of the Grand Lodge seal, occasioning great waste of time. The Board beg to recommend that they be authorised to make such alteration in the mode of sealing the certificates as may to them seem advisable." He suggested that power should be given to the Board to make such arrangements as might be deemed requisite, and afterwards submitted a motion to that effect, which was agreed to.

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

This report was taken as read, on the motion of Bro. Havers, and he afterwards moved that it be received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. HAVERS, P.G.W., said the report which had just been read, concluded in the following words:—"The committee feel that the time will shortly arrive when it will be necessary to decide upon the letting of the future tavern. They have anxiously considered this subject, and taking into consideration the inconvenience, loss, and possible injustice which may occur through a delay of several months after negotiations are opened, and before any definite settlement can be come to, they are of opinion that it is essential to the interests of the Craft, as well as of the tenant, that the Grand Lodge should authorise the committee to make the necessary arrangements in that respect, they therefore respectfully submit the following resolution for the adoption of Grand Lodge, viz.:—"That the committee be, and are hereby empowered, to take the necessary steps on behalf of Grand Lodge, for the letting of the present and future tavern and the premises in Middle-yard, upon such terms and conditions as may seem to them to be just and advantageous." In moving that resolution, he said it might appear at the first blush of it that the committee had taken into their own hands a greater amount of responsibility than was entrusted to them, but he could assure Grand Lodge that the committee felt deeply the responsibility and the necessity why this subject should be left in their hands—Having fully considered that they would not shrink from that responsibility, as they believed that it was the only course that they could consistently take, and the only one that was likely to promote the advantage and interest of the Craft. He felt, however, that statements had been made with regard to the Committee and himself which ought not to have been made, in a society where men knew him and knew his antecedents. He thought it his duty to give the reasons which had induced the committee to make this recommendation, for, during the last week or fortnight rumours had been rife in more quarters than one that his desire was to advance the interest of some person, and to make this resolution the ground for letting the premises to some favoured party to the exclusion of the present tenant. Now, he knew that in every society, when charges were made, if not contradicted, men would shake their heads and say—"See, he does not disclaim the rumour, however, unfounded may be the charge." He might state, however, that with the exception of Bro. Shrewsbury, he had had no communication with any one as regarded the future tenancy, or did he know a single individual whom he would desire to become their tenant. Having made that statement, he could only say that if he could be guilty of conduct so unjust he should be unworthy to be Chairman of the Building Committee, and ought to be scouted from it. The Committee had, hitherto been guided by principles of inflexible integrity, and he claimed for them confidence in the future. They had to ascertain the marketable value of their property and to obtain the best price for it. Bro. Shrewsbury naturally desired to retain the property, as a commercial man at as low a price as possible, and he was right in doing so, and although he (Bro. Havers) then only spoke on his own behalf, yet he believed he might speak for the rest of the committee, when he said that if Bro. Shrewsbury, who had shown so much zeal to improve their property and paid his rent so regularly, should make a fair and equitable offer, and should be ready to make such alterations in his arrangements as would carry on the business in the building to the satisfaction of Grand Lodge, that he ought to have the first offer of it, and even at a less price than they would take from a stranger. All landlords had the same feeling to deal fairly and liberally with an old tenant, that was the reason why he said they might allow the present

tenant to continue so at a less rent than they would take from a stranger. He would then apply himself to certain objections which might be raised to the resolution which he was about to propose. He might be told that by his resolution they would take out of the hands of the Board of General Purposes the power which from time immemorial belonged to them. Now, at the first blush that might seem to be so, but he would endeavour to show that that was not true. According to the "Book of Constitutions" they were to be entrusted with the management and carrying out of alterations and improvements. That no doubt was true, but this was quite an exceptional case. Grand Lodge considered that, as the Board of General Purposes, from its changeable nature, was not a proper body to be entrusted with the erection of the new building, it was determined that a subordinate body should have charge of the building. As to letting the building the Board of General Purposes could not let it unless they came to Grand Lodge at every step, but if a person who wanted to take the premises suggested certain alterations by which the business could be carried on more satisfactorily the committee could agree to them, if they did not increase the cost. That the Board of General Purposes could not do. He knew the Board of General Purposes well, and he could safely say that no jealousy whatever was felt on behalf of the Board of General Purposes in giving to the Building Committee the power which properly belonged to them. He next came to another objection which had been raised, that Grand Lodge ought not to part with this power out of its own hands, but against this objection he thought there existed stronger reasons than as to the last. In a body composed of upwards of 500 men they could not settle such a point as that, it would cause great delay, which was fatal in all business transactions. Whether Bro. Shrewsbury was to be their tenant or not, he said that he had then a stock on the premises worth £15,000, and if he was not to be their future tenant he ought to have ample notice so as to give him time to dispose of his stock. If he was to be their tenant, then he ought to have proper time allowed to make such alterations and additions as were required for the new building. He (Bro. Havers) said that Grand Lodge, as men of business, were bound to give him an answer, for even a stranger would not be content to wait for six months, and to have his offer canvassed in such a way. If Grand Lodge should determine to retain the power in its own hands, and it should also approve of the recommendations of the committee, then so much time would be lost; but if they rejected their recommendation they might accept a tenant whom the committee could not approve, and thus another difficulty would be created. He might be asked why the committee asked for that power then, and why they could not wait for six months, but he might say that they believed the present new buildings would be finished in November next, and he hoped that it would be fit for the transference of the offices of the Grand Secretary in May. He hoped to see the buildings completed by next April twelvemonths, and as they must come to some arrangement in the early part of the next year, he thought the sooner they come to some definite arrangement the better. Every day the committee had additional reasons to see the prospect of a great success, but it required time to develop their resources, and they ought not to push on the work too fast. The only feeling of the committee was, that as they had commenced the work they ought to be allowed to crown it, and that Grand Lodge would delegate to them those powers which they felt, as a popular body, they were unable to deal with themselves. He concluded by moving—"That the committee be, and are hereby empowered, to take the necessary steps on behalf of Grand Lodge, for the letting of the present

and future tavern and premises in Middle-yard, upon such terms and conditions as may seem to them to be just and advantageous."

Bro. ADLARD seconded the motion, believing that it was the only proper course that Grand Lodge could adopt.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES said there was no feeling of jealousy whatever between the Board of General Purposes and the Building Committee; and, indeed, the Board had never had the subject referred to brought under its consideration. He imagined that he spoke the sentiments of the Board when he said that he believed this matter was better left in the hands of the Building Committee than it would be in that of the Board over which he had the honour to preside. At the same time he might remark that seven members of the Building Committee were members of the Board of General Purposes, and of course they formed a powerful element in the decisions of that committee.

Bro. DOBIE, Prov. G.M. for Surrey, hoped in any arrangements that were come to that the Trustees of the property would be consulted, that they should have fair and not an exacting rent, and a good tenant.

Bro. HAYERS said, as one of the Trustees of the property, the committee intended to adopt the course which Bro. Dobie had proposed.

Bro. Colonel COLE, S.G.W., said he had never heard that the Building Committee had the smallest interest in the letting of the tavern. He had heard a whisper of the rumours which had been referred to, and he thought they could only have existed in the mind of Bro. Havers, but he could see no reason why they should receive Bro. Shrewsbury on his paying a lower rent than any other tenant. If that was the principle upon which the Building Committee acted he thought that Grand Lodge would not be satisfied with their proceedings. Some might wish to have a change, others might wish to keep the present tenant, but there ought to be neither favour or affection either one way or the other. It had been stated that there would be a difficulty if the matter was to be left in the hands of Grand Lodge, as any determination it might come to would have to be confirmed three months hence, but that must be the case with Bro. Havers' resolution, and he could not see how that difficulty would be got over.

A BROTHER, whose name we could not learn, agreed with their brother, the Senior Grand Warden, that if this subject was left in the hands of the Building Committee they should select the tenant without any feeling of favour or affection, but circumstances might arise which would justify the committee in not taking the highest offer. The committee ought to weigh all the circumstances, and not be allured by the highest offer, for if the business was not properly carried on it would not be merely the tenant, but their property might suffer from it. He was content to leave the matter in the hands of the committee, in whom they had full confidence.

The G. MASTER put the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The annual report of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows was laid before Grand Lodge.

GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.

The G. MASTER said the following resolution, passed by the Grand Lodge of Ireland on the 7th April, 1864, has been received from the Lord Naas, representative of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in the Grand Lodge of England, viz.:-
"That a communication be addressed by the Grand Lodge of

Ireland to the Grand Lodge of England, requesting them to state officially to the Grand Lodge of Ireland the position which a Past Master under the Irish Constitution occupies, or is entitled to occupy, in a lodge under the English Constitution, and to what extent the Grand Lodge of England recognises the degree of a Past Master under the Irish Constitution."

The D.G. MASTER said he was sure that any communication that was received from a sister Grand Lodge, from its importance would be received with that affection which characterised Freemasonry in every part of the world. In considering this resolution, he was anxious to recommend a course that was consistent with the rules and practice of Grand Lodge, and with a desire to pay every attention to communications they might receive from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, or any other of the sister Grand Lodges. He believed that this communication had arisen in consequence of the recent ruling which had proceeded from the M.W. G. Master, and which ruling was afterwards endorsed by Grand Lodge itself. The ruling was as to the position which a Past Master under the Irish Constitution occupied in a lodge in this country; and it was held that before he could exercise the functions of Master in England he must have served twelve months as Warden in an English lodge. It was unnecessary that he (the D.G.M.) should enter into the grounds upon which they came to that decision, and why they endorsed the ruling of the Grand Master; but he thought it right that they should explain the reasons on the question, which was put by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, "To what extent the Grand Lodge of England recognises the degree of a Past Master under the Irish Constitution." He thought it would be difficult in Grand Lodge to say in what terms the answer should be couched; but he thought he was right in the position when he said they did not recognise the P.M. in the same way (as we understood him) as an Installed Master. It seemed to him, under the circumstances, looking at the technical nature of the inquiry and the importance of sending to the Grand Lodge of Ireland a full explanation of their news in well-considered language, instead of passing a resolution on that occasion, which might be sent to the Grand Lodge of Ireland in ambiguous terms, that they should delegate proper authority to some one to return an answer. He would therefore propose to Grand Lodge that the Grand Registrar, as the constitutional adviser, should draw up a full and complete reply as to the reasons which guided or conducted Grand Lodge in their decision on the subject. That this answer should be sent to the Grand Master, and having received his approval, should be transmitted to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS seconded the motion.

The G. MASTER put the question, which was carried unanimously.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

Bro. JOHN UDALL, P.G.D., moved:—"That the sum of fifty pounds be given from the Fund of General Purposes to supply the inmates of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows with coals, and that the same be placed in the hands of the Secretary."

The motion was agreed to.

BLACKBALLING MEMBERS.

Bro. J. RANKIN STEBBING, S.G.D., rose to move the first resolution, of which he had given notice on this subject:—"To follow article 21, page 65, of the "Book of Constitutions." "If the conduct of any member or members shall be such as to render it undesirable, in the opinion of a large majority of the lodge, that such member or members should continue to be a member or members thereof, he or they may be excluded from the lodge, provided that the following conditions be strictly

fulfilled:—"That the motion for exclusion shall be made at a regular meeting of the lodge. That seven days' notice of the intention to move such resolution shall be given to the member or members whom it is proposed to exclude, and to all the other members of the lodge. That the decision upon such resolution shall be taken by show of hands, and shall be carried by a majority of not less than 10 to 1 of the brethren actually present and voting, exclusive of the member or members to whom the resolution refers. That the resolution be confirmed at the next regular meeting of the lodge." He said—From the attention which had been paid to the few observations he made at the last Grand Lodge, he owed no apology for submitting the resolution he had just proposed. It had been a complaint for many years to the Board of General Purposes that there were members who made lodges very uncomfortable, without breaking any special law of the Craft, and in some instances had stopped the association of the brethren altogether. Bro. Watson had stated a case of that kind at the last Grand Lodge, but had withdrawn a motion he submitted, being satisfied with having agitated the subject, and with the prospect of the difficulty of which he complained being met in another way. There were some brethren who, without committing a breach of any Masonic law, made themselves exceedingly offensive. Now, a private lodge was a social community, indeed it was almost a family party; and although a man might not break any positive Masonic law, yet he could render himself extremely offensive to forty or fifty brethren whom he was frequently in the habit of meeting, and he thought there ought to be some regulation under which he could be removed from amongst them without removing him from Freemasonry. In some lodges there were two or three brethren whose line of conduct was based upon a sort of ambition, that they were not weighed and measured according to their own standard of value, who did not get the exact office they required, or who did not become Master as soon as they deserved, and because their own views were not satisfied they threatened that no new members should be admitted. In doing this they broke no Masonic law—they did not break the law of the lodge, as many men did not break the laws of their country, but, who, after all, might be greater scoundrels than those who were confined within the walls of a gaol. If they had a wholesome law without having the necessity of drawing up an indictment as would be done at a Court of Quarter Sessions, they might then get rid of a disagreeable member, but at the present time he could not be touched as he did not violate the "Book of Constitutions," and he went on in spite of them. There was a remarkable institution, for, when they admitted a new member they made him a Mason for life, and having got possession of their secrets, however disagreeable a fellow he might become, if he did not violate the "Book of Constitutions" they could not get rid of him. The lodge would double its numbers and double its happiness. No, he was wrong, they could not double their happiness, for, at the present time, they had none at all. (Laughter.) He proposed that it should be competent for a lodge, by a large majority, without assigning any special reasons, to exclude a A., B., or C., from amongst the members of the lodge. He did not care whether it was to be by 3 to 1 or 10 to 1, but let it be by some substantial majority, but without recording any particular offence or assigning why you want to get rid of a member. Like all other institutions some joined Freemasonry the better to enable them to carry out some nefarious object and make a raid upon the public. He wished to add to his resolution—"without prejudice to any right of appeal," so that if there was any mal-administration of the law a brother excluded could appeal and see that justice was done him. He

hoped for the peace and happiness of Freemasonry this power would be granted, for the kind and honest man would never be touched by it, and the only one who would be touched would be those who made others miserable, whose ambition was disappointed because they had not reached the acme of success as soon as they thought they ought to have done, but much sooner than the brethren would be willing to concede to them.

The G. MASTER said before any further discussion took place, he felt that there would be great difficulty in his putting the question as it was at variance with the "Book of Constitutions." He found the following in the "Book of Constitutions," at page 65:—"If any brother behave in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of the lodge he shall be thrice formally admonished by the Master, and if he persist in his irregular conduct he shall be punished by censure, fine, or exclusion, according to the by-laws of the lodge, or the case may be reported to higher Masonic authority. No lodge shall exclude any member without giving him due notice of the complaint made against him and of the time appointed for its consideration. The name of every brother excluded, with the cause of exclusion, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary, and, if a country lodge, also to the Provincial Grand Master." Without giving any opinion of Bro. Stebbing's resolution, and of the good reasons he had given for serious consideration, it would be impossible for him to put the resolution unless the two paragraphs in the "Book of Constitutions" he had read were first repealed.

The G. REGISTRAR said the ruling his lordship had been pleased to adopt was in accordance with the "Book of Constitutions" and no other ruling could be adopted by Grand Lodge. By law 21 no lodge could exclude a member without giving the member notice of the cause of his exclusion, and Bro. Stebbing's notice would not state the precise complaint of the lodge. Until the laws 20 and 21 were repealed, the resolution of Bro. Stebbing could not be adopted by Grand Lodge.

Bro. STEBBING said he should have great pleasure in bringing this subject before the Board of General Purposes in conjunction with the Grand Registrar, and he hoped, before the Grand Lodge in September, to do something to promote the increased happiness of the brethren.

The matter then dropped.

The G. REGISTRAR then moved the following resolutions, introducing each by a few complimentary observations:—
 "1. That the cordial thanks of this Grand Lodge be given to the Chairman and the other members of the Building Committee for the complete and excellent arrangements made by them, whereby the comfort of the Craft was secured and ample accommodation provided for their witnessing the ceremony of the foundation-stone of the new buildings being laid by the M.W.G.M.
 2. That the cordial thanks of this Grand Lodge be also given to the W. Bro. Albert W. Woods, G. Dir. of Cers., to the R.W. Bro. R. W. Jennings, P.G.W., and to the other brethren who acted as assistants to the Grand Director of Ceremonies, for the very admirable and efficient manner in which they preserved order and conducted the entire proceedings at the ceremonial of the foundation-stone being laid.
 3. That this Grand Lodge desires to record its hearty and grateful thanks to the V.W. Bro. the Rev. Adolphus F. A. Woodford, G. Chap., for the eloquent and instructive oration delivered by him on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the new buildings."

These resolutions were unanimously carried, the first being seconded by Bro. SPIERS, Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire; the second by Bro. HEAD, P.S.G.D.; and the third by Bro. SAYAGE, P.S.G.D.

Bro. ALFRED SMITH moved "That these votes should be engrossed on vellum, and presented to those to whom they were

passed, so that for the future a record might be preserved of this interesting event."

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Bro. STEBBING, S.G.D., then moved "That the votes of thanks to Bros. Woods and Jennings should be engrossed in duplicate," which was also agreed to.

This being the whole of the business, the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer soon after ten o'clock.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The annual meeting of the subscribers to this institution, was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Friday, the 20th ult., Bro. John Udall, P.J.G.D., in the chair.

The minutes of the annual general meeting held on the 15th day of May, 1863, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read.

The secretary reported that the W.M. Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, K.T., President of the Institution, had named Wednesday, the 25th January, 1863, for the next Annual Festival, and that the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire, had kindly consented to preside on that occasion.

The following report of the audit was read, and ordered to be entered on the minutes, viz:—

We, the undersigned, having audited the treasurer's accounts from the 1st April, 1863, to the 31st March, 1864 inclusive, and the several vouchers having been produced, do find the same correct, and as follows:—

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

FOR MALE ANNUITANTS:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance 31st March, 1863	984	6	2
Subsequent receipts	2999	17	6
	3984	3	8
Disbursements	1855	19	2
Purchase of £1,000 3 per Cent. Reduced	926	5	0
	2782	4	2
Balance on this account	1201	19	0

FOR WIDOWS' ANNUITANTS:—

Balance 31st March, 1863	741	5	7
Subsequent receipts	1847	16	2
	2589	1	9
Disbursements	1148	8	1
Purchase of £550 3 per Cent. Reduced	509	8	9
	1657	16	10
Balance on this account	931	4	11

FOR SUSTENTATION OF BUILDING:—

Balance 31st March, 1863	74	19	2
Subsequent receipts	62	7	7
	137	6	9
Disbursements	5	10	0
Purchase of £57 12s. 3d. 3 per Cent. Consols	53	7	4
	58	17	4
Balance on this account	78	9	5

Total balance in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., bankers of the Treasurer... £2211 13 10

(Signed) HENRY G. WARREN, } Auditors.
 J. R. SILEEN,

Grand Secretary's Office, Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C., 2nd May, 1864.

The following report of the committee of management was read, and ordered to be entered on the minutes, viz.:-

The committee of management, in presenting their report this year (being the twenty-second of the establishment of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged and Decayed Freemasons, and the fifteenth year of the fund for the relief of distressed widows of members of the Craft), has more than ordinary satisfaction in calling to the notice of the governors and subscribers the still continued and increasing support which it receives from lodges generally, not only in the metropolis, but in the provinces.

In the present year, which is the fifth in which an Anniversary Festival has been holden, sixty-nine brethren tendered their services as Stewards; that meeting was fixed by the M.W. Grand Master for Wednesday, the 27th of January, and by the R.W. Bro. His Grace the Duke of St. Alban's, Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire, when the subscriptions and donations contained in the lists of the several stewards amounted to £2,376. This being the fifth successive year in which the large sum of upwards of £2,000 was produced, has enabled the committee during that period to augment the funded property of the institution, in conformity with the rules, by the purchase in the aggregate of £7,657 12s. 3d. 3 per Cent. Stock. In this sum is included purchases for the sustentation fund, completing the amount of £1,000, fixed by the laws; beyond which it is not necessary to be augmented, except by investment of its own interest. It has also enabled the committee to increase the number of annuitants by eighteen men and eighteen women.

The permanent annual income is therefore now—Male fund, £1,098; widows' fund, £563; total, £1,661.

After the election last year there were seventy-nine male annuitants, of whom thirteen have since died, and the committee have recommended the election of fourteen, which will make the number eighty.

After the last election, there were forty-seven widows, of whom six have since died; and the committee have recommended the election of six, which will continue the number forty-seven. There are also at present seven widows, receiving half the amount of their late husband's annuities.

The number of annuitants, and the total amount received by them, are as follows:—

Of the male annuitants, fifteen are of London lodges, receiving £350 per annum; fifty-one are of country lodges, receiving £1,125; total, £1,475. Of the widows, twenty are of brethren of London lodges, receiving £425; twenty-one are of brethren of country lodges, receiving £410; widows receiving half the amount of their deceased husbands' annuities, are three of London lodges, receiving £35; four of country lodges, receiving £43; total, £943; grand total (114 annuitants) £2,418.

The asylum building at Croydon is in perfect substantial repair, as also its drains, which are good and efficient, and the painting and whitewashing kept in excellent condition, so that all aids to comfort and health are well attended to.

The committee has further to state that £50 was voted by the Grand Lodge, on the 2nd of September last, for coals for the inmates in the asylum, and placed in Bro. Farnfield's hands, it is now all expended; a monthly supply of 4 cwt. having been delivered by Mr. Bean, of Croydon, to each inmate, from October, 1863, to May, 1864, both inclusive.

The Chairman stated the brethren would have to elect, to form part of the Committee of Management for the ensuing year, three brethren in lieu of Bros. Thomas E. Davis, W. Wentworth Davis, and Abraham A. Le Veau, who go out in accordance with the fifth article of the rules. Bros. Charles Lee, Morris Levinson, and Raynham W. Stewart were severally proposed and seconded and declared elected.

The following are the Committee of Management for the ensuing year, viz.:-

Frederick Adlard, P.M. 7	W. S. Masterman, W.M. 410
Henry Bridges, P.M. 33	James R. Sheen, P.M. 201
A. H. Hewlett, P.M. 23	R. W. Stewart, P.M. 108
Charles Lee, P.M. 9	H. G. Warren, P.M. 172
Morris Levinson, P.M. 19	William Young, P.M. 60

Bros. John Symonds, P. Assist. Dir. of Cers. Henry George Warren, and James R. Sheen were elected Auditors for the ensuing year.

The election was then proceeded with and resulted as follows:—

MALE ANNUITANTS.—Successful Candidates.

Bro. B. Butter 15,569	Bro. T. Ledward 9,416
„ James Winter 12,423	„ J. Morley 8,906
„ Robert Deck ... 12,377	„ W. D. Hughes... 8,374
„ B. Mitchell ... 12,152	„ W. B. Beutley... 8,305
„ W. B. Packwood 10,930	„ C. Hinde 7,340
„ E. C. Priest ... 10,643	„ T. Gunter..... 7,215
„ H. Maxwell ... 9,819	„ S. H. Saukey ... 6,412

Unsuccessful Candidates with numbers to be carried forward, and added to the poll at the next election.

Bro. J. C. Snow 6,381	Bro. J. Broadbent 193
„ J. Thompson 6,133	„ J. Hodgson..... 157
„ R. Adams..... 5,228	„ Stanley Holt 123
„ S. M. Shrubsole. 3,778	„ R. Adams 90
„ W. Warran 3,582	„ J. Redfern 75
„ Jesse Taylor ... 2,440	„ W. Garside 60
„ S. Julyan 1,258	„ J. P. Munro 1
„ John Lucas 203	„ T. Storey..... 0
„ H. Martin 198	

WIDOWS.—Successful Candidates.

Mrs. M. E. Barton ... 4,939	Mrs. M. A. Firmin ... 4,078
„ Jane Puttock ... 4,502	„ C. Cooke 3,681
„ M. Cresswell ... 4,232	„ S. Harvey 3,523

Unsuccessful Candidates with numbers to be carried forward, and added to the poll at the next election.

Mrs. M. A. Osborne... 3,348	Mrs. R. Mayoh 472
„ M. A. Swain ... 2,439	„ Ann Kinnear..... 288
„ Ann Slater 2,257	„ Sarah Dixon 261
„ R. Hammett ... 1,790	„ Sarah Crow 261
„ A. B. Lawrence 1,425	„ M. A. Johnson ... 114
„ Margaret Dale 1,290	„ Betty Stansfield... 25
„ E. Wilkins 970	„ Sarah Buxton ... 4
„ B. Partington... 584	„ Elizabeth Lyon... 1
„ A. I. Tisoe 546	„ Elizabeth Mott ... 0
„ Mary Marson ... 517	

After the usual vote of thanks the meeting separated.

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—This lodge held its last meeting for the season on Thursday, May 26th, at Bro. Stevens's, Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford. The lodge was opened by Bro. G. Wilton, I.P.M. Bro. C. Stahr, W.M., when he arrived, presided over the lodge. The ballot was unanimous in favour of the candidate for initiation, Mr. A. F. Drew. A letter was read from Mr. Drew apologising for his absence. In the absence of the anticipated work, the W.M. requested Bro. F. Walters, P.M. and Sec., to give the lecture on the 1st tracing board. Bro. F. Walters then gave a full explanation of the board, and introduced nearly all the fourth and fifth sections, and, when he had completed, he received a hearty burst of applause from all the brethren present. Bro. F. Walters, P.M. and Sec., having retired from the lodge, Bro. J. W. Weir, P.M., proposed, and Bro. J. Hawker seconded, that a Secretary's jewel to the amount of five guineas be given from the lodge funds and presented to Bro. F. Walters, P.M. and Sec., for the able, zealous, and talented manner he had performed the duties of the Secretaryship, and to show the esteem and gratitude of the brethren for the many services rendered to the lodge from its founding. This proposition was carried unanimously. Bro. F. Walters, on his return to the lodge after the W.M. announced the decision, returned thanks to the brethren for this mark of their favour. The lodge was then closed. Visitors, J. Donnithorne, 73; A. J. Baatz, 871; &c.

PROVINCIAL.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—MASONIC PRESENTATION.—On the evening of Friday, May 27th, about fifty members of various lodges in Manchester and the neighbourhood partook of a very excellently-served dinner at the Clarence Hotel, Manchester, on the occasion of presenting to Bro. Henry Thomas Baldwin, P.M., P.Z., &c., a substantial recognition of his services in Freemasonry during

a period of ten years and upwards. Bro. William Romaine Callender, P.S.G.W., occupied the chair, and Bro. James Payne, W.M. Lodge 204, the vice-chair. After the removal of the cloth, and some few Masonic toasts had been drank, the chairman, in a most appropriate and eloquent speech, proposed the toast of the evening, which he concluded by presenting to Bro. Baldwin, in the name of the subscribers, a gold watch, having a suitable inscription engraved inside the case, an Albert chain and locket, together with a purse of 250 guineas, accompanied by a handsomely-bound volume containing a list of the subscribers, preceded by a most elaborately-illuminated title page and address. The toast and presentation having been suitably acknowledged by Bro. Baldwin, the remainder of the evening was passed in that social and agreeable manner well known by the members of the Craft.

MIDDLESEX.

UXBRIDGE.—*Royal Union Lodge* (No. 382).—The members of this lodge held their meeting at the Chequers Inn, on Monday, the 16th May. The following brethren were present, viz.—Bros. W. Coombes, W.M., presiding, supported by Herring, S.W., and Chegwidan, J.W. There was a large number of members present, and the following visitors:—Bros. Cockeroff, P.M. 142; Daley, P.M. 752; and Ohern, 33. Bros. Irving and Besant were raised to the third degree. Bros. Heill and Fehrenbach were passed to the second degree. Mr. Fenn was initiated. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet. On the cloth being drawn, the W.M. proposed “The Queen and the Craft,” “The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master,” followed by “The Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers.” The W.M. next gave “The Visitors.” Bro. Cockeroff returned thanks for the visitors. He was much pleased with his reception, and could not sit down without expressing his great admiration of the able manner in which the W.M. had gone through the duties of the lodge that evening. The W.M. then proposed the toast of “The Initiate.” Bro. Fenn responded. He had long intended to be a Mason, and would promise that he would do all in his power to become a good Mason, and a worthy member of the Order. Bro. Daley, P.M., having been intrusted with the gavel, would next propose “The Health of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Coombes.” In doing so, he must say that he was surprised to see such a young Mason as the Worshipful Master perform the ceremonies so beautifully, and rendered each degree in an easy, gentlemanly, and impressive manner, which could not fail to make a lasting impression on the candidate. He congratulated the Royal Union Lodge in having such a Master. The W.M., in acknowledging the compliment, said he had no doubt Bro. Daley had spoken of him in a manner that far exceeded his merits, but he could assure the brethren that it was at all times his earnest desire to perform the duties of the chair so as to give them satisfaction. He would continue to do so, and would do his best to promote the interests of the Royal Union Lodge. The W.M. then proposed “The Past Masters of the Lodge,” which was responded to by Bro. Weedon. After some other toasts, the lodge was closed, to enable the metropolitan brethren to catch the train for London, highly delighted with the pleasant evening which had been spent.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The installation of Bro. Major Adair as Provincial Grand Master of Somerset took place at Bath on Monday, the 23rd ult. This event alone would have attracted a goodly number of Masons from the various lodges of the province, but a deeper and more general interest was imparted to the proceedings by the laying of the foundation-stone of the Albert Memorial Wing of the United Hospital by the newly-installed Prov. G.M. with Masonic honours.

The Provincial Grand Lodge—which was attended by 320 brethren—was held in the Ball Room, where the ceremony of installing Bro. Major Adair as Prov. G.M. of Somerset, was performed by his uncle, the R.W. Bro. Colonel Shafto Adair, Prov. G.M. of Suffolk. Bro. Pyne officiated at the organ. At the conclusion of the installation, which was most impressively performed, exciting the marked admiration of the brethren, the

newly-elected Prov. G.M. proceeded to appoint the following officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. Dr. F. H. Woodforde, 261...	Prov. S.G.W.
” W. F. Bennett, 53	Prov. J.G.W.
” Rev. C. Davy, 53	Prov. G. Chap.
” Rev. W. W. Martin, 135 ...	Assist. Chap.
” E. T. Payne, 53	Prov. G. Treas.
” W. Brice, 135	Prov. G. Reg.
” J. B. Marwood, Acting Sec. } for Rich. Smith, 291	Prov. G. Sec.
” G. C. Mann, 41	Prov. S.G.D.
” John Ryall, 329	Prov. J.G.D.
” John E. Gill, 53.....	Prov. G. Supt. of Works.
” Dr. F. Farmer, 135	Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.
” W. Mole	Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.
” — Hyatt.....	Prov. G.S.B.
” W. E. Reeves, 906.....	Prov. G. Org.
” W. A. Grimes, 973.....	Prov. G. Purst.
” — Harris.....	Prov. Assist. Purst.
” — Hellier, 41.....	Prov. G. Tyler.
” S. Strong, 53	} Prov. G. Stewards.
” W. Hodge	
” S. A. Heal	
” — Davies	
” — Mourant.....	
” George Denham	

Having presented the various officers with their several collars, addressing to each a few fraternal observations, the Prov. G.M. requested that the brethren would accompany him to lay the foundation-stone of the Hospital, and return to the assembly rooms at the end of the ceremony, to conclude the business of the Grand Lodge. The brethren accordingly accompanied the Prov. G.M., in the order mentioned in another column, and subsequently re-assembled at the rooms, where after some routine business had been transacted, Bro. Dr. Falconer made an able and earnest appeal to the brethren to assist in a specific portion of the work of the restoration of Bath Abbey Church (the west front being suggested), to which the Prov. G.M. gave his hearty support, and we understand that a circular in behalf of the Restoration Fund will be forwarded to the various lodges of the province.

The Prov. G.M. then addressed the brethren in feeling and appropriate terms in reference to the high and responsible position in which he had been placed, and the lodge was closed in due form.

From the manner in which the appointment of the new Prov. G.M. has been received, and the favourable impression made by him, there is no doubt that the unanimity which has characterized the Province of Somerset under the late beloved Prov. G.M., Col. K. K. Tynte, and also under the able superintendence of the worthy D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Brydges, during an interregnum of three years, will be continued under the reign of Bro. Major Adair, and we may truly say of the brethren of the province—“Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

THE BANQUET.

Between five and six o'clock all the brethren, whose engagements would allow them to remain, sat down to dinner in the supper-saloon of the Assembly-rooms suite. The repast, which was provided by Bro. Gibbs, was admirably laid out, and did the utmost credit to the caterer. The R.W. Prov. G.M. Bro. Major Adair, presided, and was supported on either hand by Bros. Col. Shafto Adair, Prov. G.M. of Suffolk; Col. Shute, Prov. G.M. of Bristol; Spiers, D. Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire; Westropp, D. Prov. G.M. of North Munster; Bridges, D. Prov. G.M. of Somerset; Farrer, Prov. S.G.W. of Berks and Bucks; and other distinguished members of the Craft. The company numbered upwards of 125. Grace was said before and after meat by the Prov. G. Chap. The gallery of the apartment was occupied by ladies, who were liberally supplied with refreshments, and appeared to take great interest in the proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN said the first toast he had to propose was sure of a hearty reception, not only from a Masonic body, but from every body of Englishmen. All Englishmen felt most deeply attached to her Gracious Majesty the Queen of England—(cheers)—and Masons above all yielded in loyalty to no men in the kingdom. (Renewed cheers.) In their reverence to supreme authority, they were all bound as citizens, as well as Masons, to respect the Queen; but they had now to regard her Majesty in another position—in a position of extreme interest

to Masons, for they had to regard her in affliction, and every Mason knew what sympathy for the widow in her bereavement ought to be. (Hear, hear.) Her Majesty could not, of course, belong to their Craft, but it was usual among Masons to couple the Craft with her health. Her Majesty was the blood relation of distinguished Past Masons; and he gave them with all loyalty "The Queen and the Craft." (Loud applause.)

Drunk standing, and with three cheers.

The CHAIRMAN said the next toast was not a Mason's toast, but, as loyal citizens, they would respond with the equal cordiality when he asked them to drink "The Health of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal family." (Applause.) At their meetings they could not enter into politics; but they could not forget that at the present moment unhappy differences prevailed between sovereigns nearly connected with members of the Royal family, which they all wished to see removed. (Hear, hear.) Might brotherly love, so dearly prized by Masons, soon restore harmony and dissipate all ill-feeling. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

This toast was similarly honoured.

The CHAIRMAN said he had now to propose a health dear to all Masons. All who had read the last quarterly communication, had had the gratification of seeing that for the 20th time the present Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England had been elected to preside over the Craft of this country. (Cheers.) He need say nothing to recommend the toast, for they all knew how ably Earl Zetland had filled his presidential office, and how he had endeared himself to all with whom he had been brought into contact, by the urbanity of his manner and his upright decisions. (Hear, hear.) He called upon them to drink, with all enthusiasm and loyal devotion, "The Health of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England."

The toast, like the rest, was drunk standing, and with three cheers.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that, excellent as their Grand Master was, he would be ill able to discharge his duties unless he were supported by an able and zealous Grand Lodge. Such a body of men their Grand Master had around him, and he was glad to see members of the lodge present in that room, who would respond to the toast he now submitted, viz., "The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge of England, past and present." (Loud applause.)

Bro. SPIERS, D. Prov. G.M., of Oxford, expressed his regret that the toast could not be responded to by one higher in office than himself. When it was considered that the attractions of London were just at this time so powerful, that the Prime Minister would that very evening declare, in his place in Parliament, that the House at its rising must not assemble till the Isthmian games were over (laughter), there might be some excuse for the absence of members of the Grand Lodge in that room. (Hear, hear.) He regretted that they were not present, for a more successful meeting and a happier meeting than theirs of that day it would be impossible for a grand officer to attend. He stood in a peculiar position towards their newly-installed Provincial Grand Master, for he believed he was the only person there present who attended at the Masonic birth of their president. He saw their Provincial Grand Master nursed and reared as a Mason, and heard his first address in the Provincial Grand Lodge. After twelve years of Masonic life—not a very long one, but used to good purpose—he was rejoiced to see their president raised to so high a position. He (Bro. Spiers) could hardly imagine a more agreeable province than that of Somerset, in which the brotherhood possessed so large a number of influential brethren who would not only support their Provincial Grand Master, in the performance of his duties, but would make his Masonic career as happy a one as it ought to be. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Spiers concluded by intimating the pleasure it would give the Provincial Grand Master of Oxford and himself to welcome Masons of the province of Somerset at their festive and Masonic meetings.

The CHAIRMAN said it would no doubt be a pleasing duty to them all to drink the ensuing toast, but it was particularly so to him. He begged to propose to them the Right Worshipful the Installing Provincial Grand Master. (Loud cheers.) Had the subject of the toast been merely a recent acquaintance, of course he (Major Adair) must have felt strongly the honour he had received at his hands, in the name of the Grand Master; but when instead of being an acquaintance of recent date, he was one of his nearest relations, one whom he looked to (having now no father of his own) with as much reverence as to a parent, one whose counsel he sought in everything he under-

took (hear, hear), he assured them that nothing could more deeply touch the heart of a man than the situation in which he had that day been placed, in receiving the honourable office he now held in this province, at the hands of his very dear relative and right worshipful brother, Colonel Shafto Adair. (Applause.) They who had seen but little of him had shown by their demeanour how highly they appreciated him, and they could, therefore, imagine what a life's intimacy must have effected upon his (the speaker's) mind. (Hear, hear.) He asked them to drink, with the utmost cordiality, "The Health of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, Colonel Adair." (Hearty cheering.)

Bro. Col. ADAIR was greeted with rounds of applause on rising to reply. He remarked that, among the many excellencies which distinguished the Masonic body, deference to those in authority was not the least. He should have felt it a high honour to have been commissioned, under the name and high authority of the Grand Master of England, to introduce and place in the chair of trust, any brother in any province of the land—still more did he estimate the kindness and generosity of the Grand Master, when he confirmed the application that was made for him (Colonel Adair) to perform the duty he had performed that day. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the ties which united him to their Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, that brother had expressed himself strongly, and strictly in accordance with the feelings that were reciprocal. He had seen their Worshipful Provincial Grand Master rise from one point to another—had seen him go forth to do his duty to his Queen and fight the battles of his country—had welcomed him when he had returned from fields of peril, and when all Englishmen, to quote an old song—

"Love to join the village feast,
Upon their native plain,
And love to share the village dance
'Mongst village friends again."

(Applause.) The fact that his relative had shown that he could do his duty elsewhere was, no doubt, one reason, amongst others, why he had received so much kindness from them, and why his election had been so unanimously approved. They probably thought that the man who had done his duty well in one position could do his duty well in presiding over that province. (Applause.) As the representative of the Grand Master, he (Col. Adair) knew that he should be sure of a good reception from the Masons of Somerset, and he knew also that he should be ably supported in carrying out his honourable task. He was proud to have performed that task, and he hoped he might conclude, from the cordiality with which his name had been received, that he had acquitted himself to their satisfaction. (Cheers.) When he came to their lodge that morning he knew very few of them—he hoped he had since made many lasting acquaintanceships, and should be glad to welcome any of them to his province. He had known Somerset as a county long, and trusted to know it better still. (Applause.)

Bro. WESTROPP, D. Prov. G.M., of North Munster, proposed "The Health of the Right Worshipful, the Provincial Grand Master of Somerset, Bro. William Alexander Adair," and in doing so stated that he was unprepared for the pleasing duty, and had known their newly installed Grand Master only a short time, but he was persuaded that their president's virtues were numerous. He was sure that Bro. Adair, would maintain the province in the highly prosperous and efficient state in which he found it, and of the fact of its prosperity and efficiency he had good information, having been told by a chief officer that of late years it had increased in numbers, in zeal, and in charitable contributions. There were circumstances which prevented Masonry being carried on without restraint in Ireland; but the Irish Masons were not excelled by any in the kingdom in zeal for the Craft, and in kindness towards the brethren from all parts of the world. (Hear, hear.) As a proof of the cordial union between English and Irish Masons, he might refer to the fact that some members of their Dublin Lodge were officers of the Grand Lodge of England. If it should be his lot to meet in Ireland any brethren he had met that day, on their mentioning to him the fact that they were at the Bath gathering on the 23rd of May, 1864, he would be happy to extend to them that kindness and warmth of reception that had been accorded him. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Westropp closed his remarks by cordially commending the toast to their notice, and declaring that they had a worthy Grand Master of a worthy province.—Three cheers and one cheer more followed, given with most hearty vehemence.

The CHAIRMAN was hailed with immense cheering. He said he was not very ready with his words at any time, and was always wanting in that respect when he had to speak of himself. With a grateful heart he returned them thanks for the honour done him, as well as to his Right Worshipful Brother who had submitted the toast, and to his old friend, Bro. Spiers, to whom he was greatly indebted for their kind expressions concerning him. Since the time alluded to by Bro. Spiers, he had never been lazy in Masonry; but his power of attending Masonic meetings had been sometimes interrupted. These interruptions had arisen from no fault of his own, for part of his time since he was made a Mason had been spent out of this country, and the whole of his time since that event had been spent in the service of his country. The first time he was Master of a lodge was in this city, and while he held the office he was obliged to be away a good deal of the time with his regiment. The second time he was made Master was at Taunton, and when his collar was declared vacant, he was a quarter of the globe distant. He should now be more amongst them. No one could be more attached to Masonry than he was, and he trusted that he should be able to attend punctually and regularly to his duties, and discharge with credit the functions of the high office to which he had that day been installed. (Hear.) He had now to bring before them a toast they would be sure to bestow their warmest approval upon—it was, "The Very Worshipful the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. H. Bridges, and the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset, past and present." He spoke of the admirable way in which Bro. Bridges and the officers of the lodge had managed the affairs of the province. In taking the command, his only source of regret was that amongst the many brethren in the province worthy of wearing Provincial collars, he had so few offices to request them to hold, and that many would go away without the purple to whom he should have been glad to have given it, had he a sufficient number of collars to bestow. He hoped those brethren would not be disheartened, but would believe that the tongue of good report would be heeded in their case, in due time, and he trusted that next year many would be on their legs when this toast was responded to, who had to retain their seats on the present occasion. (Applause.)

Bro. H. BRIDGES, D. Prov. G.M., responded. He assured the meeting that during the last three years, while he had officiated as deputy, it had been to him not a work of labour, but one of love, and he had done the best he could for the Province of Somerset and the Craft in general. (Hear, hear.) He did not take the credit to himself of what had been accomplished, for the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge had ably assisted him, and without their help his exertions would have been fruitless. It had been a good pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, and to the various officers he returned his hearty thanks for the manner in which they had supported him, and especially to the lodges in Bath and the neighbourhood, where the Masonic strength of the province might be said to be centred. This was one of his most glorious days as a Mason, in having had to resign the power entrusted to him to so excellent a brother as their new Provincial Grand Master. As long as he had the ability to perform his duties, and they had confidence in their Deputy Provincial Grand Master, nothing should be wanting on his part—and he could answer for the Provincial Grand Officers—to render every assistance, as he hoped they had done that day. (Hear, hear.) He again sincerely thanked all the brethren for the way in which he had been helped and received during the year he had administered the affairs of the province, and resumed his seat amidst general applause.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "The Grand Master of Ireland," observing that he could not couple with it the Grand Master of Scotland, as the lamented death of the Duke of Athol had lately deprived the Scotch Masons of their chief. He had no doubt that the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of North Munster, who had been obliged to leave in order to catch the train, would inform his Grand Master, the Duke of Leinster, that his name had been duly honoured in that room. (Applause.) The toast having been duly honoured,

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "The Provincial Grand Lodges here represented." He said they had with them the Provincial Grand Master of Bristol, the Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, the Provincial Grand Master of Worcester, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of North Munster, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Oxford, the Grand Warden of Bucking-

hamshire and Berkshire, and several good and worthy Masons from Monmouth and other provinces. (Cheers.)

Bro. SHUTE, Prov. G.M. of Bristol, Bro. SPIERS, D. Prov. G.M. of Oxford, and Bro. PICKFORD, Prov. G. Treas. of Monmouth, acknowledged the compliment. The former said he had been twenty years Master of the Province of Bristol, and had had no difference or dispute brought before him. He believed that Bro. Adair would be able to say the same, twenty years hence, about Somerset, if he had the good fortune to be then the Provincial Grand Master of the province. (Hear, hear.)

The remaining toasts were "The Lodges of the Province of Somerset," proposed by the Chairman, and acknowledged by Bro. White, P. Prov. S.G.W.; "Our Visiting Brethren," proposed by the Chairman; "The Masonic Charities," proposed by Bro. Dr. Falconer, and responded to by Bro. Binckes; "The Ladies," proposed by Bro. Muttlebury, and replied to by Bro. F. Wright; ending with the Tyler's toast, "Poor and Distressed Masons throughout the World."

At intervals during the speeches a party of vocalists, under the direction of Bro. J. K. Pyne, sang several solos and concerted pieces, much to the satisfaction of the company.

THE BALL.

In the evening, a Masonic Ball was held at the Assembly Rooms. The newly-installed Prov. G.M. and his uncle, the Prov. G.M. of Suffolk, were prevented from attending by the recent death of a relative, but among those present were the D. Prov. G.M. of Somerset (Captain Bridges), the D. Prov. G.M. of Oxford (Bro. Spiers), and other distinguished visitors. All the brethren wore their Masonic clothing, some donning the peculiar and graceful garb of the Knights Templar, with its flowing mantle and worked red cross, reminding one of the mediæval crusaders. The Rose Croix, Knights of Malta, Royal Arch, and other high degrees were likewise represented, and the glittering jewels, embroidered collars, silken sashes, and gay aprons, formed a gratifying contrast to the usual sombre black and white male costume at ordinary balls. There were not so many present as might have been expected, but the lateness of the season, the hot weather, and the fatigue incident upon the installation, the laying the foundation-stone, and the banquet, combined to keep many away. The 200 who were present, however, enjoyed themselves all the more from the increased space and coolness, and the dancers, one and all, declared it to be a delightful ball, and many where the inquiries made whether a Masonic Ball could not be made an annual affair, and thus enlist for the Craft the sympathies of the fair sex, who are debarred from its mysteries and feasts. The last element was, however, not wanting here, for an elegant and plentiful repast, comprising substantial fare, with light and tempting delicacies, and including wines and other beverages, was laid out in the supper room, provided by Bro. Gibbs, who had so ably catered for the afternoon banquet. The whole suite of rooms were thrown open, the octagon being handsomely carpeted, and furnished with ottomans, lounges, &c. Reynolds's band discoursed most excellent music, and to its inspiring strains the dancers tripped it merrily till the early dawn surprised the "Sons of Light" and their fair partners at their Terpsichorean revels. Thus ended a day, the pleasant remembrance of which will not be confined to the records of the Craft.

DRAINAGE OF FREEMASONS' HALL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.—It appears, from the minutes of the St. Giles's District Board of Works, that at their last meeting the surveyor read a report, in which he stated—"I beg to report that by the operations for rebuilding Freemasons's Hall in Great Queen-street, the sewer formerly draining Queen's-place and New-yard has become partially destroyed, and will require to be restored as nearly as possible in its original position. As, however, the fall of the old sewer was very slight, a question would arise whether the Board would consider it desirable to divert the course of the old sewer by building a new egg-shaped sewer 3-6 by 2-3 in the clear, in whole brickwork, through New-yard into Great Queen-street, forming a connection with the Piccadilly branch of the Mid-lever Sewer, now in course of formation. This arrangement would enable the owners of properties to more effectually drain their premises. I estimate the cost at about £300." A resolution was passed that the new sewer be constructed as suggested by the Surveyor, on condition that the Society of Freemasons pay one-half of the cost thereof.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

THE MASONIC TEMPLE AT JERSEY.

Much interest has recently been excited in Jersey by the announcement of Wednesday, May 25th, as the day for the consecration of the new and handsome Masonic Temple just completed in Stopford-road, and even those who do not belong to the Order have been on the tiptoe of expectation, in the hope that they might obtain admission to witness the ceremony, or at least view the procession, which it was naturally expected would take place. At first it was proposed to have no procession, such public displays not being popular among the leading men of the institution, but to admit as many ladies as the space in the building would allow, since the fair sex are not permitted to share in the mysteries and privileges to which the members of the Craft lay claim. Subsequently it was found that all the available room would be required for the Freemasons themselves, many of whom came from England, Guernsey, and France—indeed from the latter country a deputation arrived for the express purpose of assisting in the ceremonial. It therefore became necessary to modify the arrangements, by abandoning the idea of admitting ladies, and as great disappointment was expressed by the public at the privacy with which it was proposed to conduct the proceedings, a compromise was made, by having a procession for a short distance. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened therefore soon after noon in the Prince of Wales' rooms, kindly lent by Bro. Moss for the occasion. The general body of Freemasons assembled there, and the whole proceeded in proper array, arranged under their respective banners, and duly decorated with the insignia, to the Temple. Before describing the events of the day, it may perhaps be well to give a brief account of the origin and progress of the undertaking, with some notice of the arrangements of the building, drawings of which were published in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE of Jan. 24th, 1863.

The idea of a temple exclusively devoted to the purposes of the Craft in Jersey originated about five years ago in the Césarée Lodge, and several attempts were made to obtain an appropriate site, and to raise the requisite funds, which proved abortive. The passing of the Limited Liability Act by the States in 1862 revived the hopes of the promoters of the project, and after many meetings for discussing it, a determination was arrived at to form a company, the shares in which should be exclusively held by Freemasons. Most of these were soon applied for, and operations were commenced, the plans of Bro. Thomas Galliehan having been selected from several sets offered by different architects. All due preparations having been made, the first stone was laid with great éclat by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master on Dec. 17, 1862, in the presence of a large number of the Craft, and a concourse of about 2,000 persons, among whom were the public officials of the island, the military and naval officers, and, though last not least, his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, Bro. Sir K. P. Douglas, Bart., who took a lively interest in the matter, and delivered a stirring address on the occasion. Since that period the erection has steadily proceeded, under the direction of the contractors, Bros. De la Mare and Benest, and Mr. Pirouet, and is now completed, with the exception of a few trifling details, for which it was not considered necessary to delay the consecration. Many of the internal fittings requisite for properly carrying out the ceremonials will be more advantageously put up as necessities arise, after a little experience in the working of the different lodges.

The buildings form two sides of a square, the principal front being in Stopford-road, and the other in Oxford-road, to which it is intended shortly to add a third side, so as to provide a large room, 90ft. by 36ft., for general use, distinct from the Masonic portion, to be let out for concerts, balls, lectures, public meetings, &c. The access to the edifice is by two flights of granite steps, one on each side of a handsome portico, supported by Corinthian pillars. On entering the entrance hall, there is a large room on the right, 26ft. by 20ft., intended for the library of the institution. On the left is another apartment, to serve as an ante-room to the Temple, which opens from it by large folding doors, and also by a smaller one beyond them. The Temple is 47ft. long, 25ft. wide, and 30ft. high. At its east or remote end from the door is a semi-circular recess for the chair of the presiding Master, having on each side of it a semi-circular Corinthian pillar against the wall, and there are similar pillars opposite to them at the west end of the room, one on each side of the entrance. The flatness of the side walls is relieved by

pilasters with Corinthian capitals. Light is obtained from a large skylight in the vaulted ceiling, pendant from the centre of which is a handsome gas chandelier with 20 branches. Behind the east end of the Temple is a small room, to be used as a store for furniture, which is entered by a door on each side of the recess. The entrance hall to the building is divided by folding doors, cutting off the back from the front part. Passing through these, and ascending the staircase, on the left over the library is the Royal Arch Chapter-room, with a vaulted ceiling, and decorated with a broad cornice and pilasters having Ionic capitals. Opposite the top of the staircase is a small apartment, with a door leading into the Chapter-room. Turning to the right, there are two chambers, one beyond the other. Descending the staircase again to the basement, on the right is a door leading into the banqueting-room, which is 50ft. in length, 25ft. in width, and 15ft. in height. It is lighted by three handsome gas chandeliers, and at the west end are folding doors leading into an ante-room similar to the one over it. Under the library is the kitchen, with every arrangement requisite for cooking on a large scale, and on the right and left before entering it is a pantry and a scullery, with a copper boiler. The cellar is beneath the portico, and there are little conveniences about the building which it is unnecessary to enumerate. Of course at a future period the ground round the building will be enclosed, probably with iron railings, but this cannot be done until the completion of the proposed additional large room, some six or twelve months hence.

An interest in the proceedings connected with the consecration of the Temple is by no means confined to the island of Jersey. The mail steamer brought over a deputation of twelve distinguished French Freemasons, specially appointed to do honour to the occasion, and ten other brethren, in addition to many who had arrived previously. A committee selected to receive them attended at the pier for the purpose, and after mutual introductions, took their visitors to witness the review of the troops. At three p.m. a party assembled to meet them at the residence of Bro. J. J. Hammond, Prov. G.M., among whom were Bros. Crosse, D. Prov. G.M., Dr. Gregg, Dr. Le Cronier, Dr. Hopkins, Schmitt, Shortreed, Durell, Benham, Light, and many others. Several complimentary addresses were delivered. These concluded, refreshments disposed of, and some time spent in conversation, the whole party adjourned to the Temple to examine its arrangements and the preparations for the next day. The brethren from Guernsey also came over in large force, headed by Bro. Gallienne, D. Prov. G.M. an advocate in the court there, to take part in the ceremonial.

THE CONSECRATION.

This ceremony, it is on all hands agreed, passed off with the greatest éclat—a matter of much satisfaction. The appearance of bustle in the town, and the arrival of country folks during the morning, intimated that something unusual was about to take place, and fortunately the weather was all that could be wished. Towards noon the brethren of the Masonic Order began to assemble in the Prince of Wales' Rooms, kindly lent by Mr. Moss for the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, which was opened soon after one o'clock by the Prov. G.M., J. J. Hammond, assisted by his D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Crosse, Bro. Dr. Hopkins acting as Chaplain for the occasion. The deputation from France was received with every mark of honour. These distinguished visitors were collectively formally presented to the Prov. G.M., who deputed Bro. Manuel, Dir. of Cers., to read to them the address, of which the following is a translation:—

"Dear Brother Visitors,—With much happiness and pleasure I offer you all possible fraternal salutation on the part of the brethren of this province. Receive from us a hearty welcome, I feel greatly delighted to find you so anxious to respond to our invitation, by coming to lend us your kind assistance at the inauguration of the Masonic Temple, and thanks to your cheerful compliance, it will be still more the consummation of a united Masonic festival, mutually shared by France and England. Thanks, my dear friends, thanks for your presence, for, as its results, we already feel our zeal rekindled, our hearts expanded, our thoughts elevated. Thanks to you, brethren, who are come to aid us on this day, which is especially one of joy and at the same time of solemnity. You, brethren, well understand what Freemasonry is; you are able fully to appreciate it, and to feel that it is eminently that high principle of reverence, of worship, which repels all intolerance, all fanaticism; that it inculcates a regard for humanity, and devotedness to his brethren on the part of each of its members. This,

brethren, is a sentiment which lies deeply impressed on the heart of each of you, and this is what enables you to honour us by your presence. Again, dear brethren, accept a hearty welcome."

Bro. HOVIUS, on the part of the brethren of St. Malo, and Bro. Rosseau, for the Masons of Rennes, briefly responded to this address, in terms expressive of their deep sense of the fraternal reception accorded to them, and of their gratification in assisting at the solemn ceremony of the day.

All the preliminaries having been gone through with tiled doors, the procession was formed by the energetic and methodical Director of Ceremonies, Bro. H. L. Manuel, assisted by Bro. F. Le Maistre. The party was headed by a band under the direction of Bro. Hosking, and at intervals were many elegant banners belonging to the Prov. G.M., the different lodges of Jersey, Guernsey, St. Malo, and Rennes. Then came two Tylers with drawn swords, Bro. Le Cras, P.M., taking the direction of the front. The lodges were arranged in order of seniority, the last formed going first, thus: The Prince of Wales' Lodge, the St. Aubin's Lodge, the Royal Alfred Lodge, the Césarée Lodge, the Samarés Lodge, the Royal Sussex Lodge, the Mechanics' Lodge, and lastly the Yarborough Lodge, the oldest in Jersey, established in 1780. Then came the brethren from St. Malo and Rennes, the former under the presidency of Bro. Hovius, W.M. of the Loge de Bienfaisance, the latter under that of Bro. Rosseau, W.M. of the Loge de Parfaite Union, and here it may be mentioned that considerable interest was excited by the variety of costume, which differs much from that of the English brethren, being more showy. Next came the Guernsey brethren, among whom were noticed Bros. Hutchinson, S.G.W.; Dr. Collinette, G. Sec.; Gilbert, J.W.; Bruard, P.J.W.; Sparrow, P.J.W.; Thom, P.J.W.; Smithers, P.G. Reg.; Prevot, Sword Bearer; Draper, P. Dir. of Cers.; and Strickland, Gaudion, De Carteret, and Stonelake, Prov. G. Stewards. These were followed by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Jersey, among the present and past officers of which we noticed the following:—Bros. Starck, P. Prov. G. Purst.; Wilcocks, P. Prov. G. Sword Bearer; T. Gallichan, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; with whom was Bro. Watts, bearing the silver trowel, with which the first stone of the building had been laid, and which he had himself presented. Bros. Esnouf and Prosser, P. Prov. G.D.'s, Adams, acting as Prov. G. Sec., bearing the "Book of Constitutions," Westaway, Prov. G. Reg.; Du Jardin and Durell, P. Prov. G. Treas.; E. C. M. De Cartaret, Prov. G. Treas.; Le Roy, P. Prov. G.W. Brethren bearing a cornucopia with corn, ewers containing wine and oil, and a censor. Bro. Dr. Hopkins, acting as Chaplain, bearing the Bible, with the square and compasses thereon. Bros. Kingsnorth, Prov. J.G.W.; Donaldson, acting as Prov. J.G.D.; James Johnson, acting as Prov. S.G.W.; Lyon, P. Prov. S.G.W. for Surrey; and Dr. Small, P.M., as visitors of distinction; R. Crosse, D. Prov. G.M.; Gallienne, D. Prov. G.M. for Guernsey; Thomas, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; J. J. Hammond; the R.W. Prov. G.M., escorted by H. L. Manuel and J. Le Maistre, Dirs. of Cers.; E. Lyte, Prov. S.G.D.; the Prov. G. Stewards, clothed in red; Bros. Woodey, Dr. Le Cronier, Mannan, Le Hardie, Stonelake and Gaudion (the last two from Guernsey, acting for absent Jersey officers), Bro. Toms, Prov. G. Tyler. There were probably nearly 300 brethren in the procession, which started at about half-past one, taking as the route Minden-place, Halkett-place, Beresford-street, Bath-street, David-place, Stopford-road. The streets were of course filled with a dense crowd of spectators, as were also the windows and balconies which commanded a view. On arriving near the Temple, the procession opened, the brethren forming two rows, with an avenue between them, up which the Prov. G.M. and his officers first walked, and the others gradually closed in, thus reversing the order. The whole then made the circuit of the Temple, ascended the steps, and, having knocked at the door, gained admission, being received by Bro. Le Quesne, Assist. Dir. of Cir.; Bro. the Rev. E. Guille, Prov. G. Chap., and others. On entering the Temple, the choir being in their places, Bro. Charles Johnson, Prov. S.G.W., struck up a voluntary on the organ, and continued playing while the brethren were taking their seats. The Prov. G.M. occupied his chair at the east end, surrounded by his chief officers; the brethren were disposed in ten rows down the room from east to west, the front places on each side being reserved for the visitors from France and Guernsey. The Temple was completely filled, thus showing that the original intention to admit ladies could not have been

carried out. Order having been established at the call of the W.M., the Prov. G. Chap. offered up the following prayer:—

"Almighty and Eternal God, Father and Supreme Ruler of the Universe, whose works proclaim Thy wisdom, power, and greatness, to Thy Divine Majesty we offer up our adoration, in grateful acknowledgment of the blessings which are so liberally distributed around us. Condescend, Almighty Father, to look down with favour from Thy celestial habitation on this feeble attempt to extend Thy praise, and graciously accept, on the celebration of our Solemn Rites, the faithful tribute of our gratitude to Thee."

The following anthem from Haydn's Creation was then given by the choir. Solo by Miss Horton and chorus:—"The marvellous work behold amazed, the glorious hierarchy of Heaven, and to the ethereal vaults, resound the praise of God and of the second day."

The vessels containing the corn, wine, and oil were then taken from the brethren who had borne them, and placed on the pedestal by Bro. Du Jardin. Bro. Thos. Gallichan, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, and Architect of the Temple, approaching the pedestal said,—

"Right Worshipful Sir,—I have to thank you and the promoters of this Temple for the honour I have received in being entrusted with its erection. I trust that the work has been done to your satisfaction, and having completed my task, I now surrender into your hands the implements which were delivered to me at its commencement."

The Prov. G. Master briefly expressed the satisfaction of himself and the Board of Directors at the architect's conduct, and their approbation of the manner in which the plans had been carried out.

Bro. Le Conteur, Secretary to the Board of Management, then gave the following outline of the proceedings connected with the Temple since the laying of the foundation-stone:—

"Right Worshipful Sir,—This day will mark a memorable epoch in the annals of the English Craft, in the province of Jersey, since the ceremony of consecration, which we are now assembled to perform, with your kind assistance, will imprint for ever an indelible stamp on our proceedings, and will serve as a seal to the devotedness and sincerity of purpose of those of our brethren in this island, who have endeavoured to extricate the Craft from the undignified position in which it has hitherto been placed. We shall henceforth be enabled to celebrate our solemn mysteries in a building worthy of us, and of the objects which it is our earnest desire to carry out, the promotion of progress in all that is good, of instruction, of charity. Right Worshipful Sir, the hall in which we are met together is now complete in all its parts; the plans on which it has been constructed have received the approbation of the shareholders of company which has undertaken its erection. That it may be applied to the purpose for which it is intended, it only remains to give it the sanction which is necessary. In the name of the fraternity of Freemasons, I now therefore request that it may be solemnly dedicated by you, as the head of the province, according to ancient usage and custom."

The Prov. G. Master having expressed his willingness to comply with the solicitation, commenced the proceedings by reading the 2nd chapter of the 2nd book of Chronicles, from verse 1 to verse 11.

The 132nd Psalm was chanted by the choir.

The following prayer was offered by the Prov. G. Chaplain:—

"O, adorable Lord God, Maker of all things, and Judge of all men, we beseech Thee, regard with Thy special favour this our present undertaking, and grant that the work which we have now commenced in Thy name, may conduce to Thy glory, and to the good, temporal and eternal, of Thy dependent creatures. Let a scrupulous regard to the obligations which, in Thy name and under Thy all-seeing eye, shall be entered into, distinguish all upon whom the privileges of initiation shall be conferred, that they, abounding in all holy conversation and godliness, may become true and worthy members of our honourable Order, and that their practice may in all things correspond with their profession."

The Prov. G. Master then left his chair, and advanced to the west, preceded by the stewards, and attended by his principal officers, the organ playing. When the Prov. G.M. returned to the east, the music ceased, and he proclaimed the Temple dedicated to Freemasonry, concluding with a prayer for the blessing of Heaven upon it and upon all the works to be henceforth performed within its walls, to which the usual response, "So mote it be," was chanted by the choir.

The Prov. G. Master again made the circuit of the lodge, attended as before, solemn music playing. On arriving at the west, he declared the Temple dedicated to Virtue and Piety, again concluding with prayer, and receiving the response from the choir.

At the third circuit, in like manner, the Prov. G. Master halted in the south, and declared the Temple dedicated to Universal Benevolence, with the same form of ceremonial.

After the first proclamation the choir chanted the following verses. Psalm 127, v. 1, Psalm 118, v. 22, Psalm 51, v. 1 and 18, Psalm 41, v. 13, concluding each with "So mote it be." After the second proclamation, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th verses of the 15th Psalm (metrical version) were sung by the choir; and after the third proclamation Psalm 112, verses 1, 5, and 9. These concluded, the Prov. G.M. again, attended as before, walked thrice round the lodge, burning incense, the choir during the time chanting Kings, ch. 9, verse 25, once during each progress round. The Wardens, accompanied by the Sword-bearer, conducted the Prov. G.M. to his chair, and all the officers returned to their respective seats. The Prov. G.M. read the 2nd chapter of the 2nd book of Chronicles, and at its conclusion the choir performed an anthem, Psalm 133. An oration was then delivered by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M., Nos. 43 and 958, and P. Prov. S.G.W. for Warwickshire. This having occupied more than half an hour, the Prov. G.M. at its conclusion proceeded in procession as before thrice round the lodge, scattering first corn, with the words, "I scatter this corn as a symbol of plenty. May the blessings of Heaven be scattered down among us, and may our hearts be filled with gratitude." At the second round, wine was sprinkled, accompanied with the words, "I pour this wine as a symbol of joy and gladness. May our hearts be made glad through the influence of divine truth, and may virtue flourish as the vine." At the third round oil was poured, with the words, "I pour this oil as a symbol of charity and benevolence. May charity dwell in our hearts, and may our paths be the paths of benevolence." At the termination of each round the choir gave the anthem "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, goodwill towards men." The Prov. G.M. expressed his regret that unavoidable circumstances prevented the intended presentation of a P. Prov. G. Treas. jewel and an address to Bro. Du Jardin, which would be reserved for a future occasion.

The Prov. G. Chap. then offered the following prayer:—

"Grant O Lord, that they who may be invested with the government as rulers of the Craft in this province, may be endued with wisdom to understand, judgment to define, and ability to execute Thy Holy Law. May brotherly love and charity always prevail among the members of the lodges in this province, and may the bond of union continue to strengthen the lodges throughout the world. Bless, O Lord, our brethren, wherever dispersed and grant speedy relief to all who are either oppressed or distressed. We humbly commend to Thee all the members of Thy whole family. May they increase in the knowledge of Thee and in love for each other. Finally, may we finish all our works here below with Thine approbation, and then have our transition from this earthly abode to the heavenly temple 'not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'"

As a conclusion to the ceremony, "God save the Queen" was given by the choir, Miss E. Horton taking the solo parts, and all the brethren present joining in the chorus.

The procession was again formed in reverse order to that which had been observed in the morning, a second time walked round the Temple and returned to the Prince of Wales' rooms by New-street, instead of David-place, at a quarter to five. The Guernsey brethren were formally presented to the Prov. G.M., who briefly thanked them for their attendance, to which a suitable reply was made by Bro. Gallienne, D. Prov. G.M., on behalf of those by whom he was accompanied. The customary honours were paid. On the proposition of various brethren, votes of thanks were severally passed to Miss Horton for her valuable services in the musical department; to Bro. C. Johnson, P.S.G.W., as organist and conductor; to the ladies and gentlemen composing the choir; to Bro. the Rev. E. Guille for his assistance as Chaplain; to Mr. Moss for his kindness in lending the rooms for the Provincial Grand Lodge; to Bro. H. L. Manuel for his efficiency as Dir. of Cers.; to the Prov. G.M. for conducting the services; to Bro. Dr. Hopkins for his oration; to the D. Prov. G.M. and the Wardens, for the assistance they had rendered. The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed, and the brethren separated.

It must not be omitted to mention that, after the termination

of the proceedings, the ladies and gentlemen composing the choir, as arranged by the Board of Management, proceeded in carriages, and spent a very pleasant evening under the direction of Bro. C. Johnson, Prov. S.G.W., at l'Etacq, and that the band partook of refreshment in one of the rooms of the Temple, under the direction of Bro. Long.

THE BANQUET.

At six o'clock the brethren assembled at the Pomme d'Or Hotel, to the number of nearly 150. The Prov. G.M. presided, supported on his right by Bro. Crosse, D. Prov. G.M. for Jersey, and the French brethren, and on his left by Bro. Gallienne, D. Prov. G.M. for Guernsey, and the brethren who came with him. The Vice-Presidents' chairs were taken by Bros. Du Jardin, H. L. Manuel, and Dr. Le Cronier. On the conclusion of the banquet, the loving cup was brought to the Prov. G.M. by the Stewards, who gave as the toast, "Concord, Friendship, Brotherly Love." The cup was then carried round, first to the visitors, and then to the rest of the brethren.

The W. MASTER briefly proposed, in succession, "The Queen and the Craft;" "The Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales (the Rose of Denmark), and the rest of the Royal Family;" "The Grand Master of England;" all which were duly honoured.

Bro. DU JARDIN proposed "The Provincial Grand Master of Jersey," complimenting him on the gratifying manner in which he had performed the arduous duties of the day, and joining with his name the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Prov. G. MASTER and the D. PROV. G. MASTER severally returned thanks in a few words.

Bro. H. L. MANUEL proposed "The Health of the Visitors, especially those from France and Guernsey," assuring them of the delight with which their presence was hailed, as a testimony of the fraternal regard which members of the Craft felt for each other, irrespective of country, clime, or creed, and expressive of the additional interest which had been given to the solemn ceremonies of the day by the sympathy of those who could not share in the benefits of the Temple now dedicated to Freemasonry.

Bro. HOVUS, on behalf of the French brethren, delivered an address, of which the following is a translation:—

"Very Worshipful Grand Master and Dear Brethren,—In order to obtain a knowledge of this country, to learn how to appreciate it, and to be enabled to give you a high place in our esteem, it was not necessary to leave our own shores and to pay you a visit. In fact, for a long period the reputation of this island and of the brethren resident here has been fully extended throughout the whole Masonic world. Under circumstances of recent occurrence, we were fortunate in being able to commence at St. Malo this era of mutual fraternal intercourse, which will henceforth unite the Masons of the opposite coasts; what we have experienced among you far surpasses all our previous expectations, and we can but thank you for your earnest desire to obtain our assistance in the important work in which we have this day taken a part. The erection of your Masonic Temple is a noble idea which has earned the approbation of the whole body of the Craft; it is one of the most fruitful in assurances of future progress that I know; in its spirit of unity it realises the chief doctrine of our heart. This monument, freely erected here in perfect liberty, could arise only in free England. Its roof will equally afford shelter to all the children of the Masonic family, and the fraternity which you carry into practice in so worthy a manner will always find an abode there. Under such circumstances this Temple belongs to all Freemasons—a sentiment which you show that you thoroughly comprehend, by the invitation with which you have honoured us to the solemn meeting which has called us hither. But what can we bring to this handsome edifice except the most ardent wishes for its perpetuity and its splendour? It is, indeed, in order to share these sentiments with you that we are come among you, in full confidence that the granite of which the building is composed will be less durable than your devotedness to Masonry, and than the sympathy which will ever unite the lodges and the hearts of the Masons of France and England. This hope becomes a certainty by reason of the progress which you have been making for many years. Well may we offer our congratulations to the Provincial Grand Master, for it is in truth to the wisdom of his administration and to your cordial union that this brilliant success must be attributed. Rally, then, dear brethren, round your illustrious chief, and especially maintain among yourselves that precious union, without which nothing is lasting, and the want of

which undermines, little by little, the foundations of the strongest edifices.

"In profane matters your progress is as marked as in Masonic affairs. From these we must form our opinion of the merit and the amount of happiness of a free people. The good order of your government; the taste which is shown in your public works; the prudent spirit of your population; the state of education among you; all these bear evidence of an onward course. Happy the people who govern themselves! Piously preserve these conquests which you owe to your forefathers, neighbours of us inhabitants of Brittany, the intelligent Normans. Faithfully guard those old franchises which are protected under the powerful flag of England. If you do not possess a distinct nationality, content yourselves with being the most rich, the least governed, that is to say, the most happy people in the world. Such were our reflections yesterday, on seeing your fine population, your rich fields, the evidence of prosperity, of good government, of corporate freedom, scattered on every side. Thanks, dear brethren, for affording us such a spectacle. In the pursuit of the study of Masonry among you, we should find many other points from which we might derive profit. For instance, we meet with that which nowhere else is experienced to the same extent, the kindness with which you have caused us to be surrounded by amiable and attentive brethren from the time of our arrival here. Thanks to them; thanks to you all for the pleasure we are enjoying; thanks to the illustrious Provincial Grand Master for his gracious reception of us. We unite, dear brethren, in wishing success, honour, and prosperity to your Temple; to you all a full measure of happiness and peace." Bro. Hovius concluded by proposing "Success to the United Lodges of Jersey and Guernsey," which was duly honoured by the French brethren in their own peculiar style.

Bro. GALLIENNE replied at some length and in a most eloquent manner, on behalf of himself and his Guernsey brethren. Only a brief outline of his address can be given. For the second time he appeared in Jersey to share in the holy work which had that day been consummated, having been present at the laying of the foundation stone. On that occasion he appeared alone, whereas, excited by the event, he now brought with him a goodly company, which would have been far more numerous but for the military proceedings of the previous day (the Queen's birthday), and want of means to cross the water after their conclusion. He was present as their representative to thank the Jersey brethren for the invitation. He was delighted to see the Temple reared and devoted to the purposes for which it was intended. Let it not be imagined, however, that here the work ceased, that all was accomplished. They had the casket in the material building, but where were the jewels with which it should be filled, and which must form its adornment, the practice of true morality and virtue? The extent to which these were inculcated, promoted, and practised, would prove the real value of the kernel within the shell which had now been provided. It had been his intention to remark at length on certain subjects connected with the Craft, and he had arranged his ideas with this view, but the ground had been to some extent cut from under his feet by the masterly oration of Bro. Dr. Hopkins. It was certainly rather long, but it would not have been felt to be so, had not the brethren been exhausted by the previous proceedings, and as he understood that it was to be published, he was sure that, affording matter for much thought, it would be read with profit and pleasure on its appearance in print. At the same time he must state that, in view of the subjects it comprised, the oration could not with advantage have been curtailed. No one could doubt that the Fraternity is honourable and ancient, for the reasons given in the charge to an entered apprentice. There are various opinions as to the extent of its antiquity. Some said that it existed before the deluge, and was transmitted through Noah; in fact that a lodge was held in the ark. Others assigned it to Pagan origin. It was said that it took its rise in Tartary, and was sent westward through Persia, India, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. By some it was supposed to have commenced at the time of Solomon's Temple. Others gave the time of Jesus Christ as that of its birth. The German secret societies had the credit with some. Others went back to the Druids of the west of Europe; while a portion of the inquirers into its history attributed it to the Templars, and connected it with the Crusades. In fact the investigation was one of great difficulty in the midst of so great a variety of opinions, and those who attempted it found themselves in a wilderness. Certain it is, however, that wheresoever its origin, Freemasonry is a most important and valuable institution, as inculcating and enforcing the discharge of all

the moral duties; and very ancient, for it existed in the time of St. Alban, the first martyr in the west of Europe, and we have a knowledge that a Grand Lodge existed in York in 926. He (Bro. Gallienne) had been reading a valuable work by César Moreau, entitled "L'univers Maçonique," on which he had intended to found some remarks, but time pressed. He would therefore restrict himself to one short quotation:—"Toutes ces origines, plus ou moins spécieuses, sont assez difficiles à établir avec quelque sens; historiquement, elles sont impossibles à justifier. Nous dirons modestement, et sans prétendre blesser en rien les opinions, les douces rêveries de nos confrères les historiens-maçons, que si, par analogie du but des mystères chez les peuples anciens et de l'institution de la Franc-Maçonnerie, on peut rétrograder jusqu'à l'établissement des réunions de l'Inde, qu'une analogie ne peut équivaloir à une preuve, et qu'il faut tout simplement s'arrêter à cette idée, que probablement l'architecture matérielle a donné naissance à notre architecture morale." In the early part of the last century, the Grand Lodge of England collected all the Masonic records it could find and destroyed them, an act of vandalism which is now greatly deplored. Let it be borne in mind, that the undoubted antiquity of Masonry proves it to be a most honourable institution, not that its character in that respect proves its antiquity. It has been persecuted, politically, ecclesiastically, and socially, but its inherent goodness is such that it has always risen again with renewed vigour, especially in England, "and you, my brethren from France, though you may have been under a cloud, you will yet rise again." Most heartily do I wish that this may be speedily accomplished." Freemasonry teaches men their duty to God, their neighbour, and themselves. Masons remark, "there is a man who deserves to be a Mason; he has all its high and noble principles;" but what can be said of a Mason who has been initiated, who displays not these virtues, who is content with the ceremonies, whose rites are the banquets, who sees the symbols, but inquires not into their meaning? Let all make it a matter of conscientious obligation,—"I will do my duty." Secrecy, fidelity, and obedience are strictly inculcated in the constitutions, and one of the articles is that no man should be admitted unless worthy. Let obedience to this injunction be firmly impressed on Freemasons. Let it be remembered that a brother who proposed a candidate admits a brother, not to himself only, but all members of the Fraternity, and that it is a gross injustice to them to receive one who is not worthy. Let all be especially on their guard in reference to this point. A Temple has now been erected to the glory of God and the honour of the Craft. Let it never be profaned. Let strict morality, not profession, be its ornament. Let the brethren be Masons in heart, in thought, and in deed; let them remember that this is a state of transition, and that all must prepare for the grand banquet with the Great Architect of the Universe in a future state. Bro. Gallienne concluded by thanking the brethren for their kindness and hospitality, and the privilege of assisting in the great work of the day.

Bro. DR. HOPKINS proposed as a toast, "Success and Prosperity to the Temple," prefacing it with a few words on the important undertaking now completed, reminding the brethren that he had given the same sentiment at the banquet on its commencement, and that he was happy to see all the hopes then raised now realized, by the erection of the material building, in and on which he had been permitted to expatiate in an earlier part of the day, and having then said so much, he would not extend his remarks. The toast was duly honoured.

Bro. DR. LE CRONIER proposed, "Universal Fraternity," a proof of which was afforded by the presence of so many distinguished visitors, reminding the brethren that railways and telegraphic wires annihilate time and space, and would conduce much to the extension of the sentiment he offered. Many of the brethren now left the room, it being near ten o'clock. Some other toasts received due attention, concluding with "All Poor and Distressed Masons."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PERTH.—*Lodge of St. John* (No. 485).—Weekly lodges of instruction have been regularly held during the past month (March). A special meeting was held on the 19th March for the purpose of passing Bro. Hillman to the second degree. The lodge was opened in the first degree by Bro. Fannaner, W.M. The candidates having answered the usual questions to the

satisfaction of the brethren, withdrew for preparation. The lodge having been passed to the second degree, Bro. Hillman was admitted and passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft by S.P.M. Lochée. The lodge was closed in due form. A lodge was held on the 23rd March, when Bro. James was passed to the second degree in the usual manner.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and the junior members of the Royal Family continue at Balmoral. The Prince and Princess of Wales on Thursday, the 26th, attended Divine service at Westminster Abbey, where there was a choral festival with sermon by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Offerings were received in aid of the funds of the Clergy Orphan Corporation, to which the Prince has since added £50. A grand review of volunteers was held in Hyde Park on Saturday, in honour of the Queen's birthday. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, the Princess Mary of Cambridge, the Duke of Aunale and his sons, and a large number of persons of high rank were among the 50,000 or 60,000 people who crowded the Park to witness this remarkable military display. The number of volunteers on the ground is estimated at between 21,000 and 22,000—the largest force of volunteers, so far as we remember, that has ever been brought together. The Prince of Wales held a levee at St. James's Palace, on Wednesday, by command of her Majesty. The presentations were numerous. On Thursday, the Prince and Princess of Wales, with a numerous retinue, proceeded to Cambridge. Prince Alfred is at present with his ship, the *Raccoon*, at Lisbon.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, the 26th ult., Lord Ellenborough denounced the conduct of the Prussians in Jutland, and observed that if the influence of this country had been what it once was the Great German Powers would have acted differently. He believed that the exercise of moral opinion was powerless in producing any satisfactory result, and that if we wished to do good, we must be prepared to vindicate our views by force. Lord Russell warmly defended the policy of the Government, and, in the course of his reply, took the opportunity of contradicting the rumours which have been current to the effect that that policy has been dictated by her Majesty. "In all steps," he said, "which had been taken, both in reference to Poland and Denmark, her Majesty had readily acceded to the advice which had been tendered to her by her responsible Ministers." After some further discussion, in which Lord Grey and other peers took part, the subject dropped. The Bill for the removal of the disabilities of the Episcopalian clergy of Scotland—who, as the law at present stands, cannot hold a benefice in England—was referred to a Select Committee. Several bills were then advanced a stage.—On Friday, Lord Brougham inquired if her Majesty's Government intended to appoint inspectors of middle-class schools. Earl Granville replied that the subject had been under the consideration of the Committee of Council on Education, but they did not see their way clear to appoint inspectors of schools that did not receive support from the Government, but were simply private speculations. Earl Stanhope called attention to the report of the Public School Commission, especially to that part of it which refers to the course of instruction in the public schools, and he advocated a change being introduced with regard to their management. The Earl of Clarendon said the course of education was so loose in public schools that when the young men came to college there was not more than one-third of them who were able to

pass the matriculation examination, although it was a very simple one.—On Monday, Lord Clarendon brought in a short Bill, which was read a first time, providing that persons acquiring rights as members of the governing bodies of the public schools shall hold those rights subject to any decision which may hereafter be arrived at by Parliament on the question of public school education.—A short discussion took place on the state of New Zealand, and several peers denounced the Confiscation Act passed by the colonial Legislature and sanctioned by the Home Government.—On Tuesday, the Penal Servitude Bill, which has already passed through the various stages in the House of Commons, was read a second time.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, the 26th ult., Lord Hartington stated, in reply to a question from Sir F. Smith, that the Guards and a battalion of the Military Train had been ordered home from Canada on account of the heavy expenditure incurred in providing barrack accommodation there.—In reply to Mr. Smollett, Mr. Cardwell said the 2nd of June was the date fixed for handing over the Ionian Islands to Greece. The right honourable gentleman contradicted the statement that Sir Henry Storks had drawn up a constitution for the future government of the Islands.—Mr. Hennessy moved the resolutions, which he has so often postponed, affirming that England is no longer bound to recognise the sovereignty of Russia in Poland. The hon. gentleman censured the course which had been adopted by the Government in rejecting the proposals which had been made on this question by France and Austria, and urged that an independent Poland was necessary to the tranquillity of Europe. Lord Palmerston agreed with Mr. Hennessy in condemning the oppressive treatment of Poland by the Russian Government, and admitted that the recent negotiations had not terminated satisfactorily. But he reminded the hon. gentleman that he himself had declared that he did not desire a war on behalf of Poland, and that all he proposed was that the European Powers should combine in a diplomatic effort to obtain justice for the Poles. Diplomacy had been set in operation and had failed, but he trusted the House would pause before it gave its assent to resolutions which it would be undignified on its part to adopt, unless it was prepared to proceed to extreme measures. It would, moreover, be unfortunate for the Poles themselves to have it formally declared that Russia had forfeited her right to Poland, as that right—based as it was on the treaty of Vienna—involved a distinct claim upon the protection of the Great Powers.—On Friday Mr. Scully moved, "That a humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to issue a Commission to inquire and report as to the best system for registering titles to land in Ireland, and to frame a measure for that purpose; and also to consider and report as to the creation of transferable debentures upon land in Ireland." The Attorney-General for Ireland said there was no controversy as to the advantage of carrying out Mr. Scully's views for freedom of trade in land by means of a free and cheap system of transfer in Ireland. He thought it was possible to frame a measure on the subject, but as it would involve such great consequence to the community it ought to be brought in upon the responsibility of the Government. The matter was now under consideration, and a measure was in preparation. After a short conversation the motion was withdrawn.—Mr. Whalley brought under notice the instructions issued by the Police Commissioners as to the suppression of public meetings in the parks, and to the power assumed by subordinate officers of the police force, pursuant to those instructions, in suppressing a recent meeting at Primrose-hill. Sir G. Grey observed that the parks were the property of Crown, and were subject to certain conditions and restrictions

which were essential to the object for which they were given over to the public. With regard to the suppressed meeting at Primrose-hill, he regretted that the police had exceeded their duty by interfering, and the inspector had been reprimanded for his conduct on that occasion.—The House then went into Committee of Supply *pro forma*, but progress was immediately reported.—The Public and Refreshment Houses (Metropolis) Bill was read a second time.—On Monday the Attorney-General, in reply to a series of questions relative to the arrangement in the case of the Mersey steam rams, gave an account of the negotiations which resulted in the purchase of the two vessels. The purchase-money is £220,000, or £80,000 below the sum at first demanded by the person represented to be the owner of the rams. The hon. and learned gentleman contended that on the part of the Government there had been no condonation of a violation of the law; and he did not consider that the arrangement in this case would lead shipbuilders to construct vessels of the class of *El Toussain* and *El Monastir* on the speculation that Government would buy the ships. He added that, under present circumstances, her Majesty's Ministers did not deem it necessary to propose an amendment to the Foreign Enlistment Act.—In reply to a question from Mr. Baines, Mr. Peel said the question as to whether any measures should be taken "to remedy the present deficiency in the supply of silver coin" was under consideration.—Mr. Whiteside moved a resolution to the effect that the existing duties on spirits should be reduced. The right hon. gentleman contended that the present high duties had acted most prejudicially upon Ireland. Illicit distillation had been encouraged, the distillers were being driven out of the trade, the revenue suffered, and serious social evils were produced. He attributed the course taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this matter to the policy of the Government in China—a policy which could only be sustained by a large expenditure of money. Mr. Gladstone opposed the motion—disputing Mr. Whiteside's allegations as to the extent to which illicit distillation was carried on, and the fiscal results of the increased duties. The motion was lost, and the House went into committee of supply, when several votes were passed.—On Tuesday, Mr. Layard stated, in answer to a question, that no official information had been received by the Government as to the grounds upon which the Chincha Islands had been seized by the Spaniards; but he was in a position to say that the shipment of guano from the islands on British account would not be stopped. Mr. Lindsay postponed his motion relative to the Confederate States, and Lord Clarence Paget announced his intention of asking the House to sanction a supplementary vote for the purchase of the Birkenhead steam rams.—Mr. Cobden moved a resolution affirming that the policy of non-intervention should be observed in our intercourse with China. The hon. gentleman commented at considerable length upon the pleas which the Government put forth in support of its policy in China, and contended that, even on the assumption that it was politic to advance commerce by the agency of the sword, we had failed to secure an increase of trade at all proportionate to the expenditure which our wars with China had rendered necessary. He supported this argument by copious statistics, and was replied to by Mr. Layard, who was no less ready with an array of figures to prove the very reverse of the conclusions arrived at by the member for Rochdale. The debate was continued by Lord Naas, Mr. Liddell, Lord Palmerston, Mr. Bright, and other members; and ultimately Mr. Cobden withdrew his motion.—On Wednesday, Mr. Dodson moved that the House go into committee on the Tests Abolition (Oxford) Bill. Mr. Trefusis moved

that the House go into committee that day six months. The bill sought to introduce a new principle into the University which ought not to be done without good reason being shown. This had not been shown. The bill was not required by the country, and if passed it would do much to disserve the Established Church from the University. Mr. Leatham said the real reason why the bill was opposed was because it was a concession to Nonconformity, which some gentlemen always seemed to think was a blow aimed at the Church of England. They had heard the same argument of the Church in danger too often to be alarmed at it. At present they might have in the governing body of the Universities bishops who did not believe in Noah's Ark, but they refused admission to Dissenters who did believe in Noah's Ark, but did not believe in bishops. He hoped the bill would pass. Colonel Clifford also supported the bill, as did Mr. Morrison. Sir S. Northcote opposed it on the ground that it was an undue interference with the University. A long discussion ensued, and the motion for going into committee was carried by 236 votes to 226. The House then went into committee, and progress was immediately reported.—The House was proceeding with the discussion of the Elections Committees Bill when, at a quarter to six, the debate was, in accordance with standing orders, suspended.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The metropolitan mortality in the last week in May was singularly near to the average deaths in that week corrected for the increase of population during the last ten years. That average was 1,233, and the deaths actually occurring in the course of last week were 1,234. The births for the same period were rather above the average, which has not been the case for some time past. The actual births were 1,966; the average was 1,938.—The general meeting of the National Rifle Association has been held, the Duke of Cambridge presiding. Lord Elcho explained that the finances of the association were in an exceedingly healthy condition; the number and value of the prizes were increased, as well as the number of competitors. This was especially the case with the Queen's prize, for which there were about 200 more competitors than last year, though the entrance fee had been doubled. His Royal Highness, at the close of the meeting, made some remarks on the Prussian needle gun, of which he did not think so highly as some gentlemen did from the recent practice at Dybbol.—A numerous deputation, including a number of members of Parliament, waited upon Lord Palmerston, on Tuesday, to urge his lordship either to postpone the Church Building Acts Amendment Bill or to insert a clause prohibiting the levy of church rates in new parishes. The noble lord declined to give any pledge on the subject. The object of the Government, he said, was merely to bring together the various enactments relating to the church building question that were scattered through several acts of Parliament, and he could only promise to lay the suggestions of the deputation before his colleagues.—A frightful railway accident occurred on Wednesday morning at Stow-hill, Bradford, resulting in death to one person and serious injury to a number of others—injuries which it is feared may in several of the cases yet prove fatal. It appears that a train of carriages, filled with colliers, was overturned at the foot of an incline which leads from Stow-hill to the Low Moor Collieries. Besides one of the unfortunate men being killed and about a dozen severely injured, there was considerable damage done to property. The guard of the train has been taken into custody for alleged negligence.—The case of Colonel Knox against Mr. Gye, of the Royal Italian Opera, which, it will be remembered, was a claim on the part of the colonel to establish a partnership between Mr. Gye and himself in the Opera House, and an appeal from the decision of Vice-Chancellor Wood, who held that Colonel Knox had not

made out his claim, has been brought to a close before the Lords Justices. Their lordships took time to consider their judgment in the affair.—Great indeed are the mysteries of some branches of British industry. It came out in the course of a case in which Vice-Chancellor Kindersley has given judgment, that some ingenious individuals have been working an "invention," which consists in mixing large quantities of Irish butter with pork and beef fat. This compound has been offered to the public as pure butter; but it is some satisfaction to know that the speculation has proved a failure. It may not be generally known that pure tallow is regularly sent into Dorsetshire for the manufacture of Dorset butter.—At the Middlesex Sessions, John Pearson and Jean Paul, were indicted for selling indecent books and prints. Both prisoners pleaded guilty. Pearson was sentenced to 12 months' hard labour, and Paul to six months.—On Tuesday morning an inquest was held at Bethnal-green, on the body of a young married woman who had died suddenly. According to the testimony of the surgeon who attended deceased, she had been seized with violent sickness after eating a piece of Dutch cheese, much of which was sold in a condition altogether unfit for human food. The exhaustion consequent on the sickness, in his opinion, caused her death.—On Wednesday a married sister of Miss Harriet Martineau, while waiting for a train at the Esher and Claremont station of the South-Western Railway, suddenly threw herself under the wheels of the approaching engine and was cut to pieces. The unfortunate lady had been in ill-health for some time.—George Bryce, charged with the murder of Jane Seaton, at the village of Ratho, on the 16th ult., has been tried and found guilty at Edinburgh. He was sentenced to be executed on the 21st inst.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The session of the French Corps Legislatif was brought to a close on Saturday last, after an unusually long sitting. The President, the Duke de Morny, in the customary closing speech, strongly recommended conciliation amongst all parties, as conducive to the welfare and interests of the country.—The cattle show at Evreux was visited by the Emperor and Empress of the French on Sunday, when a display of fireworks took place, which set fire to the cattle-sheds. Fortunately the animals were saved, although the sheds were destroyed, and some of the persons employed in extinguishing the flames injured.—The state of affairs in Algeria must still be serious, as more troops are under orders to sail for the scene of insurrection. Marshal Bugeaud, it is said, has resolved to destroy the standing crops of the native tribes, and so reduce them to a state of famine in the coming winter. Such a policy, if carried out, must entail a good deal of hardship on the French themselves.—The *Gazette* contains an intimation from the Danish Minister at the English Court, that the blockade of German ports by Danish ships of war, will be resumed on the 12th inst., unless, in the meantime, the deliberations of the Conference bring about some arrangement of the dispute between Denmark and Germany.—The Conference re-assembled on Saturday last, and, after two or three hours' deliberation, adjourned until Thursday. The *Observer* says the statements which have recently appeared as to an alleged arrangement for the settlement of the dispute between Denmark and Germany are not to be relied upon—the telegraphic accounts are evidently got up, and even the more elaborate and seemingly authoritative statements are only a little less reliable. Our contemporary gravely adds that in the altered circumstances of the case it is scarcely to be expected that a very sudden solution can be arrived at. The *Moniteur* announces that the neutral Powers represented in the London Conference have invited the Plenipotentiaries of the belligerents to solicit

instructions for a prolongation of the suspension of hostilities between Denmark and the German Powers. The ministerial journal of Berlin declares that the English Cabinet has intimated its intention of proposing that in no case shall Kiel become a Federal port, but that this presumption has been decisively rejected by the Representatives of Prussia, Austria, and the Federal Diet.—Advices have been received at New York, that in consequence of outrages on Spanish subjects the Spanish admiral has commenced hostilities against Peru, and seized the Chincha Islands.—A despatch from Tripoli, in Africa, announces the explosion of a powder magazine near the telegraph station. Forty men were killed, and the station was much damaged; but the telegraph lines were immediately restored, and the communication with Alexandria has not been interrupted.—Reports that the Pope was very seriously ill, have for some time been circulated in Italy, but a despatch from Rome assures us that Pio Nono's health is now completely re-established.—The people of the Danubian Principalities have pronounced, by an overwhelming majority, in favour of the new constitution proposed by Prince Couza.

INDIA, CHINA, &C.—Advices by the Overland Mail are from Calcutta to the 22nd ult., and from Hong-Kong to the 15th. At Calcutta the only matter of interest was the state of the currency, which was causing a good deal of anxiety, and giving rise to much discussion. In China the Taepings were gradually losing the districts which they had originally acquired, although there was still a force of about 40,000 men in the field. At Japan the Tycoon and Mikado were on good terms; the foreign traders' difficulty was occupying much attention. By a telegram from Bombay, dated the 14th ult., we learn that the Viceroy had arrived at Simla. The same telegram conveys the melancholy intelligence that the Rev. Isambart Lowenthal, missionary to the Afghans, has been murdered at Peshawur.

AMERICA.—The *Scotia* brings news from New York to the 18th ult. General Lee had not retreated; Spottsylvania Court House had not been abandoned; and the contending forces confronted each other, north of the Court House, where the Confederates occupied a strong position. Butler had been defeated, and compelled to retire, with great loss. The Federal General Sigel had also been defeated at Newmarket; whilst Banks had to march overland, fighting his way, to the Mississippi River. The extra steamer *City of Cork* brings intelligence from New York down to the afternoon of the 18th ult.—that is some hours later than the *Scotia*. General Grant reports the roads improving; he was daily receiving reinforcements, and had moved to attack Lee. The Secretary of War states that a draft will be ordered on the 1st of July to meet the vacancies caused by the expiry of the term of service of the 100 days men, and other reductions.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. M.—The article alluded to, "Masonry in Kent," has not come to hand.

GRAND CONCLAVE.—In Bro. Havers' letter last week, the words "last year" were erroneously printed for "of late years."

H. H.—Bro. Hopkins' oration at the consecration of the new Masonic Temple at Jersey is unavoidably postponed.

S. S.—We cannot undertake to act as a Court of Appeal from the decisions of the Grand Secretary. If our opinion is wanted, it should be asked in the first instance.