

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1864.

THE CHARITIES.

We have received the following letter relative to the apparently large number of votes which are lost at every election. We say apparently, because we believe that if the numbers could be more minutely analysed, it would be found that the actual votes unpolled would be largely diminished, owing to the death of subscribers, whose names, however, cannot be expunged from the list in consequence of the Secretaries not having received official or such notice of the deaths that they can legally act upon :—

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

SIR,—Having attended many times the elections to our different Charities, allow me, through the medium of your MAGAZINE, to draw the attention of the brethren at large to the fact that upwards of 26 per cent. of votes are not polled, and to learn, if possible, the cause. Can it be thought that there are so large a number of subscribers indifferent to the results of the institutions? I am fully sensible that there are many who have means with a kind heart to support these Charities, but not the time. There are also many who have time but not the means; there are again those who have both.

At the elections just over, let me state that there were in the—

	Votes issued.	Polled.	Not polled.
Girls	4,700	3,468	1,232
Boys	8,000	5,876	2,124

I cannot but express regret that, as there are so many deserving cases, so much valuable assistance is lost. Many of us make it our duty to learn the merits of each case, and give our support to the most deserving.

I would suggest, nay, I appeal to those who have proxies to give, to forward them to some one who will use them for the good cause for which they are intended. I for one shall be happy to receive such, and apportion them to proper use.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

A. PRATT, P.M.,

And a Life Governor of all our Charities.
7, Devonshire-place, Wandsworth-road.

We gladly insert Bro. Pratt's letter, and at the same time put ourselves forward to act as the almoners of the brethren in the application of their votes when not otherwise engaged, to the support of deserving cases, pledging ourselves always to tell them how the votes are used, and the grounds upon which we apply them. And, as a preliminary, we at once place ourselves before the Craft as canvassers for two boys in April next—our candidates being—

BENJAMIN CRABTREE TOWNSHEND, born on the 6th March, 1853. He is the son of the late Samuel Crabtree, of the Vitruvian Lodge (No. 87), London, who was killed by an accident at the building of the Victoria Railway-station, leaving a widow and five children, three of whom are

entirely dependant on the mother for support; and—

ROBERT CHRISTOPHER WILSON, born 5th October, 1852. His father, formerly a chemist and druggist, has been for fourteen years a member of the Union Lodge (No. 129), Kendal, and is now in distressed circumstances, with a diseased knee-joint of thirty-two years' standing, accompanied with poplital aneurism.

Here are our candidates, and our reason for taking up their cases is this, that they have each already appealed to the Craft seven times, and are evidently without friends to make their cases properly known—the former having only polled 143 votes, or an average of a little more than 20 a-time; and the latter 72, or 10 a-time. In selecting these cases, we do so for the honour of the Craft; for when boys are once considered worthy by the Committee to be placed on the list of candidates, it is something like a slur on our boasted charity to let them appeal to our sympathies ten or a dozen times in vain. On the Committee we throw the responsibility of selecting fit and proper candidates, and we, who find from repeated failures that they are friendless, take upon ourselves the duty of endeavouring to secure their election.

It is not for us to dictate to the brethren how they should use their votes; but the returns of last election show the advantage which those who have powerful friends or come from large centres, have over others who have no other support than that which the merits of the case calls forth from such brethren as Bro. Pratt, who states that he looks to those merits in giving his votes. Thus from seven first applications two candidates were elected, from eleven second applications five were elected, from five third applications one was elected, and from four fourth application one was elected; two fifth and two seventh applications being almost entirely neglected.

We have made inquiries, and find Mrs. Crabtree a woman well deserving of support, and as such we appeal for her child.

Of Bro. Wilson we know nothing beyond what we see in the balloting paper; but we do know that Masonry is not so flourishing in Kendal as to render it likely he can get much support from that quarter. Indeed, we do not suppose that there are many votes in the Province of Cumberland and Westmoreland, but we now publicly call on the respected Provincial Grand Master, his Offi-

cers, and the brethren of the province to assist us until we have secured the election of Bro. Wilson's son.

Brethren, we repeat our candidates are—

BENJAMIN TOWNSHEND CRABTREE, and

ROBERT CHRISTOPHER WILSON.

The next will be the EIGHTH application, and we trust the last.

To-day we have indicated what we will do with votes for the Boys' School if honoured with the confidence of the Craft; and in an early number we will say something about the other Charities. In the meantime, we remind the brethren that votes for all the Charities may be made available by exchange for the boys, and in April and May next we shall be happy to receive as many proxies as may not be otherwise engaged.

MASONIC ARISTOCRACY.

Masons prize honour and virtue above all the external advantages of rank and wealth.—*Masonic Lecture.*

"Prize honour and virtue above all the external advantages of rank and wealth!" A goodly theory this; but is it carried out in practice? Were every man who calls himself a Freemason (as too many do merely because they have passed through the ceremony of their initiation) to lay his hand on his heart, and to answer this question truly and on his honour, it is much to be feared that an affirmative reply would neither be promptly nor unanimously given. As Masons we ought to meet upon the square—that is on entering a lodge; but it must not be forgotten that we also should part upon the level—that is on retiring from the lodge. The social rank we had deposed on passing within the door is to be resumed, and even by Masons acknowledged and respected. Masonry, indeed, levels within its pale all worldly rank and honours, recognising those distinctions only which itself confers on worthy brothers of the Craft; but to promote perfect equality, Masonry strives to raise the inferior, not to degrade the superior. Many instances might be adduced in which the equalising tendency of the Order has promoted, not disturbed the peace and well-being of society; has made men respect one another, who but for this tendency would never have met, except at a time and in places where the difference of their worldly positions would have been a bar to their ever really becoming acquainted. What is it that divides mankind? what is it that ferments ill-will, breeds disturbance, and too often causes crime? To one cause may nearly all these evils be attributed; not to mere difference of opinion, not to mere distinctions of rank, for Masonry itself acknowledges and teaches that in every society of men some must of necessity rule

and others obey—but to the ignorance which exists in one class respecting the other. Political and polemical war often is the result of parties attributing to their opponents opinions which the latter never held; and no positive insults have ever produced half the social evil that has arisen from a misunderstanding between men. The low in the scale of society attribute to the great many feelings and many opinions which are merely the creation of their own imagination; the great, in like manner, view the conduct and actions of the humble mostly through a distorted or false medium. The poor look too frequently on wealth as the certain companion of pride and oppression; and the rich too frequently associate poverty with the commission of every species of crime and wickedness. All this arises from these respective classes being as ignorant of the real feelings and motives for action of one another, as if they were not the children of a common country, the subjects of one Sovereign. When they meet in the world, it is not in a manner to enable them to understand one another, but when they meet in Masonry all external differences of position are merged in the holy Fraternity which then alone binds them together. Alas! that it should occur to Masons so to have acted as to prevent a portion of our Craft from carrying out this sound principle. Strictly, men who could do any act which directly or indirectly tends to introduce into the fane of Masonry those ranks and distinctions which are admitted into society cannot be considered worthy of the name so disgraceful. Social position, wealth, rank, dignity, or power—language, country, religious belief or political principles—all are forgotten when men meet as Masons. Not that they are abandoned, but that to them no allusion is to be made. Once the badge of our Order laid aside, all these are resumed, and the Mason becomes what he was before. Will it be denied, then, that his temporary forbearance has made him a better man?

Would, however, that this were universally true; but some there are so wedded to the paltry rank they hold in the world, that rather than lose it for a moment, even within the sacred precincts of a lodge, they erect themselves into a self-constituted superior order of Masons, and cautiously exclude all who cannot boast an equal position with themselves in society.

* * * * *

Perhaps some supporter of the system may exclaim, "though at our banquet we wish to have none but gentlemen, yet you know that all Masons, whatever they may be else, can visit the lodge." Indeed! how extremely liberal to allow this privilege, a refusal to suffer which in any lodge would be followed by the loss of its warrant of constitution. But the Masonic banquet is an integral part, and a most important portion of our system. It is not during the performance of the mystic rites in lodge that men can become acquainted, or ever exchange

their feelings, or show that a noble heart may beat in an ignoble breast; this can only happen at the banquet, when the labours being at an end, social intercourse is free, and pleasure and profit are the results. It is the duty of those Masons who by Providence are placed high in the scale of intellect and rank to encourage those less blessed in these respects than themselves to frequent the Masonic assemblies which they attend. It is their duty by example to instruct, and by their superior knowledge displayed in their conversation, to improve the minds of their humbler brethren. Can any man be bold enough to say that the poor Mason who beholds the efforts made by his rich brother to raise him in the scale of humanity, or the humble Mason who sees how anxiously the great man strives to exalt his intellectual powers, by conversing with him on subjects before possibly unknown and unthought of—can it be asserted that these men—and they are not individuals, but types of great classes—will feel the less respect for their superiors who thus seek their good, or will dream of trenching on the necessary difference between them which the laws of society have established? It is not to be believed that any man, still less any true Mason will answer, Yes. Many ills in this world are caused by thoughtlessness, as many accidents arise from negligence. Far be it from us to be so forgetful of the spirit of the Craft we love as to attribute to those who support these aristocratic views the guilt of premeditatedly and advisedly breaking the ties of Masonry, and violating its ancient landmarks; but we only wish to recall them to a sense of a duty to which they have carelessly, not intentionally, run counter.

In conclusion, let us once more state the principle for which we are contending. It is this—Masonry is freedom itself, but it leaves its members, when in the world, to hold their respective ranks in the world's estimation. It requires them, indeed, to cast them aside when in lodge, or when a brother in distress claims their aid; but never else. It teaches all its members to be exemplary in the performance of their civil and social duties, and with these any equality in society would, as the world is now constituted, be compatible. Away, then, with such terms, such distinctions, and such exclusiveness: may the lines which serve as our motto be imprinted in the heart and manifested in the actions of every Freemason, and let us hear no more of "Gentlemen" Masons, no more of "Masonic Aristocracy."—*Masonic Record of Western India.*

ALWAYS suspect a man who affects great softness of manner, an unruffled evenness of temper, and an enunciation studied, slow, and deliberate. These things are all unnatural, and bespeak a degree of mental discipline into which he that has no purpose to answer cannot submit to drill himself.

LEARN to say "No" with decision; "Yes" with caution whenever it implies a promise—for once given, it is a bond inviolable.

LIVES OF ENGLISH ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, MASTER MASONS, &c.

A DICTIONARY SUGGESTION.

I wish to point out to you a work that is sadly wanted in the literature of art in England. We have more than one dictionary of painters and engravers; but we are without a dictionary of architects, builders, sculptors, engineers, and masons who have wrought in England. A dictionary of the kind I mean would comprise the names, and the facts in the lives, of all who have wrought worthily among us, from Gundulphus, Geoffrey de Noiers,* and William of Wykeham, to John Thorpe and Nicholas Stone; from Inigo Jones to Sir Christopher Wren; from Sir John Vanbrugh to Sir William Chambers, down to the days of Sir John Soane and Sir Robert Smirke, of Wilkins, Wyatt, Wyattville, Pugin, Cockerell, and Barry. Then for the engineers, much might be told of moment about them that Mr. Smiles has missed (interesting as his volumes are), from the days of Peter of Colechurch to Mr. Bazalgette; or from Isambard de Saintes, architect of the first bridge *over* the Thames at London, to Isambard Brunel and the first bridge *under* the Thames at London. The names of living architects and of the engineers of the railway bridges over the Thames at Blackfriars and Charing-cross, and of the noble embankment now at last proceeding in earnest, may be safely left to another generation and another edition of the proposed dictionary.

In a compilation of the kind I suggest as needed, care should be taken not to omit the names of men who in former days were known as clerks of the works, masters of the works, and surveyors of the works. The general use of the designation "architect" is of comparatively recent origin.

Some new names might be worthily added to the catalogue of builders of note in former times. Thus it was my good fortune to discover the name of the architect of the palace of the Protector Somerset, on the Thames, in London. His name was Henry Lawes, and he was called "clerk of the works."

When Inigo Jones was in London as "surveyor of our works," his master, King Charles I., had another builder or architect in Scotland. This was Sir Anthony Alexander, son of Alexander Earl of Stirling (the statesman and poet). The name is not in "Walpole," though in the works of so charming a poet as Drummond, of Hawthornden, is a "Pastoral Elegy" on his death. He was master of the King's works in Scotland, and dying in London in August, 1637, was buried

* Architect of Lincoln Cathedral, and an Englishman by birth.

at Stirling. The poem to his memory contains some beautiful passages; witness the following:—

“How oft have we, environ’d by the throng
Of tedious swains, the cooler shades among
Contemn’d earth’s glow-worm greatness, and the chase
Of Fortune scorn’d, deeming it disgrace
To court inconstancy. How oft have we
Some Chloris’ name graven in each virgin tree;
And finding favours changing, the next day.
What he had carved we did deface away.”

Thus we find that one master of the King’s works in Scotland inherited his father’s skill in poetry. A little diligence among our northern antiquaries would possibly be rewarded by the discovery of some example of Sir Anthony Alexander’s skill in the noble art of building well.

Contemporary with Alexander lived another builder-architect, William Aytoun by name; doubtless some relative to Sir Robert Aytoun, the poet and secretary to Henrietta Maria, the queen of Charles I. Sir Robert died in 1637, and his monument in the ambulatory of Westminster Abbey carries a characteristic bust of the poet in copper, the work of Francis Fanelli, a Florentine, “Fr. Fanellius, Florentinus, Sculptor Mag. Brit. Regis.”

This mention of Fanelli will possibly pardon the introduction in this place of a new *fact* about Fanelli connected with a great name in the history of art in England; and wholly overlooked by Walpole and his editors. In the will of the collector, Earl of Arundel, who died in 1646, is following passage:—

“For my body, I bequeath it to the earth of which it is a part, to be buried at Arundel without all funeral pomp,* to have a convenient tomb, of a sitting figure of white marble or brass, with such an inscription in Latin as I have acquainted Junius withal, to be designed by Seigneur Francesco Fanelli, if it may be.”

This statue, if ever executed, was never erected. A member of the Arundel Society can possibly tell us something more about it than has hitherto attended my researches, and the researches of abler antiquaries and connoisseurs than I can lay claim to be.

Two other names that well deserve admission into a dictionary of architects have lately come to light through the researches of Mr. R. W. Mylne. These names are “John Mylne, King’s Principal Master Mason, 1648,” and “George Thomson, Architect, 1634.” Mylne was engaged on the fine steeple of St. Giles’s Church, in Edinburgh; and Thomson, on King’s College, in Aberdeen.

If the gathering and garnering of minutiae of a like kind to the materials I have been pointing out appear of little consequence in the eyes of some of my readers, I would wish them to remember that a great English poet—no less a person than Thomas

* And yet, when alive and in the presence of others, he carried in his look and bearing the haughty blood of “all the Howards.”

Gray*—was pleased to be an annotator of Walpole’s “Anecdotes,” and to commit to paper notes on a little name like that of Robert Adams, whose epitaph in old Greenwich Church described him thus:—“Operum Regiarum Supervisor Architecturæ peritissimo,” ob. 1595:—Simon Basil, Operationum Regiorum Controtrotulator, posuit 1601.” Simon Basil who erected this monument to Adams, was Adams’s successor as surveyor. Basil was succeeded by the illustrious Inigo; while Inigo’s successor was *not* Webb, his kinsman and assistant, and able withal, but Sir John Denham, a true poet and no architect, who in a few years made way for England’s greatest architect, Sir Christopher Wren.

All that Walpole and his editors tell us of Robert Adams and Simon Basil may be found in half a page of the last edition of Walpole.† I purpose to tell your readers more about them in my next communication, and thus assist in obtaining the dictionary many would like to see, and many are in need of.—PETER CUNNINGHAM, in the *Builder*.

THE MASONIC SCHOOLS.

The children in the two Masonic Schools, as well as various other schools paid a visit on invitation to Bro. Anderson’s World of Magic on Saturday last, and spent a most pleasant afternoon in witnessing his masterly performance of the mysteries and wonders laid before them. There were a large number of Freemasons present, and each of the children received a memento of their visit from the hands of Bro. Anderson. Bro. Nimmo was an obliging Master of the Ceremonies, and had made every possible arrangement for the entertainment of the guests.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

HEGELIANISM AND FREEMASONRY.

The letter of a brother, who writes from Durham University, making inquiries upon this subject, has reached me. My answer is, that the followers of Hegel form three distinct parties, called the right side, the centre, and the left side. The first merely apply the Hegelian method in scientific researches. The second seek to reconcile Hegelian doctrine with Christianity. The third found on Hegelian doctrine a negation of the personality of God. There can be no reason whatever why Hegelians belonging to the first and second parties should not become Freemasons. But Hegelians belonging to the third party ought, in my judgment, to be excluded from our lodges.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

The true connexion between Freemasonry and the Knights Templar is one of the most difficult, and is one of the most interesting subjects of Masonic inquiry and research; and as one of the great uses of these “Notes and Queries” is to promote a friendly

* Mitford’s “Gray,” vol. v. pp. 199—216

† Walpole, by Wornum, p. 188.

discussion of "most questions" like this, I venture to add my quota to-day towards the consideration of the whole matter. A great deal may undoubtedly be said, *pro* and *con*. the proposition that Freemasonry has come down to us through the Knights Templar, and a good many arguments may be adduced, and authorities quoted, for such a view of the subject. Yet it is after all, quite impossible, I think, to attempt to dogmatise one way or other upon the question itself, since it can be at best but matter of theory or premise, the proof being difficult to find, and the conclusion not easy of attainment. We have, indeed, every reason to believe that a very intimate connexion of some kind exists between the Templars and the Freemasons; but what that connection really and truly was remains as yet a matter of doubt and discussion, and has to be clearly shown and convincingly proved. So far as we have gone in the inquiry, despite much that has been said and written on the subject, both favourably and unfavourably, we are but groping, as it were, in the dark, and though much may be probable and possible, little as yet is clear or certain. There seems to be numberless and insurmountable difficulties in the way of a theory often put forward to-day, originally started, I believe, by an anonymous French writer in 1774, in his "Historie de l'Origine de la Franc Maçonnerie," viz., "That Freemasonry has descended to us from the Crusades and Masonic Knights, especially the Templars, and was 'instituted by Godfrey de Bouillon, in Palestine, in 1330.'" Now, whatever may have been the exact meaning and ritual of the secret reception of the Templars, whatever even of a Masonic character may have purposely been thrown around it, it seems nevertheless difficult alike to prove and to believe, that, at the suppression of that cruelly maligned order, their secrets and mysteries passed simply into the hands of the operative lodges, and thence were handed down to our speculative brotherhood. For independently of the vast hiatus historically existing between the suppression of the Templars and the first traces we find of any Templar tradition, as in the so-called York Lectures, which is, in itself, very hard to bridge over so as to satisfy any historical inquiry, we have a further and serious difficulty to contend with.

The earliest Masonic evidences in this country—which may safely be fixed about the middle of the seventeenth century, that is as regards Masonic teaching and usages, in the way of ritual or observance—contain no trace of any acknowledgment of a Templar descent, and in all probability that statement of our commonly received Masonic history is correct, which makes the Knights Templar portions of our Order until the year 1199, just as the Knights of Malta are said to have been patrons of the Order in 1500; and we have no difficulty in finding the rationale of such a union. Just as the operative Masons admitted both monks and the clergy into their lodges as speculative Masons and as directors, so they would naturally accept as affiliated members and patrons the then potent knightly orders. While the knightly orders, perceiving the great value of the secret organisation and system of initiation and probation of the Freemasons, would adopt it and use it, to strengthen and cement their own peculiar constitution; so that whatever analogy may yet be traced between Templar and Masonic practices, whatever

may seem to be a common symbolism, is probably but the necessary result of this old alliance and connection; while it is most certain that the allusions to the Templar theory were formed at a time when most of our Masonic literature had passed into the hands of many able and enthusiastic supporters of this knightly theory. As opposed to this view, I believe that Freemasonry as we have it to-day, however overlaid by the purely speculative element, and affected by the lapse of time, is the same still in all its great landmarks as that which existed in this country in the operative lodges long before either the Knights of St. John or the Knights Templar were formed into religious and militant orders. But though this be my own individual opinion on the subject, and I only give it for what it is worth as such, as a Masonic student, it is but fair to add that I by no means wish to question the right or ability of any other brother to hold a diametrically opposite view, and to bring forward many writers and authorities in support of his own deliberate conclusion. Freemasonry is wide enough, and tolerant enough, let us hope, for those who agree and those who differ. I therefore venture to offer this further answer to the query of "A Blue Mason," as one learns more and more, in everything human, to value the wise axiom—"audi alteram partem."—EBOR.

ENGLAND AND FREEMASONRY.

Foreign brethren very frequently make use of an expression equivalent to England being the birthplace of Freemasonry. What is the cause of this?—A TRAVELLING BROTHER.—[The cause of such an error is a want of the knowledge of the true principles and history of the Order. Most, if indeed not all, of the Grand Lodges in Europe were derived from England, after the revival of Freemasonry here in 1717. Hence it is asserted that England is the birthplace of Freemasonry, and, proud as we should be if it really was so, stern truth demands that we should neither encourage nor claim the honour. Freemasonry is to be traced to Egypt as its cradle. The Jews during their captivity there, in that land of bondage, appear to have been initiated, and the principles of the Order to have culminated with them at the building of Solomon's Temple. This rational view entirely explodes the absurdity of the guild theory, because we nowhere trace that Solomon or Hiram of Tyre were members of a building guild. That guilds and companies of the middle ages had Freemasons as members no one will deny, but to say that a guild of Freemasons were the depository of Craft secrets is as absurd as it is false. Freemasonry was known in the East before guilds were established in the West. It is stated to have been revived in Europe by the return of the Crusaders, having been established in the West and died out centuries before Christ. Its second revival was at the decline of the Rosicrucians, and then, curiously enough, we find those of that order existing becoming Freemasons, and the Rosicrucians dying out in turn. Immediately upon this comes the second revival of 1717, and in subsequent years many European nations established Provincial Grand Lodges under England, and when able to run alone cast off the mother Grand Lodge, and became National Grand Lodges in their own right. Having derived their organisation from us at

the beginning of the eighteenth century, it is not to be wondered at that foreign brethren should say England is the birthplace of Freemasonry, but that it is not so everyone who studies the subject for himself must be perfectly well aware.]

MARK MAN AND MARK MASTER.

Which is the correct designation of a Mark Freemason, a Mark Man or a Mark Master? Are they identical or different?—M. M.

THE DOORS OF THE TEMPLE.

Where were the doors of the temple situated? I said East, West, and South, but have been told I am wrong. Are we not told so?—A YOUNG MAN.—[You are wrong, whether you have been told so or not. The west had no door. The doors were east, north, and south. If you can get a copy of Zoroaster you will, perhaps, understand why. The old Masons knew, and used to give the reason, but we don't give reasons now—we only assert; and many very silly assertions we make, quite contrary to common sense and historical fact. The York Masons had more knowledge in their little fingers than all the lodge of reconciliation in their whole bodies. You sign yourself "A Young Mason." If you are so test everything, enquire for yourself, and don't be led astray by mud huts, or any nonsense of the kind. Lodges of instruction are not unfrequently lodges of construction for the whimsical theories of the brethren termed preceptors.]

SYMBOLIC COLOURS.

What are the symbolic colours applicable to Freemasons?—T. P.—[Will "T. P." oblige us by defining what he means by Freemasonry, *i.e.*, how many degrees he includes in his query, because on this point a correct answer turns. If his series is Craft Masonry only, then blue, white, and, for Grand Officers, purple, are those applicable. If he includes the Royal Arch then add red. If other degrees, state them, for we can give him a touch of the entire prism, and one or two composites into the bargain, amongst the higher orders and degrees.]

THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.

How many degrees refer to the building of the Temple?—T. P.—[“T. P.” is an instance of inconclusiveness. How can we answer unless we know what Temple is meant—whether it was the building of Zerubbabel's or the other temple not built by human hands. Brevity is highly to be commended in asking questions, but with brevity should be fulness and accuracy of inquiry. Two loose questions in one week are enough to puzzle that most ingenious of all mortals, a Philadelphia lawyer.]

2295, B.C.

To what degree does the era 2295 B.C. relate?—VERITAS.—[The 13°, or Royal Arch, of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.]

THAT'S NOT MASONIC.

In the course of our Masonic career, I have heard the following replies stated to be un-Masonic. A brother, really an interminable button-holder, addressed another with a long-winded question. The individual so inquired of replied, "Oh! botheration, how can I

tell?" This answer I heard stigmatised as un-Masonic. Another time a brother lost his gloves, and was lamenting the misfortune in doleful terms, when a brother said, "No one will notice it, go in; if your hands are dirty put them behind your back." This was pronounced un-Masonic. . . . Are there any hints on Masonic etiquette to be had; I so often hear "That's not Masonic," that I should like to know what really may be considered to be the right thing?—O. M. Y.—[Our querist is a wag, but we hope he won't say, "that's not Masonic." He will see we excised some curious items—and very good they were; but if we had inserted them the brethren, who could by no possibility have been mistaken by a large number of the Craft, would have said of us "that's not Masonic" to print such things.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MASONIC TAXATION.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I must own to a feeling of disappointment on reading the "P.M.'s" reply to my previous letter on Masonic Taxation. I fear I did him an unintentional injustice in supposing that one who advocates, as he does, such an unconstitutional measure as a general direct taxation, on behalf of the well-supported Charities in connection with Freemasons, must deal with the subject in a comprehensive spirit, while "gilding the bitter pill" he would compel us all to swallow, and be, at least, clear and intelligible in the plan he proposes. Alas! for my simplicity. The "P.M." does not charm by his eloquence, convince by his reasoning, nor enlist sympathy for his project. He has no constructive theory by which to suggest the *modus operandi* of his scheme. All that he puts forward is a crude, dogmatic proposition that every Freemason should be taxed ten shillings annually on behalf of the four Charities applicable to the brethren and their families. There he stops, without a single suggestion of how this should be done, and his inventive powers appear to be exhausted. He has harped on his one string and it produces no more than its solitary note.

Delicacy towards a widely-beloved and suffering brother suggested the suppression of his name in my last letter. That he was a brother of "great influence," when actively engaged in his duties, need not have been questioned by the "P.M.," as I wrote truthfully and not hypothetically. But as all brethren of "great influence" may not be known to the "P.M.," I beg to inform him I alluded to Brother Crew, Past Secretary to the Girls' School, who had often, years ago, propounded a system of taxation for the Charitable Institutions connected with Freemasons, the scheme of which was ably defined, but was induced not to take any steps towards his end by the advice of some of the largest contributors and warmest friends to those establishments.

Paying and giving are two distinct acts though money is the basis of both. We pay for what we have or make ourselves liable for. Payment is the redemption from a claim which we are bound in honour to satisfy because for what we pay we have,

have had, or are to have, some equivalent. Giving is the spontaneous offering of a generous nature; and the "P.M." seems unable to realise the difference between these two methods of parting with money. I never doubted the charitable source which actuates the donors who subscribe to any of the public or private institutions maintained for the benefit of their poorer countrymen by those whose means, or sympathies enable or prompt them to such blessed acts of mercy. What I said I repeat, "That no one ever pays a fraction more than he is rated at;" in this I did not say he never gave, but never paid; and I maintain the pride which an Englishman feels, in the thousands of charities which happily spread over the length and breadth of the land, is founded in the fact that they are the fruit of voluntary offerings in the cause of charity—money freely given—but not paid as the result of taxation. If such objects derived their support from statutable enactments declaring all men, high or low, rich or poor, as contributors of a certain fixed amount, then the chief glory of those institutions would depart, for who could look upon them but as portions of a system he was compelled to support, and which must, of necessity, obtain all they required for their existence, or those who levied the tax would be remiss in their duties for not making the amount, so derived, to be sufficient to cover the expenditure incurred. This, it appears to me, is the distinction between paying and giving.

Looking nearer home, let me borrow an illustration from our own Fund of Benevolence. Freemasons have to pay a quarterage of one shilling, or four shillings per annum, from which every brother, or his widow, has an inalienable right to claim relief in the hour of adversity. This Fund is supported by direct taxation, and its distribution—about which I offer no opinion here, though I think it sadly deficient in amount, sympathy with suffering, or common courtesy to applicants—is confided to the actual Masters and Past Masters of lodges. Even this sum, four shillings, although a poll tax, is not levied direct from every brother, but deducted from his annual lodge subscription, and is a payment, due to the Grand Lodge, for keeping a brother's name upon the registry. These Grand Lodge dues once paid no one ever dreams of giving a donation, for their poorer brethren, to the Lodge of Benevolence, thus recognising the fact that a compulsory payment once discharged, would appear to absolve all brethren from the idea of an offering for so good a purpose.

No doubt I am very obtuse, but for all my endeavours—and they have been some six or seven—I do not understand the fifth paragraph of the "P.M.'s" letter. It is a mystery I cannot solve, and therefore am in ignorance of his admission, or denial, of my assertion that the Masonic Charities are not, *per se*, institutions from which Freemasons, their widows, or children, are entitle to claim relief. These institutions are, like most English charities, under the whole and sole control of their patrons and subscribers. They are not recognised by the *Book of Constitutions*, which teaches Freemasons "the duty they owe to the Order in general," and their founders wisely avoided asking for any such recognition. It is also, in my humble opinion, a very ungracious thing for a brother, alone and unsupported, to step out of his

way to advocate a taxation for those Charities which owe their very existence to the generous impulses of their supporters and, to my mind, savours of a direct insult, being as much as to say "You" (the subscribers) "have not raised enough money for those you have undertaken to provide for. Stand aside, bring in your lists, as before, and although my influence does not increase your collections by a solitary pound, yet, I will get a law made that shall supplement your shortcomings, and complete that which you have laboured so strenuously to maintain."

I seek no credit for any condensing scheme. I did not propound anything of the kind. What I did say was that if the "P.M.'s" plan was to be adopted, certain radical changes in the government of the Charities must, sooner or later, take place, and then I enumerated those which occurred to me most readily. It is an easy thing to pull down and destroy, but a difficult task to found and construct a scheme, even but of small utility; and as my constructive powers are but limited, I have no intention to try, or experimentalise, on such noble institutions. The Masonic Charities are useful, well tended, well cared for, singularly prosperous, at the present time, and likely to be still more so in future; and I look upon that person, without any regard as to his great, or small, influence, to be a positive enemy to their further development who would seek to interfere with them now. If they were bankrupt, or collapsing from want of funds or an interest in their welfare, then I should not oppose the most stirring appeals on their behalf, but even then the idea of forced support would still remain intolerable. The brethren are ready. The Secretaries of each say "we have only to ask and have;" the subscribers give freely, work diligently, and increase daily, and yet, at such a time a "P.M." comes forward to advocate an old idea, proved untenable, and to sow a jealousy between the old generous supporters, who deserve all the credit given them for their disinterestedness and good will, and a new body of compulsory payees who must, in the long run, swamp, by the mere force of numbers, those who for so many years have vigorously "borne the heat and burden of the day."

Most amateur Chancellors of the Exchequer produce a budget by which they show, or attempt to demonstrate, what they could reckon on by their system of taxation, why they make certain goods subject to one duty and others to another excise, as well as providing for contingencies in collection and various other drawbacks. The "P.M." does nothing of the kind. He coolly fixed an amount of ten shillings annually, takes no note of anything else, and decides that that sum, neither more nor less, is what 25,000 men can, and ought to pay. It is a happy specimen of an *ad captandum* process of jumping to a conclusion.

The "P.M." regards the Charities not merely as "adjuncts," but "as fundamental and vital principles of our Order." Does he? I do not. Yet I would not be a whit behind him in doing my utmost for their prosperity. "Brotherly love, relief, and truth," are our fundamental and vital principles, but brotherly love and relief are not to be confined to certain existing societies, nor will either of those duties become more imperative if they are to be supported by taxation. The very edict would be an anomaly. Where would be the brotherly love that only depended on what a

brother must pay? We might just as well believe it possible to make men religious by Act of Parliament.

I think the "P.M." is bound to consider, and carefully weigh, one more argument against his proposal. The change from a voluntarily to an involuntary support must be a violent one, which would require great caution in its introduction. If it should fail, it would take years, perhaps a quarter of a century of hard labour, to re-awaken the interest now taken in the Charities, and unpopular as the tax would be—even growing as the Order is—the cases would remain longer on hand than they do at present, and they not only would be crippled in the effective assistance they do afford, without compulsion, but the Charities would be inundated by applicants who would declare that they had an indefeasible right to their benefits subject only to priority of application.

Let the "P.M." pause before he commits himself to his adopted scheme. Let him think of, honour, and venerate every patron and subscriber to those noble institutions who have, hitherto, with their large-heartedness, so ably and beneficently done more than their duty to their brethren, and let him not forget his poorer brethren, who ask not charity themselves, but spare from their own wants some aid to swell the total of a Stewards' list, and who, if taxed, may be unable to demonstrate the power of the shilling, and so be robbed of the gratification of adding to the great mass of prosperity which it is, happily, the good fortune of the Masonic Charities to share in common, and which the poor and struggling brother esteems a great privilege, for—

"In his home the humble virtues love to rest
Secure, and sheltered in a brother's breast;
Like the sweet tenants of the hive, they dwell,
Gentle companions of the poor man's cell.
Bless'd memory tells how warm his bosom glow'd,
For ills prevented, or for good bestow'd,
While the small mite, in love, in pity given,
Touch'd by his hand, became a gem in heaven."

Thanking you most sincerely for allowing me to trespass at such length on your space,

I am, dear Sir and Brother,
Yours truly and fraternally,
A. W.M.

MASONIC CHARITIES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your columns have lately contained a correspondence relating to the various Charities connected with the Order, and how best to support them. Will you favour me with space for a practical illustration of a recommendation made a few years since at the Provincial Grand Lodge of this Province—that each lodge in the Province should, at the installation of the W.M., elect one member to act as Charity Steward, his duty being to obtain and transmit subscriptions to the several Charities.

Bro. Charles Goodeve, an old and highly-esteemed member of the Lodge of Union (No. 38, late No. 45), was appointed to the office in 1860, and has been re-elected every year. During these five years Bro. Goodeve has been instrumental in forwarding £209 11s. I am not aware how this plan has worked in the other lodges of the Province, as no return has ever been called for by the Provincial Grand Lodge,

but I have no reason to doubt that the table given below of the subscriptions sent from the Lodge of Union (No. 38) may be taken as a fair average of the lodges in Sussex.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,
Yours fraternally,
GEORGE MOLESWORTH, P.M. No. 38.
Chichester, October 25.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE LODGE OF UNION (No. 38), PER
Bro. C. GOODEVE, CHARITY STEWARD.

YEAR.	Boys' School.	Girls' School.	Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1860	13 13 0	5 5 0	14 9 0
1861	10 10 0	8 8 0	15 4 0
1862	17 17 0	8 8 0	16 4 0
1863	12 12 0	16 16 0	15 9 0
1864	16 16 0	16 16 0	21 4 0
Total for 5 years	71 8 0	55 13 0	82 10 0

SOUTH WALES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—May I narrate a most remarkable incident in my experience of this entertaining province?

In common with other members of a certain lodge, I was requested to attend a regular meeting, at which, after the ceremony of initiation, an original lecture was to be delivered by a member of the lodge. I have no intention to criticise the lecture, although it contained quotations from the New Testament Scriptures, nor have I any wish to make any invidious remarks regarding the lecturer, who although a foreigner, was at the same time a member of an English lodge, and, I think, should have known better.

I wish, on the other hand, merely to express my disapprobation of the conduct of the very aspiring W.M., as regarded the clothing of a member of his lodge, taking so prominent a part in the proceedings of a crowded meeting.

During the ceremony, the lecturer entered the lodge thus attired. He wore no vestige of an apron, but his neck was adorned with a collar of the following description (were I a member of what are designated the Christian Orders I might be able to give it a cognomen):—Four inch purple silk edged with gold, and embroidered, also in gold, with an immense Maltese cross (✠), with a jewel of the same design pendant. The brother, having taken up a position beside the chair, a member of the lodge, I believe one of the oldest and most experienced Masons present, very modestly, drew the attention of the W.M. to the brother, and expressed a desire to be informed if such clothing was in accordance with the constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England. The W.M. replied that the brother was a "foreign Mason," and clothed, he believed, in accordance with the usages of his country.

The enquirer was evidently startled by such a subterfuge, and rejoined with the enquiry if the brother was not actually a member of this very lodge. The second query was received by the W.M. in solemn silence, but "the wise men of the east" were evidently disquieted, as, during the remainder of the ceremony, and prior to the lecture, various transformations took place. The brother first divested himself of the obnoxious collar, and for some time sat side by side with the Master, devoid of all Masonic attire. After a while, a Master Mason's apron was quietly supplied, and for another period the brother remained constitutionally clothed, but just prior to standing up to read his paper the knight's collar was resumed, and retained until the close of the lodge.

Would you oblige me by appending a short note to this communication, expressive of your opinion upon such a procedure, and informing me (if as censurable as I imagine) of the proper steps to be taken to prevent a repetition of a similar performance.

Yours truly and fraternally,

ENQUIRER.

South Wales, 20th October, 1864.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have read your report of the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire held at Leeds on the 5th inst., and have pleasure in supplying you with a short notice of the proceedings at the banquet afterwards held at Bro. Wilkinson, the White Horse Hotel, Boar-lane. The subjoined bill of fare will show you the *recherche* character of the banquet itself, which was supplied in the very best style of this famous and respectable hostelry.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Prov. G.M., presided on the occasion, in that happy style which is a peculiar gift of this talented and respected nobleman. He was supported, I need not say how ably, by the esteemed Deputy, Bro. Bentley Shaw, of Huddersfield, and a large array of the Masonic wealth and talent of this great province.

The toasts were introduced and spoken to by the above brethren and by Bros. Capt. Franklin, of Halifax; England, of Leeds; Capt. P. Webster, of Sheffield; the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, Rev. W. Appleyard, of Dewsbury, Bro. John Freeman, of Huddersfield, and others; and the pleasure of the delightful soiree was much enhanced by the gratuitous services of our local professional, Bro. Archibald Ramsden, a gentleman of whom the musical world will no doubt hear more.

Should the Provincial Grand Master again select Leeds as a place of meeting, the brethren of the Leeds lodges would be proud and happy, and would endeavour to maintain the reputation of this now acknowledged commercial capital of the West Riding.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

L. HICKS, P. Prov. J.G.W.

Leeds, 26th October, 1864.

[The toasts are of the usual description, and the bill of fare uninteresting excepting to those who partook of the dinner.—ED.]

It is always safe to learn, even from our enemies; seldom safe to venture to instruct even our friends.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

THE LATE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

The funeral of the deceased nobleman took place on Thursday last at Markham Clinton. From the early hour we are compelled to go to press, it is impossible to present our readers with the particulars we could wish. According to the injunctions left by the late duke, the funeral obsequies were as private as possible, the attendance at it being confined to his relatives and tenants only. The places of business of the Masonic body throughout the county, and several of the leading tradesmen, were partially closed during the morning. From a communication received in Nottingham from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, he intimates to the Craft his intention "to place the province temporarily under the care of the Grand Registrar."

The following is the copy of a letter addressed to the Masters of Masonic lodges in Nottinghamshire, by Bro. Richard Allen, Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge, which, by the "Book of Constitutions," Page 55, Art. 7, "ceases to exist," on the death of its master:—

"Caxton House, Nottingham, Oct. 24th, 1864.

"Worshipful Sir and Brother,—I am this morning in receipt of a letter from Clumber, and avail myself of the earliest moment to put you in possession of an extract, from which you will learn that the relatives of our late Provincial Grand Master, in compliance with *his* wish, are desirous that the funeral obsequies should be as private as possible.

"The late duke having left injunctions that his funeral should be as plain and unostentatious as possible, the attendance will be confined to the relatives and tenants only.

"The day for the funeral is not mentioned, but I understand it will most probably be on Thursday; this, however, you will no doubt gather from the newspapers.

"I would suggest, as a mark of respect by the Masonic body throughout the country, that all places of business be partially closed on the morning of the funeral.

"I have also received a communication from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, in which he states that it is his intention to place this province temporarily under the care of the Grand Registrar. You will, therefore, receive instructions as to the mourning to be adopted in the lodges on the occasion of the death of our Provincial Grand Master, and be otherwise guided by that functionary.

"I am, Worshipful Sir and Brother,

"Yours faithfully and fraternally,

"RICHD. ALLEN, late Provincial Grand Secretary."

[We understand that the family have replied that it was his lordship's wish to be buried privately.]

METROPOLITAN.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 140).—The first meeting of this old-established lodge since the recess was held on Wednesday, October 19th, at the Lecture Hall, Greenwich. Bro. Hubbuck, W.M., presided, and was supported by Bros. Ryder, H. A. Collington, Mourylian, and Dr. Scott, P.M.'s; his officers, and a large number of brethren. The only ceremonies were one raising and one passing, both of which were exceedingly well done. Business being ended, the brethren adjourned to Bro. Moore's, Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, where they partook of an excellent banquet. Visitor—Bro. F. Walters, P.M. 73, 147 Sec. 871.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 551).—This lodge held its regular monthly meeting on the 6th inst., at Bro. Walters', Green Dragon, Stegney. Bro. Hamilton, P.M., as W.M., in the absence of Bro. Carr, W.M.; also Bros. Kindred, Wynn, Vasey, Hampton, and Shaboe, P.M.'s; Hudson, S.W.; Clarke, J.W.; Stevens, S.D.; Roberts, J.D.; and the following visitors—Bro. Saqui, P.M.; Mundy, 193; Stevenson, 810; and several others. The lodge was opened in due form, the minutes read and confirmed, and the ballot declared to be unanimous in favour of Mr. John Smyth Till and Mr. Frederick Robert Tate, both gentlemen being introduced by Bro. J. Green. The ballot was also declared in favour of Bro. Power as a joining member, introduced by Bro. Hamilton, P.M. Messrs. Till and Tate were then ably initiated into Freemasonry by Bro. Hamilton, P.M., who threw into the exordium that pathos that at all times delighted the ears of the brethren during his year of office. Bro. Vasey, P.M., Sec., then put the usual questions to Bros. Martinez, Kell, and Power, which were then answered, and those brethren passed to the degree of F.C.'s. Bro. Cousins having answered the questions qualifying him for the third degree, was passed to the sublime degree of M.M. Both ceremonies were most efficiently performed by Bro. Vasey, P.M. Five guineas were voted to an unfortunate member. All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony at eight o'clock, and the brethren sat down, about forty in number, to banquet. The W.M. then proposed the usual toasts, which were responded to with Masonic honours. The healths of the brother initiates and our joining brother were next proposed and responded to. Bro. Scott and Stevenson each sang a good song, and the Tyler's toast being given, the brethren broke up at eleven o'clock.

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

CREWE.—*Lodge of Four Cardinal Virtues (No. 979).*—This lodge met on the 21st. inst. in the Town Hall. The lodge was opened by Bro. Bullock, W.M., assisted by Bros. Dr. Lord, S.W.; Geo. Lord, J.W.; Mould, I.P.M.; Eardley, Sec.; Read, Treas.; Pricer, S.D.; Moody, J.D.; Doyle, I.G.; Broddbent, Org.; and other members. Bro. Poole, who hailed from Massachusetts, and Bro. D. Jones, who was initiated above fifty years ago, were visitors. The business of the evening was the passing of Bro. Ratcliffe, and the raising of Bro. Cope, both ceremonies being performed by the W.M. and his officers (with musical accompaniment) in such a solemn and impressive manner as to leave a most favourable impression, not only on the candidates, but on all who heard them. The American brother seemed delighted with the English working. The lodge was closed down to the first degree, when the W.M., in a most feeling and Masonic speech, called upon the oldest P.M., Bro. Reade, to place a P.M.'s jewel on the breast of Bro. Mould, the first P.M. of the lodge, it being a present from the members. Bro. Mould responded in an appropriate manner. The resolution for changing the day of meeting from the third Thursday to the first Wednesday in the month, was confirmed. A gentleman was proposed for initiation, and Bro. Welsh as a joining member. The lodge was closed at half-past nine, and all pronounced it to be one of the most favourable yet held. It was resolved that the members of the Nantwich lodge be invited as guests at the next meeting, when a banquet will be given.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*Lodge St. Aubyn (No. 954).*—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 11th inst. Two brethren were raised to the sublime or Master's degree; one passed to the second degree; and three gentlemen, who were regularly proposed at the previous meeting, were, after a unanimous ballot, initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The question of a Tyler for the lodge was referred to a committee of the lodge to report at the next meeting. The business terminated by the proposal of two gentlemen for initiation at the next regular lodge meeting.

DURHAM.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham met at South Shields, on Tuesday last, the 25th inst. About 200 brethren attended. Grand Lodge was held in the Central Hall—the St. Hilda's Lodge Room not being sufficiently commodious—and amongst

the most distinguished Grand Officers we noticed—Bros. John Fawcett, R.W. Prov. G.M.; Henry Fenwick, M.P., R.W.D. Prov. G.M.; Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., M.P., P.S.G.W. of England, acting Prov. S.G.W.; the Rev. John Cundell, Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Durham, Prov. G. Treas.; W. H. Crookes, Prov. G. Sec.; Settle, Prov. G. Reg.; J. Tilman, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Banister, P.G.S.B.; Rev. J. Du Pledge, P. Prov. G. Chap.; S. Davis, &c.

Lodge being opened in due form in the first degree, the usual ceremonies were gone through in a most impressive manner by the R.W. Prov. G.M., and the minutes of the last Grand Lodge were read and confirmed.

After the conclusion of the other business, the Prov. G. Master proceeded to invest the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. Henry Fenwick, M.P.	D. Prov. G.M.
„ John Crossby	Prov. S.G.W.
„ Dr. Kirk	„ J.G.W.
„ Rev. Jas. Milner	„ G. Chap.
„ Rev. John Cundell	„ G. Treas.
„ John Graham	„ G. Reg.
„ W. H. Crookes	„ G. Sec.
„ Henry Hedley	„ S.G.D.
„ Thos. Nicholson	„ J.G.D.
„ Thos. Younger	„ G. Supt. of Works.
„ Benjamin Levy	„ G. Dir. of Cers.
„ J. S. Stiles	„ G. Sword Bearer.
„ W. Ferry	„ G. Org.
„ Halfnight	„ G. Pursr.
„ W. M. Law	„ G. Tyler.

The Masters of the following lodges being called upon to name Grand Stewards, they were nominated as follows:—Tees Lodge, W. Smith; St. John's, Jas. Murray; Restoration, John Bailey; St. Helen's, Emra Holmes; Granby, J. Hearon; Phoenix, R. W. Wilson. These lodges, with the Palatine, St. Hilda's, and the Lambton, were well represented.

At the banquet, which was attended by about 120 of the brethren, Bro. John Fawcett, R.W. Prov. G.M., presided, supported on his right by Bro. Henry Fenwick, and on the left by Bro. Sir Hedworth Williamson and other members of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The dinner was served in very good style at the Golden Lion Hotel, and on the removal of the cloth the CHAIRMAN, in a few well-chosen sentences, proposed "The Queen," which was responded to with great Masonic loyalty. This was followed by "The Earl of Zetland, M.G.W.M. of England;" "The Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Lodge of England, coupled with the name of Sir Hedworth Williamson, Prou. S.G.W. of England," who briefly but happily responded to the toast.

Bro. FENWICK next proposed "The Health of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master," amidst loud applause. He dilated upon the many excellencies of the R.W. Prov. G.M., who had governed the province to the satisfaction of the brotherhood and the manifest advantage of the Craft.

Bro. FAWCETT stated that he had been installed seventeen years, and briefly but fervently returned thanks.

The other toasts, "The Deputy Provincial Grand Master," "Our Visiting Brethren," "Prosperity to the three Masonic Charities," &c., followed in quick succession, and the large assembly did not break up till a late hour.

The musical arrangements were of a most satisfactory character, the glees and choruses being given in very excellent style by Bros. Ferry Windham, Chayton, and Williamson.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Cheltenham, on Wednesday, the 12th instant, and was attended by about sixty of the fraternity, among whom we observed, in addition to the Acting Prov. G. Officers, a large number of the Past G. Officers of the province. The R.W. Lord Sherborne presided, supported by the much respected and esteemed D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Newmarch.

All the lodges in the province were fairly represented, and it was satisfactory to find, from the statements of the various Worshipful Masters, that the ancient and royal Craft is flourishing in all parts of the country.

Grants of £21 to the Boys' School, and of £5 to the Girls' School, were made, and the sum of £10 was voted to the widow of a deceased brother who had laboured indefatigably to extend

the Order, and to whom many of its younger members owe their present proficiency.

The thanks of the lodge were awarded to Bro. Thomas G. Palmer for the highly satisfactory manner in which he had filled the office of Prov. G. Treasurer, and his re-election to the same was unanimously approved. A vote of thanks was also given to Bro. W. S. Wallace, for his exertions in behalf of the Masonic Charities.

The general business of the province having been duly transacted, the Prov. G.M. nominated and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. Ridge	Prov. S.G.W.
" Waite	" J.G.W.
" Hadow	" G. Reg.
" the Rev. John Roberts	" G. Chap.
" Want	" G.S.D.
" Browne	" G.J.D.
" Cowle	" G. Supt. of Works.
" Swinburne	" G. Dir. of Cers.
" Hawyard	" G. Sword Bearer.
" Shirer	" G. Purst.
" Woodward	" G. Org.
" Wiggins	" G. Tylers.
" Harmer	

The Prov. G. Master then congratulated the members of the various lodges on their flourishing condition, expressed the great pleasure which he felt at meeting so strong a muster of the brethren, and hoped they would all be able to meet one another at the next annual meeting.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed, the brethren adjourned to a most sumptuous banquet, and the evening was spent in great harmony and brotherly love. Nearly fifty of the brethren attended the banquet.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM MASONIC HALL AND CLUB COMPANY (LIMITED).—A special general meeting of the shareholders of this important undertaking has been summoned by circular for the 2nd proximo. A report from the directors relative to an extension of the quantity of land to be taken on lease from Earl Howe will be discussed, and other important matters transacted. We shall soon be in a position to state that all the necessary arrangements for the clearance of the site have been made with the present lessees and tenants.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HUMBER LODGE (No. 57) EXTENSION.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the extension of the Humber Lodge buildings took place on the 25th instant. The weather, which was the most doubtful element in the calculation of probabilities, was favourable, and in all other respects the event passed off in the most satisfactory manner. Lord Londesborough, Prov. S.G.W., arrived at the Music Hall, Jarratt-street, at a little after twelve o'clock. For an hour previous a large concourse of spectators had been assembled to witness the procession. Of the grand honours with which his lordship was received within the hall it would be improper to say more than that they were rendered in all their fulness. The Masonic portions of the floral decorations at the Holy Trinity Church, on the occasion of the thanksgiving service, constituted part of the embellishment. The ceremony within consisted chiefly in the production by the W.M. (Bro. C. S. Todd) of the warrant of dispensation from the Grand Master (the Earl of Zetland) for laying the stone with full Masonic honours. This, followed by his lordship's approval, was briefly dispatched, and the brethren formed in the order of procession. A hearty cheer from the crowd outside greeted the brethren as they emerged from the hall. The simple but expressive costume of the brethren, the distinctive badges of the various orders, the imposing insignia of the Craft, formed an interesting and attractive spectacle. In the order of procession the juniors, two and two, took the precedence. The whole line extended from the hall to about the commencement of George-street. The consecrated vessels, belonging to the Grand Lodge of England, were sent under the care of the Grand Tyler of England (Bro. Payne). The sword of state and standard of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the Tylers with their drawn swords leading and closing the procession, and not least the four operative masons, in their operative costume, bearing the foundation stone, were all special features in the procession engaging the interest of the spectators. The

sides of the streets through which the procession passed were thronged, and every balcony and window overlooking them taken up by spectators. The dwellings of Masons along the route here and there were gaily distinguished by flags and banners in honour of the occasion. The band continued playing nearly the whole distance, and by their well rendered strains deserved the vote of thanks paid to them unanimously at the close of the proceedings. The music of the bells of Holy Trinity was very agreeably added to cheer and honour the procession as it passed through the streets of the old town. While the brethren were thus welcomed by the way, a large assembly, especially of ladies, was awaiting their arrival at the lodge. Galleries had been erected for their special accommodation, and a sufficient enclosure for the procession, definite places being marked out for those who had to take an active part in the proceedings. At about half-past one, the procession reached the appointed site. Lord Londesborough, with the W.M., the Standard and Sword Bearers, and those who bore the insignia of the Order and the consecrated vessels, formed a ground around the stone. Silence having been obtained,

His lordship, in a firm and deliberate tone, addressed the assembly present. He said:—Ladies and gentlemen, you may, perhaps, ask why we have come here to-day to lay this stone with so much ceremony. In answer to that question, I will say that we have done so as the oldest, largest, and widest spread brotherhood in the world—(hear, hear)—and in addition to this, because the Worshipful Master has sent with us the jewels of the Grand Lodge of England, in order that we may lay this stone in a manner worthy of our Order, and also as a compliment to the town of Hull. (Hear, hear). We have been in existence for some thousands of years, and during that time we have been continually increasing, but never have we increased so much as during the last few years. As a proof of this I may mention that within the last few years two new lodges have been formed in the East Riding of Yorkshire. (Hear, hear.) There is not indeed a country of the world in which there is not a lodge of Freemasons, and there is not a city on the face of the globe in which the poorest brother of the Order present would not be able to find brethren anxious and willing to afford him advice, and assistance if he needed it. It may be asked what benefit Freemasonry has done to the world? In reply to this I will ask, Is it not a benefit to humanity, that in the hour of victory the soldier should feel himself compelled to spare the fallen foe, and that any person should be obliged to show hospitality and to render assistance to a man whom he is no relation to, whom he does not know, whom he never saw before and may never see again, and from whom he can expect no favour in return, simply because he makes a few signs? (Loud applause.) But if I am asked what benefit it does, in conclusion let me say if it is not an advantage in these utilitarian days, that men in every class shall be compelled to come together and to appreciate each other's characters. I will not dwell on the charity of Freemasonry, because charity is a characteristic feature of Englishmen; but I will say this, that you will never see a Freemason begging his bread—(loud applause)—for, should he become poor and distressed, we assist him, as we are bound to do by the laws of our Order. (Hear, hear.) It will be said, what is the advantage of Freemasonry being a secret Order? Our answer is, that it is impossible for us to exercise indiscriminate charity. With this exception, it is the most liberal Order in the world. (Loud cheers.) All that is required of a member is that he should be a man of full age, and of good moral character. And of this I am sure, that if there are any here that have any feeling against Freemasonry, if they could but see what is done within our lodges, they would wish that all should become Freemasons as we are. (Applause.)

After this address, the architect, Bro. R. G. Smith, advanced with the plans of the building, which being formally approved, he gave orders for the stone to be raised. It may be observed that the stone was situated in the north-east corner of the site, a cardinal observance of Freemasonry too often neglected by the builders of the present age. Into the stone the treasurer deposited a bottle hermetically sealed, containing the coins of the realm, and an appropriate inscription stating the circumstances under which the stone was laid, the names of the officers of the lodge, and also all its present members. The superintendent of the works came forward, and the W.M. read the inscription upon the plate which was deposited over the mouth of the cavity. It ran as follows:—“This foundation stone of the Humber Lodge new buildings was laid with Masonic honours, on Monday, October

24th, 1864. A.L. 5864, by the Right Hon. the Lord Londesborough. Senior Provincial Grand Warden of North and East York. Bro. C. S. Todd, W.M.; Bro. N. Easton, S.W.; Bro. W. N. Waite, J.W. Architect, Bro. R. G. Smith. Contractor, Bro. C. R. Morehead."

The Past Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. H. W. Kemp, D.A., then read the following passages of Scripture:—"Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that build it." "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain;" and the Masonic Prayer:—"O Thou Great Architect of the Universe, Maker of all things, and Judge of all men, regard, we humbly beseech Thee, with Thy special favour this our present undertaking, and grant that the work which we now commence 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 Thine all-seeing eye, shall be herein 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 venerable Order, and that their practice may, in all things, correspond with their profession. So mote it be.

Bro. MOREHEAD here stepped forward and spread the cement upon the stone, after which the W.M. presented to Lord Londesborough a handsome silver trowel, the workmanship of Mr. Edwin Raw, Savile-street, with which his lordship adjusted the cement, and the stone was lowered, the band playing solemn music. Having proved by the plumb, level, and square of the Order that the stone was correctly set, his lordship took the corn from the cornucopia, and, scattering it on the stone, said, "May the seeds of corn scattered on this stone remind us of the seed of God's word, sown plentifully in the land, that they may bring forth a hundredfold in our hearts, and yield a plenteous harvest in that day when the Lord shall come to gather the wheat into his garner." (So mote it be.) Then pouring the wine, he said, "I pour wine upon this stone, an emblem of cheerfulness; and may the meetings that shall hereafter be held in this place, be conducted with decorum and sober enjoyment." (So mote it be.) Then pouring the oil his lordship said, "May this oil, a symbol of peace, fitly represent that harmony and fellowship which shall exist amongst the brethren of this lodge." (So mote it be.) The Masonic Anthem, "Hail, Holy Light Divine," &c., was then sung under the direction of Bro. H. Deval, Mus. Doc., the whole assembly joining in it. Lord Londesborough then pronounced the prayer—"May the All-Righteous Author of Nature bless the inhabitants of this great seaport with all the necessaries, conveniences, and comforts of life, assist in the erection and completion of these buildings, protect the workman against every accident, long preserve the structure from decay, and grant unto us all a plentiful supply of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of peace." The ceremony of laying the foundation stone being thus closed, his lordship thanked the W.M., officers, and brethren of the lodge for the beautiful trowel with which they had presented him, and said it was one that would long be handed down in his family. He also thanked them for inviting him to be present, giving him another opportunity of showing his regard for the good town of Hull. When he reflected who it was that laid the last stone in Hull, with full Masonic honours, no duties would have prevented him coming thither that day. The building was to be one of the most beautiful he had seen. He hoped they would often have the pleasure of meeting in it. Still they must remember that the lodge was only the outward means of attaining the benefits of Freemasonry, but the members must endeavour to make themselves fully worthy of the magnificent building on which they would shortly enter, that both they and it might be worthy of the town of Hull. (Loud applause.)

Three cheers were then given for Lord and Lady Londesborough, the Duchess of Beaufort, her Majesty the Queen, and a concluding cheer for the W.M.

The brethren then returned to the lodge. On the brethren reaching the Public Rooms, a vote of thanks to Lord Londesborough was moved by Bro. C. S. Todd, the W.M., seconded by Bro. N. Easton, the S.W., and carried by acclamation by the brethren, which his lordship acknowledged. Thanks were also given to the Provincial Grand Secretary for Lincolnshire (Bro. C. E. Lucas), and the brethren from that province who attended the ceremony. This was acknowledged by the Prov. G. Secretary. A similar vote of thanks to provincial officers of North and East Yorkshire was acknowledged by Dr. Bell, Prov. G.

Secretary. Thanks were given by acclamation to the W.M., Bro. Todd. The lodge was then closed.

THE BANQUET.

In the evening a banquet on a magnificent scale was given to the Light Hon. Lord Londesborough, P. Prov. S.G.W., at the Royal Station Hotel, Hull, the Worshipful Master of the Humber Lodge, Bro. C. S. Todd, in the chair. There was a large gathering of the brethren from the various lodges in the town and district.

After the cloth had been withdrawn, the W. MASTER proposed in rapid succession "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince and Princess of Wales," "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers."

Bro. Captain SYMONS responded on behalf of the two former bodies, and Bro. Lieut.-Colonel PEASE for the latter.

The W. MASTER gave "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W. Grand Master of England, and Provincial Grand Master of North and East York;" "The Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, R.W. Deputy Grand Master of England, and Provincial Grand Master of West York;" "Bro. George Marwood, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of North and East York;" and "The Provincial Brethren present."

Bro. BERNEL JACOBS, P.M., returned thanks.

The W. MASTER, in proposing the next toast, "The Right Hon. the Lord Londesborough, P. Prov. S.G.W. of North and East York," observed that they had that day realised his lordship in the character of a brother Mason coming to do honour to the senior lodge of the provinces in which he held so distinguished a Masonic position, in their efforts to forward the cause of Masonry in that large and commercial town. They had, therefore, experienced him to-day as a brother, having experienced him before in all his good qualities as a neighbour and friend. He hoped soon to see his lordship the Provincial Grand Master of North and East York.

Bro. Lord LONDESBOROUGH, who was received with loud cheers, briefly responded. His lordship apologised for his lateness in the morning, by stating that the train did not arrive punctually, and afterwards proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master and Officers of the Humber Lodge."

The W. MASTER, in responding, spoke of the advantages to be derived from Freemasonry, and observed that they had educated in Hull, finding that there was no room for them in their London schools, some six or seven orphans, the sons of deceased Masons, at an expense of nearly £300. He expressed a hope that the doings of that day would advance the cause of Freemasonry.

Bro. EASTON, S.W., afterwards gave "The Sister Lodges," to which Bro. HOLDEN, of the Minerva Lodge, responded.

The W. MASTER having given "The Visiting Brethren," Bros. PULMAM, P. Prov. S.G.W. Turkey, P.M. 687, and LUCAS, of Lincoln, returned thanks. The latter suggested to the brethren that Freemasonry should be thought more of outside the lodge than it was at present, and he believed the public would be the gainers equally with themselves.

Bro. WALLIKER afterwards proposed "The Ladies," and several other toasts followed.

During the evening several songs were sung, the most noticeable being that of "Fear not, Britannia's honour's safe," composed by Bro. Dr. Deval, and sung by him with peculiar sweetness.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

WOOLWICH.

INVICTA CHAPTER OF S. P. R. ✠.—The first meeting for the season of the Invicta Chapter took place at the Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, on Friday, the 21st. There were present Lieut.-Colonel Clerk, S.G.I.G. 33°; Capt. Boyle, 32°; M.W.S.; W. Smith, C.E., 30°, as Prelate; G. Lambert, 30°, Raphael; J. W. Figg, 30°, G. Marshal, Matthew Cooke, 30°, Organist, and Master of Ceremonial to the Sup. G. Council; Dr. O'Donnovan, 30°; H. S. le Strange, 30°; J. Thompson, 18°, 1st General; P. Laird, 18°, Treas.; Guibelei, 18°; Lieut. Price, 18°; C. Horsley, 18°; and Dr. Hughes, 18°. Bro. Langlois, of Burmah, India, was installed a Knt. S. P. R. ✠. This being the annual election, the following Ill. brethren were unanimously chosen. Capt. Dadson, 30°, M.W.S.; P. Laird, 18°, re-elected Treas., amidst many compliments; and Henderson, Tyler. All business being concluded, the S. P. S. R. ✠.

dined together at Bro. De Grey's, the Freemasons' Tavern, Woolwich, when three toasts were given, and the evening was spent with that pleasant interchange of information, chat, and good humour, which render the Invicta Chapter meetings so attractive.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

Subjoined is the report of the Committee of General Purposes, to be presented to Grand Chapter on Wednesday next:—

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 19th July to the 18th October, 1864, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:

Balance 19th July	£487 11 10
Subsequent receipts.....	108 8 6
	£596 0 4
Purchase of £200 Stock 3 per Cent. Con- sols and Commission	£180 0 0
Disbursements during the quarter	102 13 6
Balance.....	313 6 10
	£596 0 4

which balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival, and Co., Bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee beg also to report that they have investigated a complaint preferred against the High Cross Chapter (No. 754), Tottenham, for holding the chapter meetings at the house of one of the members in Crutched Friars, in the City of London, instead of at Tottenham.

A memorial was sent in by the chapter and laid before the Grand Chapter on the 4th November, 1863, praying for permission to remove the chapter from Tottenham to London. At the convocation of the Grand Chapter, holden on the 3rd of February, 1864, it was resolved—

“That inasmuch as it is not only undesirable but highly objectionable that a chapter should be separated from the Craft lodge to which it is attached, the Grand Chapter cannot sanction the removal of the High Cross Chapter from Tottenham, where the High Cross Lodge is held into London.”

The Committee having required the attendance of the Principals and the production of the minute book of the chapter, find that even anterior to the presentation of the memorial, the meetings of the chapter were held at Crutched Friars, aforesaid, and that since that date and up to the 27th day of September last, they have continued to be holden at the same place.

The Committee being of opinion that such contempt of the authority of the Grand Chapter ought not to pass unnoticed, have felt it necessary to suspend the chapter from all Arch Masonic functions.

The Committee have also to report that the Alfred Chapter (No. 306), Leeds, which was suspended in October, 1863, for neglecting to comply with the peremptory orders of the Committee, have memorialized for a removal of the suspension, and the chapter having furnished the Committee with the information required, and sent in their charter and minute book, they beg to recommend that the prayer of the memorialists be granted, their suspension be removed, and the members of the chapter restored to their Arch Masonic functions.

The Committee have much pleasure in reporting that the M.E.Z., the Earl of Zetland, has received a communication from the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, expressing the satisfaction experienced by that Grand Body at the resolu-

tion passed at the Quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter holden on the 3rd August last, with reference to a memorial from the Grand Chapter of Scotland.

This letter will be read in Grand Chapter.

The Committee beg further to report that they have received the following petitions for new chapters:—

1st.—“From Companions Henry Murray, as Z.; William Thomas Mercer, as H.; John Ball, as J.; and eight others, for a chapter to be attached to the Zetland Lodge (No. 525), Hong Kong, China, to be called the Victoria Chapter, to meet at Hong Kong, on the 18th day of every month.

2nd.—“From Companions Peter Clymo as Z.; Richard Hawke as H.; John Ouch as J.; and seven others, for a chapter to be attached to the St. Martin's Lodge (No. 510), Liskeard, in the county of Cornwall, to be called the St. Martin's Chapter, to meet at the London Inn, Liskeard, on the first Tuesday of every third month.”

These petitions being in all respects regular; the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have received the following notice of motion from the E. Companion Hugh S. S. Burney, Second Principal of the Wellington Chapter (No. 784), Deal:—

1st.—“That the correspondence that has taken place between the Principals of Chapter (No. 784), and Grand Scribe E., be produced and read in Grand Chapter, as the Chapter (No. 784) feels most aggrieved at the Committee of General Purposes declining to lay their complaint (regarding an un-Masonic letter addressed to them by a P.Z. of 784, through their Scribe E.) to the notice of Grand Chapter, and that the sense of Grand Chapter be taken on the matter originally complained of against the P.Z. of No. 784.

2nd.—“That the said companion having totally neglected the duties of his office as Z., never having once attended the chapter since his installation as Z., on the 28th May, 1861, and having done much injury to the chapter in particular, and Royal Arch Masonry in general, by so neglecting his duties and by taking no steps, on several occasions, for the due performance of them by deputy, he be debarred by vote of Grand Chapter from holding rank as P.Z. of 784, or such other Masonic punishment as Grand Chapter may think fit.”

(Signed) WM. PULTENEY SCOTT, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, 19th Oct., 1864.

The several letters referred to in the foregoing report are open for the perusal of any member of Grand Chapter, and can be seen at the office of the Grand Scribe E.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*St. Aubyn Chapter.*—The first convocation of this chapter assembled at the newly decorated premises, Moon-street, Morice Town, on the evening of the 17th instant. This being the first meeting of the chapter, the chairs of H. and J. were temporarily filled until the ceremonial of installation was completed, when Comp. Chapple as H., and Comp. Kent as J., occupied the position assigned them in the warrant. The E. Comp. Metham announced the votes of the chapter for officers as follows:—Comps. Spry, Scribe E.; Bird, Scribe N.; Codd, Treas.; Clemens, P. Soj.; Gudridge, S. Soj.; Hawton, J. Soj. Four brethren of Lodge 954 were exalted to this supreme degree during the evening. A committee to frame by-laws of the chapter was appointed. The visitors were numerous, all expressing their gratification at the decorations that have recently been made.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER.

A meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Staffordshire was held, after a lapse of ten years, at the Vernon Chapter (No. 539), Walsall, on Wednesday, October 19th. The Provincial

Grand Chapter was opened in due form by M.E. Comps. Dr. Burton, P.Z. 539, P. Prov. G.J., as Z.; Thos. James, P.Z. 419, 539, Z. 624, as H.; Foster Gough, P.Z. 419, as J.

A deputation of Past First Principals introduced the newly-appointed Provincial Grand Superintendent, Comp. William Kenwright Harvey, who presented to the acting M.E.Z. his patent from the Supreme Grand Chapter, and requested to be installed into the office to which he had been appointed.

M.E. Comp. Dr. Burton, P. Prov. G.J., said, that it would afford him and the companions present the greatest gratification to carry into effect the patent which had been read, and requested to know from the M.E. Prov. G. Supt. if he was willing to undertake the important duties devolved upon him by such patent, which being answered in the affirmative by Comp. Harvey, a serious and solemn obligation to that effect was administered and taken, and Comp. Harvey was duly installed into the chair of Z. with robe and sceptre.

The M.E. Prov. G. Supt. addressed the companions, expressing the diffidence he or any other companion must feel in following so distinguished a Mason, as their former Prov. G. Supt., Col. Vernon, still, though not over confident of his own powers, he hoped with the assistance and cordial co-operation of his brethren, to conduct the affairs of the province in such a manner as would gain their confidence and give satisfaction.

The M.E. Prov. G. Supt. then appointed the following companions officers of the Provincial Grand Chapter:—

Comp. Dr. Burton, P.Z. 539.....	H.
„ Foster Gough, P.Z. 419.....	J.
„ John Hallum, P.Z. 460.....	E.
„ Horton Yates, P.Z. 460, H. 624.....	N.
„ Thomas James, P.Z. 419, 539, Z. 624.....	Principal Soj.
„ David Peacock, P.Z. 539.....	1st. Assist. Soj.
„ Charles Matthews, Z. 419.....	2nd Assist. Soj.
„ Frank James, P.Z. 539.....	Registrar.
„ John Butterworth, Z. 637.....	Standard Bearer.
„ Fleetwood J. Cannell, P.Z. 539.....	Sword Bearer.
„ Henry Lewis, P.Z. 419.....	Dir. of Cers.
„ Michael Cozens, 539.....	} Stewards.
„ Joseph Newman, 539.....	
„ Rayner Blount Lewis, 539.....	
„ Thomas Ward Edwards, 539.....	

John Hallum was elected Treasurer, and Thomas Nickols, 539, Janitor.

The minutes of the last meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter, held at Walsall, August 18th, 1854, were read and confirmed.

A code of by-laws was read, discussed, and unanimously adopted.

The M.E. Prov. G. Superintendent said it was his intention to hold a meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter annually, and as the Provincial Grand Lodge was usually held in the autumn, he thought it would be more convenient that the Provincial Grand Chapter should meet in the spring; he should therefore hold the next meeting in May either at Newcastle or Stoke.

The Provincial Grand Chapter was then closed, and the companions adjourned to the Guildhall Assembly Room, where a banquet had been provided, which was presided over by the M.E. Prov. G. Superintendent. The vice-chair was filled by Comp. Thos. James, Prov. G.P.S.

After the cloth was drawn, the M.E. Prov. G. SUPERINTENDENT proposed "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," the "M.E.G.Z. the Earl of Zetland," "The Second and Third Grand Principals and Officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter."

M.E. Comp. Dr. BURTON, Prov. G.H., in proposing the health of the M.E. Prov. G. Superintendent, said, that although Comp. Harvey might not have the commanding presence and fluency of speech of Col. Vernon (natural gifts which few possessed), he could assure them, that after an acquaintance of nearly twenty years, he could speak of him as a thorough Mason, a perfect gentleman, and one who would prove himself to be a worthy successor of the colonel.

M.E. Comp. HARVEY, in reply, thanked the companions most heartily, and repeated the observations he had made in the Chapter, he would do all in his power to deserve their good opinion. They must all regret the absence of Col. Vernon on that occasion, but, residing as he did, at so great a distance from Staffordshire, and having very important family business on hand, it was quite impossible for him to attend.

Comp. the Rev. W. BRUMWELL SMITH, of the Athol Chapter (No. 74), responded to the toast of "The Visitors," and said the

proceedings of that day were a novelty to him, as he had never before been at a meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter. He believed it was the intention, as there were now a sufficient number of chapters in Warwickshire, to form a Provincial Grand Chapter in that province.

In the course of the evening, the M.E. PROV. G. SUPERINTENDENT stated that it was his intention to visit every chapter and lodge in his province at least once a year,—a remark which met with general approbation.

It was a subject of much regret that there were so few members of the other chapters in the province present to greet their newly appointed Prov. G. Superintendent.

MARK MASONRY.

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONPORT.—*St. Aubyn Lodge* (No. 64, E.C.)—The installation meeting in connection with this lodge was held on Monday, the 24th inst. The duties of the evening commenced by the advancement of a candidate to this ancient degree. This part of the business having been brought to a close, Bro. Kent, S.W., was then formally presented, and received the benefit of installation at the hands of Bro. Chapple, P.M., and thereupon appointed as his officers Bros. Spry, S.W.; Bird, J.W.; Clemens, M.O.; Gudridge, S.O.; Hawton, J.O.; Coad, S.D.; Trounce, J.D.; Paul, I.G.; Jolliffe, Reg.; Butcher, Dir. of Cers.; Heath, Sec.; Chapple, Treas. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to Bro. Hawton's Hotel to celebrate the annual festival. The brethren having done ample justice to the viands, the cloth was withdrawn, and the W.M. introduced the usual Mark Masonry toasts in his usual style. On the conclusion, harmony prevailed, aided by Bro. Hallett, the talented Organist of 954, who officiated at the piano.

PLYMOUTH.—*Brunswick Lodge* (No. 48).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Union-street, Plymouth, on the evening of Wednesday the 19th inst., at which meeting there was a very fair attendance of brethren, including the visitors. The only business of the lodge for the evening being the installation of the W.M. elect, viz., Bro. Richard Lose, S.W., the minutes of the previous regular lodge were confirmed, and Bro. Lose was thereupon duly installed and proclaimed as the W.M. for the ensuing twelve months, the ceremony being ably performed by the V.W. Bro. S. Chapple, P.M. of 48, P. Prov. G.R. and P. Prov. D.C., assisted by the V.W. Bro. George Richards, P.M. of 48, and P. Prov. G.T.W. The W.M. Bro. Lose then invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing twelve months, viz., May, S.W.; Jefferson, J.W.; Chapple, P.M., as Treasurer; Richards, P.M., as Secretary; Ellis, M.O.; Helson, S.O.; Warren, J.O.; Austin, S.D.; Amery, J.D.; Coneybeare, I.G.; Green, Registrar; Pixey, Sec.; Rogers, Tyler. The lodge having been closed the brethren adjourned to Bro. Thomas's, Great Western Hotel, where it had been arranged that the annual festival should be held. The W.M. Bro. Lose presided at the festive board, supported by Bros. Chapple and Richards, and in addition to them we observed Bros. May, Jefferson, Warren, Austin, Amery, Coneybeare, Green, James, Sale, Veale, Thomas, Rogers, Trevena, Popham, Chapman, Heath, and others. After the cloth had been removed the usual toasts were proceeded with. In proposing the health of Bro. Lose (which he did in eulogistic terms), Bro. Chapple adverted to the untiring exertions of Bro. Lose in promoting the interests of Freemasonry, and expressed his belief that the new W.M. would prove an excellent one. Bro. Lose in responding expressed his thanks for the flattering manner in which his health had been proposed and drank, and hoped, with the assistance of his officers, the business of the lodge would be conducted satisfactorily to all. Several other toasts were given and responded to, and after spending a very agreeable evening, which was enlivened by the vocal abilities of some of the brethren present, this happy meeting was brought to a close at an early hour.

KENT.

CHATHAM.—*United Service Lodge* (No. 69, E.C.)—This lodge held a meeting at the Two Sawyers Hotel, Brompton, on Saturday, October 15th. Present—Bros. F. G. Irwin, P.G.M.O., W.M.; C. Swan, P.G.S.B., S.W.; A. Fraser, J.W.; W. Molony, Sec.; W. Fraser, Treas. *pro tem.*; F. Hamilton, Reg. of Marks,

pro tem.; D. Osmont, M.O.; R. Goodear, S.O.; J. Ledger, J.O.; Hislop, S.D.; C. Oxley, J.D.; Burtles, Dir. of Cers.; Lendrin, I.G.; E. S. Bruce, Kappey, Donald, &c. The lodge was opened in due form with solemn prayer. The minutes of the preceding meetings having been read, Bros. Capt. Cassidy, 31st Regiment, and Capt. Adams, 2nd Battalion 20th Regiment, were balloted for as joining members and unanimously elected. Bro. Fisher, of the 31st Regiment, Bro. Dr. Seabrook, and Bro. Maine, Royal Engineers, were balloted for as candidates, and being unanimously elected, were advanced to the honourable degree of Mark Master. Proposed by Bro. Irwin, W.M., and seconded by Bro. Fraser, J.W., "That Bro. Shuttleworth be an honorary member of this lodge." Carried unanimously. Proposed by the W.M., and seconded by Bro. Fraser, J.W., that a vote of thanks be entered on the minutes of the lodge to Bro. W. Fraser, P.S.W. No. 54, in consideration of his valuable services in the formation of this lodge. Carried unanimously. It was also unanimously resolved to take in the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE. Several notices of motion were then given for decision at the next regular meeting, and there being no further business, the lodge was closed according to ancient custom.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

This beautiful theatre opened on Monday last, for two weeks only, with Italian opera. It has long been assumed that Italian opera is a tender exotic, which cannot flourish on English soil save with the aid of the artificial warmth and the fostering care which the fashionable season can alone supply. So any attempt to acclimatise to the rigours of our winter this graceful importation from the "sweet south" has hitherto been looked upon as a chimerical speculation. The crowded state of Her Majesty's on the opening night seemed to denote that the present venture was at least not ill-timed; and it is possible that these spasmodic re-appearances of an efficient troupe may some day result in the establishment of a permanent Italian opera, that shall remain open from January to December.

In the shortest series of performances "*Faust*" now always heads the list of works to be given, and M. Gounod's most popular work was naturally selected for that night's representation. Of the performance itself there is literally nothing to be said, seeing that all engaged, with one exception, have repeated played the roles which are now assigned to them. How often Mdle. Titiens has played *Margaritha* she herself could probably not say; and how well she sings it we need not tell our readers. Making due allowance for the slight hoarseness, probably the effect of the dense fog which penetrated into the theatre, and even obscured the view of the stage, we may safely affirm that she has never exerted herself to better effect. When we explain that Mademoiselle Grossi was the *Siebel*, none will be surprised to hear that "Le parlate d'amor" was encored, nor will any appreciative opera-goer deny that Mr. Santley's impersonation of *Valentin* is by very much the finest which has ever yet been seen. His death-scene, indeed, was the most perfect feature of the admirable performance. Signor Gardoni was the *Faust*, and he sang the delicious music allotted to the pleasure-seeking philosopher with all his habitual elegance, and with more than his usual feeling. Actuated by every possible consideration for a painstaking singer, we cannot refrain from remarking that Signor Bossi's grotesque acting and

untutored singing as *Mephistopheles* are unworthy of the company in which he is placed. That the chorus is remarkably good was evidenced in the "old men's strophe," which of course was encored, and to still greater advantage in the brief prayer, sung pianissimo, as *Valentin's* soul is winging its flight to heaven. The orchestra was admirable, and the whole performance was most ably conducted by Signor Arditi.

HAYMARKET.

"On the Sly," produced here on Monday evening after the play of "*Mademoiselle de Belle Isle*," is an adaptation, by Mr. Maddison Morton, of one of the Palais Royal farces brought out about two years ago, under the title of "J'invite le Colonel." A Government clerk, *Mr. John Dibbits*, having gone to the Derby "on the sly," in company with some of his fellow-assistants in the Stamps and Taxes Department, has been discovered in awkward proximity to an hysterical female, who turns out to be his wife's dressmaker. *Mrs. Dibbits*, informed of the occurrence by her servant, has since subjected the presumed delinquent to the strictest matrimonial curb, taking the disbursement of the household expenditure entirely under her own control, and only allowing her spouse the privilege of retaining fifteen shillings and sixpence for weekly pocket-money, of which he has to regularly render up an exact account. When the husband rebels, he is silenced by the ominous threat from the lady, "I'll invite the Major," a sentence which derives its significance from the belief that a certain Major Growler is sending pink envelopes, stamped with Cupids and concealed in bouquets, as a token of his admiration for the buxom mistress of the establishment. *Mrs. Dibbits* has merely made use of the name as a means of keeping her husband in subjection, and the notes and bouquets are her own penning and purchase; but when *Major Growler* really arrives, and offers to take the second floor of the clerk's house in Pimlico, her own embarrassment is as great as her husband's jealousy. The *Major*, however, proving by his preparations to marry that he has no sinister intention of disturbing the sanctity of the domestic hearth, is spared the threatened infliction of having his brains blown out by the infuriated *Dibbits* with a pair of bellows, and readily admitted as a lodger. Bro. Buckstone, as the unhappy victim of matrimonial tyranny, contrived out of very slight materials, to divert the audience by a display of that humour which has been so often enjoyed in this theatre. Mr. Rogers as the bluff *Major*, Mr. Walter Gordon as a friendly instigator of marital insurrection, Miss Snowdon as the comely *Mrs. Dibbits*, and Mrs. E. Fitzwilliam as a smart and saucy servant, agreeably assisted the progress of the farce; and at the end Bro. Buckstone announced it for repetition with the general sanction of the audience.

ADELPHI.

A popular topic is always sure to be quickly pounced upon by Messrs. W. Brough and Halliday as a fitting theme for farcical illustrations and under the title of "Doing Banting" the Adelphi audience received on

Monday evening another proof of the readiness with which these well-known partners in the long-established farce-manufacturing firm can supply to order the latest novelties, cut after the newest pattern, and made out of the scantiest materials. Although fashioned out of a slender fabric, to which a garment of gossamer would appear to possess by comparison a most substantial texture, the durability of wear is astonishing, and can only be explained by the circumstance that fanciful productions of this kind are never subjected to very rough handling. In the present instance the system which Mr. Banting recommends those to adopt who are desirous of avoiding the undue development of adipose tissue, is touched upon with respectful reverence to the gentleman whose name is associated with it, whilst the subject is treated with the utmost levity. An itinerant lecturer, who passes himself off as *Professor Pankey*, announces to the inhabitants of a provincial town that he is a disciple of Mr. Banting, and about to give a lecture at the Town Hall, on the mode of reducing corpulence. *Alderman Podge*, a retired tallow chandler of obese proportions, being desirous of becoming slim and genteel, invites the "professor" to try a course of experiments on himself and household. Struck by the asserted alteration the lecturer has undergone, in figure, which now approximates to the living skeleton rather than to the type of a Daniel Lambert, the alderman reposes implicit faith in the directions of his guest, and offers his daughter *Patty* as the reward of success. The supposed professor absorbs the supper of the whole family as his first lesson in dietetics, and leaves the unsatisfied alderman and his sister to roam about the house at midnight in search of fragments of comestibles deposited in drawing-room cupboards. His detection as a charlatan soon follows, and the young lady becomes, instead the bride of *Dr. Lavender*, a youthful surgeon, whose remembrance of the impostor as a druggist's errand-boy in Clerkenwell confirms the suspicions that have previously been aroused. Mr. J. Clarke amusingly embodies the hungry and attenuated *Pankey*, and introduces a song illustrative of the credulity of society. Mrs. H. Lewis, Mr. Stephenson, and Mr. R. Romer are the representatives of the other personages presented; and the trifle went off with sufficient briskness to bring Mr. J. Clarke and the joint authors before the footlights, in response to the applause bestowed by the audience.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Mermet receives 20,000f., with a per centage on the copies sold, for his successful opera "*Roland à Roncevaux*" from the publisher Choudens. This work will very shortly appear arranged for the pianoforte.—*Orchestra*.

On Thursday next "*Macbeth*" will be produced at Drury-lane Theatre. Mr. Phelps will sustain the part of *Macbeth*, Mr. Creswick *Macduff*, and Miss Helen Faucit *Lady Macbeth*.

The receipts of the theatres, concert rooms, and other places of public amusement in Paris during September amounted to 1,409,789 francs, being 469,399 francs more than the preceding month.

At Rome the other day, in the Teatro Argentina, at the representation of the ballet "*Odalisca*," a perfect storm of hisses assailed one of the ballet-dancers—a storm so general and so vehement as to be only intelligible on the ground of some very strong personal and political feeling respecting its object. To his theatrical avocations of the evening the *mime* was known to unite those of a regular recruiting agent of the brigand bands, and to harbour under his roof the saguinary accomplices of the La Galas.

Donato, the one-legged Spanish dancer, who has obtained so extraordinary a success at Berlin, is engaged, and will shortly appear at Brussels.

On Wednesday next, the Theatre Royal Olympic, will be opened under the management of Mr. Horace Wigan.

The opera at Hanover has a subsidy of 110,000 thalers (£16,500) from the King's privy purse.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Holt have left Melbourne for England by the *Great Britain*, and expect to reach Liverpool the first week in November.

W. H. C. Nation, Esq., has most generously presented his first donation of £50 to the Royal General Theatrical Fund.

Poetry.

THE EASIEST THING IN LIFE.

By WILLIAM BRADFIELD.*

Every present want supplied;
Not a single wish denied,—
Aching head, nor throbbing heart—
Ease, in quiet, plays its part;
In a room: that's passing fair,
Seated in an easy chair;
Satisfied the inward man
With a feast that others plan;
Soaring up a spiral wreath
With an oriental breath;
Handy, the accustomed cup,
With its contents foaming up;
Here a shade, and there a glow;—
"Shut the door please, gently—soh!"
Should it then aspire to teach
What is wrong and right for each,
Oh! how easy 'tis to preach!

Affluence beyond to-day,
Smooth the tenor of the way,—
Not a cloud to intervene
The present and to come, between:
Balance in the banker's hands;
Tenements a few, and lands;
Shares in that and shares in this
(Each a fair investment is);
Int'rest of undoubted worth;
Holding, too, a splendid berth—
Not a sinecure, 'tis true,
But without too much to do;
Expectations here and there;
Well off—every way and where;
All to get and not beseech:
What is wrong and right for each
Yes, 'tis easy then to preach.

* "Pictures of the Past and other Poems." By Wm. Bradfield. London: Longman & Co., Paternoster-row.

But suppose all this unknown,
 And uncertainty alone,—
 With its may-be bread or stone,
 May-be smile, or may-be groan:
 Every kind of want to kill;
 Many hungry mouths to fill;
 Still, a shattered roof to hold;
 Backs to shield against the cold;
 Nothing here and nothing there,
 Pockets empty, cupboards bare;
 Excepting hopelessness, despair—
 Nothing, nothing anywhere!
 Stronger than the purpose true,
 Stronger than desire to do—
 Wrong the right may over-reach,
 In the moral make a breach,
 Easy as the Wealthy preach!

MASONIC SONG.

By C. McMILLAN.

In days long past, when the world was young,
 And arts from the wants of man had sprung,
 'Twas found those arts were far from true,
 Till plan'd and taught by a mystic few.
 Those few, we know by our sacred lore,
 Ennobled, enriched their sphere of yore;
 Whose every act and work began,
 Based, was, on the Great Creator's plan.

For level and plumb, compass and square,
 Masons, well know, make all look fair.

Walk ye and mark ye but with them, and see
 The beauty that lays in Masonry.

In days now come, as the world grows old,
 What arts more prolific, lovely, or bold,
 Than those we teach in our mystery,
 And honour with such fidelity?
 No craft can boast of a nobler aim
 Than merry Freemasons do loyally claim—
 Who, be what their country, language, or creed,
 Are brothers in act, and brothers in deed.
 Then fill up a bumper, be't water or wine,
 Drink to all Masons in every clime.
 Be they on land, or be they on sea,
 Health to them, wealth to them, where'er they be.

HOPE.

By WILLIAM BRADFIELD.

The fondest hope is but a dream,
 A fairie dream; a fitful gleam
 Of fancy when the heart is proud;
 A ray of sunshine through a cloud,
 Veiling the grey—the common grey
 Of this our life of every day—
 Through which we are too prone to see
 A golden haze of harmony
 And not the world that is, but one we wish to be.

But hope should be a pioneer
 To keep the path of purpose clear;
 A lure in labour, leading through
 A long and chequered avenue;
 Restless yearning's fond embrace;
 Perseverance' resting place;
 Day in night and light in day;
 And through our toil should ever stay
 As doth a well told tale upon a weary way.

But still 'tis all a fairie dream—
 'Tis ours to be and Hope's to seem;
 'Tis our's to play the lover's part;
 'Tis Hope's to cheer the sinking heart.
 To dream and only dream, ah me!
 Is but a thrifless ecstasy,—
 A fond conceit so lightly traced
 That with a touch 'tis all erased.—
 A well intentioned wish, an ill directed waste.

The bee, the ant are lowly things,
 Yet each its modest portion brings
 To swell the still increasing store,—
 The Maker will'd nor asked for more.
 Their industry and cheerful toil,
 At least, should move a man, the soil
 To till—or human mind or sod—
 Else we may find him sleeping, nod,
 While humbler things erect a monument to God.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty has delayed her departure from the Highlands until next week. Prince Alfred is paying a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton, in Scotland. The Prince and Princess of Wales have left Denmark, and are now in Hanover, *en route* for England.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in the metropolis still continues high. The number of people that died in the course of last week was 1,335, which is 147 in excess of the ten years' corrected average. Scarletina seems to be the most fatal disease of that class, and as it might be expected, its ravages were chiefly among children. The births for the week were 1,934, or about 90 above the ten years' average.—
 Mr. Purdy's weekly report exhibits another increase of pauperism in the twenty-eight cotton manufacturing unions. Twenty of that number relieved 4,300 more paupers than in the second week of the present month; the other eight decreased by 330, thus leaving a net addition in the whole district of 3,970. The unions which have more markedly increased are Ashton-under-Lyne, 690; Blackburn, 830; Burnley, 350; Bury, 430; Haslingden, 340; and Oldham, 310. The total number now on the union relief list is 101,689, which is more than a third of the maximum number at Christmas, 1862. The Guardians last week distributed £6,071, as out-door relief. This is an increase of £253 on the expenditure of the previous week. Had the latter sum been equally divided among the new claimants upon the rate (3,970) it would have yielded 1s. 3½d. per head. There are now 27,348 adult able-bodied paupers on the Guardians' books. At the meeting of the Central Executive Relief Committee, Mr. Farnall reported a further increase of 5,955 in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the twenty-seven unions included in his report. The average percentage of pauperism on the population of these unions on the 15th inst. was 5.0; in the corresponding week of 1861 it was 2.2; and in the same week of 1863 it was 6.6. Some statements were made about the manner in which the money borrowed from the Public Works Act was being expended in Manchester, and it was resolved "that the attention of the Corporation be called to the preamble and intention of the Public Works Act, with the expression of a desire from the Committee that the Corporation will use every exertion to secure the fulfilment of the obvious intention of the Legislature, that factory operatives otherwise unemployed should as far as possible be set on such works."
 —A circular has been issued from the Public Works Office in Manchester, urgently recommending local authorities to proceed with the works for the execution of which money has been borrowed under the Public Works Act in such a manner

as to afford relief to the largest possible number of distressed cotton operatives; and, if necessary, to postpone improvements upon which labour of this description cannot be employed.—Mr. Ward, who has been associated with our Ambassador at Berlin in attending to the interests of British commerce during the negotiations between France on the one hand, and Prussia and the other states of the Zollverein on the other, attended a meeting of the directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday. He explained at some length the position in which this country stands towards the newly-constituted Zollverein, and pointed out the main features of the revised tariff which will come into operation in July next. In the course of his remarks he stated that there was a fair prospect of a commercial reform in Russia, which would be productive of important advantages to England. A resolution was passed thanking Lord Russell for the opportunity of conferring with Mr. Ward, and expressing satisfaction at the “important concessions, especially as regards the staple manufactures of this district which have been made by the Zollverein.”—A very numerous deputation, introduced by Lord Calthorpe, and composed mainly of the Evangelical Alliance, have presented a memorial to Earl Russell at the Foreign Office, inviting his attention to certain recent proceedings of the Turkish Government at Constantinople, which they allege constitute a violation of religious liberty. Earl Russell, in reply, explained that the subject was one of considerable difficulty as to the facts, the Turkish Government alleging that the steps they had taken were the result of indiscretion on the part of the missionaries in performing their services in places where they were likely to cause a disturbance of the public peace. He could not agree in the view the Turkish authorities took, that the converts must not communicate their convictions to others lest they should induce them also to become Protestants. That was a natural exercise of their religion, in which the Hatti Humayoun said they should not be molested. Whilst they should firmly insist on that agreement being carried out, it behoved those who went out as missionaries to treat the national religion with that respect which they would expect to have their own treated by people of all creeds living in this country. He understood that the three men who had been imprisoned for embracing the Protestant faith had been released, but he would make inquiry as to the statement that banishment followed their release from prison.—The Select Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the new Bankruptcy Act, have presented their report. They counsel “great circumspection and deliberation” in all future proceedings in this matter, and express a hope that in the next session “sufficient time may be afforded for a due consideration of the many intricate questions that have to be decided before efficient legislation is possible.”—M. Berryer, the great French advocate, is about to be entertained at a public dinner by the members of the Inns of Court.—Mr. Bernal Osborne has addressed a meeting of his constituents at Liskeard. He condemned the Government for plunging into controversies with foreign nations while important domestic questions were wholly neglected. He was so anxious to be neutral with regard to the American war that he would “give no opinion as to the result” of the struggle; nevertheless he was free to express his belief that “the North will eventually make a solitude, and call it peace.” He deplored the apathy which prevailed both inside and outside the House of Commons, and said the Liberal party was now without a leader and without a flag. As to the Tories, they had become almost extinct.—Addressing a numerous attended meeting of his constituents at Plymouth, Sir Robert Collier took occasion to say a good word for the Federal Prize Courts and their decisions. “On

the whole,” he said, the judgments of those tribunals “had been well considered, and given with a desire to do justice.”—A serious state of things has been disclosed by a partial examination of the accounts of the District Bankruptcy Courts. In April last, the Lord Chancellor directed Mr. Commissioner Ayrton and Mr. Harding, the London accountant, to examine the books of the official assignees and messengers at Leeds; and, in consequence of the revelations made in their report, a similar investigation was ordered to be instituted at Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol, Exeter, Liverpool, Manchester, and Newcastle. The inquiry has been completed so far as regards the Courts at Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool, and the result is that, “besides the discovery of many gross irregularities,” it has been found that upwards of £14,000 has been “improperly retained” by the official assignees and the messengers, instead of being paid over to the Chief Registrar’s account. This investigation will, it is said, be extended to the courts in London.—At the last meeting of the Court of Common Council the question of opening Southwark Bridge free of toll, for six months, by way of experiment, was under consideration, and led to rather a sharp discussion. On the advantage to the public of opening the bridge there was but one opinion; indeed, the opposition arose from the opinion of members that if the bridge were once opened it could never be closed again; the bridge must be purchased, and the corporation had no funds for the purpose. The motion to open the bridge was, in the end, carried by a large majority, but in consequence of some technical point that was raised the matter was referred to the coal, corn, and finance committee before being finally carried out.—The gunnery experiments at Boxhill, last week, assumed the form of a bombardment, salvoes of live shells being at the close fired at the Martello tower. The general results of the experiments are—first, equal penetration into brickwork of the Armstrong and Whitworth projectiles; and, second, the superior destructive effect of the Armstrong shell. As a whole, the experiments verify those of August, 1860, which established the advantages of rifled guns over smooth-bore guns. The firing was watched with great interest by great numbers of the Sussex gentry.—The commission to whom was entrusted some time ago the duty of inquiring into and reporting upon the state of metalliferous mines, which are now under the same regulations as coal mines, have just made their report. They say that the health of the workmen in these mines is unsatisfactory, and they make several recommendations, the general effect of which may be described to be the conforming of the metalliferous to the regulations of the coal mines.—The colliers in the Wigan district have decided to demand an increase of wages. Meanwhile, they are rendering important aid to the pitmen on strike in South Staffordshire.—A troop of Lancers has been posted at Tipton, to overawe the colliers on strike, whose outrageous acts of intimidation have filled the district with alarm.—A storm of great violence raged on Saturday and Sunday in the Irish Channel and on the north-east coast. Several fatal cases of shipwreck are reported.—A young man was killed in a prize-fight, at Sheffield, on Sunday.—A German has been apprehended in London while attempting to pass off one of the new counterfeit sovereigns. He had previously paid one of these coins at a shop in another part of the metropolis. He describes himself as a watchmaker.—A man named Charles Eton De Witt, who is in custody on a charge of having defrauded certain parties out of wine to the extent of nearly £5,000, was brought up on remand before the Lord Mayor on Saturday last. Mr. Stanner, to whom he had made over the dock warrants for this amount of wine, now produced them all

but twelve, on which he said he had advanced £95, which he wished to recover before giving them up. He agreed, however, to produce them at the next examination, and the prisoner was again remanded.—On Monday last, Mr. Moss, a gentleman residing at Sheffield, packed up his plate and a quantity of jewellery, which he intended to confide to his bankers, as he was about to leave the town on a visit to Torquay. The plate chest was placed in the drawing-room in readiness to be removed on the following day; but during Monday night the house was entered by thieves and the chest and its contents carried off.—A few days ago a girl named Jennings was drowned in the River Lea, near Bromley. She was walking with her sweetheart at the time, and he alleged that she slipped into the water where it is very shelving, and that he would have followed her but that he could not swim. There was, however, a suspicion that he pushed her in; and some witnesses were examined to prove that he entertained a jealous feeling towards her. The prisoner has been several times under examination. The magistrate of the Thames Court observed that, though there were suspicious circumstances in the case, he was satisfied no jury would convict, and he therefore discharged the prisoner.—Henry Munn, a soldier, charged with attempting to murder a girl named Turner, at Cheltenham, has been examined before the magistrates. The young woman herself was able to be present, though in a very weak and exhausted state. She at first denied that the prisoner paid his addresses to her, but admitted that he had quarrelled with another young man with whom she was in the habit of walking. The prisoner was committed for trial.—An inquest on a marker, killed at the rifle ranges at Gravesend last week, has been held. The evidence went to show that the regulations of the service, if fully carried out, went far to render accidents impossible; and that the death occurred in this case by the recruit firing while the musketry instructor was engaged registering the previous shot. By the instructions, he ought to have waited till that functionary was at leisure to attend to the pointing of the muzzle of his musket. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and recommended that two men should for the future be employed at the butts—one to register the shots and the other to point the rifles of the recruits. An inquest has also been held on a gas-fitter, who was picked up in the Green Park a few days ago. The man, on being picked up in the park, was taken to an hospital, then to a police cell, on the supposition that he was drunk, then sent home, and finally conveyed to another hospital, where he was found to have sustained severe injuries about the head, and of which he soon afterwards died. A man came forward, and said he saw the deceased stagger and fall heavily in the park, and that he assisted in sending him to the hospital. It is supposed that he had been stupefied by gas fumes which he inhaled in the course of his occupation. It remains to be explained how the wounds on the man's head were not sooner discovered, and with that object the inquiry was again adjourned.—The fine steamer *Ontario* went ashore on the Hasborough Sands, on the Norfolk coast, and has become a total wreck. The crew were able to get ashore during a moderation in the weather, but for a time they were in great danger. The Yarmouth boatmen were applied to to bring them ashore in the lifeboat, but with a rapacity seldom exhibited in men in their class they refused to go off unless they were paid £500. The boatmen of a neighbouring station went off for £100, but so tempestuous was the sea that they were obliged to return without reaching the ship.—Franz Muller was put on his trial at the Central Criminal Court on Thursday, but the trial had made but little progress when we went to press.—A barbarous

murder and burglary was committed last Monday night at Whitecroft, in the Forest of Dean. The house of a family of the name of Wood was attacked in the dead of night by four or five men, and on the son confronting the ruffians he was shot dead. The house was then ransacked, and all the money in it was carried off, the surviving inmates being too terrified to offer any resistance. No trace of the robbers has since been discovered.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor Napoleon left Paris on Wednesday for Nice, where he will have an interview with the Emperor of Russia, who will, it is presumed, return the visit at Compiègne. The speculators of Paris are engaged in endeavours to conjecture whether any political results will follow from the imperial interviews; and it is probable that contradictory rumours will very speedily be circulated. The number of men required for the French army, and being provided for in the estimates now preparing at the Ministry of State, is 415,000. This number is the same as that of last budget. A Cabinet Council was held at St. Cloud on Saturday afternoon, and it is reported was the scene of an animated discussion. One minister expressed great anxiety to be informed as to the true meaning of the Italian Convention; and others called attention to the financial state of the country; and M. Fould's management of the finances is said to have been strongly animadverted on. It is stated that M. Fould and M. Drouyn de Lhuys will soon retire from the Ministry. A pamphlet entitled "The Convention of the 15th September," and, as we are told by one of Mr. Reuter's telegrams—"believed to be of semi-official origin," was published a few days ago in Paris. In this pamphlet the writer maintains that the stipulations of the Convention will be exactly fulfilled, and declares that the object of the treaty was to "bring about such an understanding between the Papacy and Italy as may allow of a solution of the great and fundamental question of Rome." The consequence of such a "solution" would be that "Catholicism would rally round the cause of Italy, and the difficulties still existing on the other side of the Alps, and which prevent the establishment of order in Europe, would be solved." In conclusion, the writer expresses a conviction—which no one will believe that he entertains—that the Pope will do nothing to impede "the happy and speedy reconciliation of the Papacy and Italy." Garibaldi has issued a declaration that he is opposed to the Franco-Italian Convention; and the Italian Government seems to have deemed this manifesto likely to inflame the popular discontent at Turin; for the journals which published the "declaration" have been summarily seized. Nevertheless we are assured that "perfect tranquillity reigns in Turin, and there is not the least indication of excitement." Almost all the members of the Italian Parliament have arrived in Turin. There seems to be no doubt that the Franco-Italian Convention will be carried by a large majority in the Chamber. On Tuesday 200 deputies assembled, and expressed themselves unanimously in its favour. All the municipal authorities and the heads of the working men's associations have issued proclamations urging the people to preserve order.—A telegram from Vienna states that the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Rechberg, has tendered his resignation to the Emperor, and that his Majesty has accepted it.—According to a Vienna telegram, the definite treaty of peace between Denmark and the two Great German Powers will probably be concluded during the present week.—A semi-official journal of Berlin says that Prussia is unable, "without further negotiations," to accept the sovereignty of Lauenberg, proffered by the Diet of that duchy, as Austria is a co-possessor of Lauenberg, and has "acquired moral rights which the Cabinet of Berlin will conscientiously respect." Nevertheless, Prussia

"will neglect nothing to meet the wishes of the population." In other words, the Prussian Government will do its utmost to acquire Lauenburg, or any other territory—an assurance which will be readily believed even by those who are the most incredulous of the professions of semi-official and official journals. —There has been an outbreak, apparently an unimportant one, in Austrian Italy. According to a telegram, proceeding from Austrian sources, some forty "refugees from the south of the Tyrol," dressed in Garibaldian frocks, and carrying a tricolour flag, appeared on Sunday last in the province of Udine, and surprised the stations of the military police in the villages of Spilimbergo and Maniago. They failed, we are told, to excite a rising of the inhabitants—although mention is made of a party of sixteen young men, who were encountered by the soldiery while marching to join them—and then "retired to the mountain passes." Troops have been sent in pursuit of them.—The King of Greece's chief adviser, Count Sponeck, lately requested the English Cabinet to use its influence with the Greek Assembly, "and especially with the so-called English party," in order to induce the Legislature to proceed with the discussion of the new Constitution. In a despatch replying to this request, Earl Russell declares that England has "no relations with any political party in Greece," and merely wishes to act in concert with France and Russia. Although the British envoy may, if deputies speak to him on public affairs, express "an opinion in favour of an early settlement of the Constitution," it would be inconsistent with the British Government's principles to attempt to influence the Assembly's decisions. Such an interference would set a bad example, which might be followed by other Governments; and "less foreign Powers interfere in the internal affairs of Greece, the better will be the prospect of internal tranquillity and external peace for that kingdom." The King of Greece has sent to the National Assembly a message in which he requires that body to complete the new constitution within a month, and declares that if the task is not then finished, he "reserves to himself liberty of action, and throws the responsibility upon the Assembly."—Mexican despatches state that the "main army" of President Juarez had been defeated near Durango with the loss of twenty guns, that the French had occupied Matamoros, and that the Mexican Generals Viadurri, Quiroga, Doblado, Zuloaga, and Garza had made their submission to the new Emperor. There was a rumour in Vera Cruz on the 1st inst. that the Emperor Maximilian had been assassinated; but there does not seem to be any reason for attaching credence to the report.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The Calcutta and China mail has arrived. The force which was expected to sail from Yokohama to demolish the forts erected by the Japanese Prince of Chosiu for the purpose of preventing access to the inland sea through the Straits of Simonosaki, was to be composed of eight English men of war, mounting 184 guns, and conveying a battalion of marines, together with three French and five Dutch vessels of war and a steamer chartered by the American Minister. A body of 1,500 English troops was to remain at Yokohama in order to guard the European settlement against any attack.—A Bombay despatch, dated the 2nd instant, states that the Persian Gulf telegraph cable had been repaired, and that the land line had been completed between Bushire and Teheran, whence despatches had been transmitted in twelve hours to Bombay. The telegraph from Teheran to Bagdad was to be completed next month, but a frontier dispute between the Persian and Turkish Governments would have to be settled before it could be worked.—A body of troops is to enter Bhootan as soon as the season and preparations will permit, and

is to be commanded by General Showers, who will be entrusted with full political powers.

CANADA.—A New York despatch brought by the *Asia*, states that the Union Convention, which had assembled at Quebec on the 10th inst., had "unanimously resolved upon the confederation of all the provinces."

AMERICA.—The *Asia* has brought us the news that General Grant had returned to Petersburg, after having visited President Lincoln at Washington, and that there had been no further fighting in the neighbourhood of Richmond. General Lee's account of the engagement on the north of the James river on the 7th inst., stated that the Confederates attacked the Federals on the Charles City road, drove them from two entrenched lines, and captured ten guns, but that, "finding the enemy further strongly entrenched," they did not press them. On the other hand, General Grant's report stated that on the 7th instant the Federals only lost 400 men, while the Confederate loss amounted to 1,100 men. General Longstreet was said to have superseded General Early in the command of the Confederates in the Shenandoah Valley. The Federals under General Sheridan had retreated down the valley as far as Strasburg. He was pursued by the Confederate cavalry under Gen. Rosser, but had, we are told, "routed" his pursuers near Strasburg, taking 11 guns and 300 prisoners. During his retreat he desolated the whole country, and burned all the houses for a distance of five miles." General Sherman had reported on the 9th instant that the Confederate forces under General Hood, "operating in his rear," had occupied Dalton, and that he "feared an attack" on Kingstone and Rome. Seven miles of the railway between Chattanooga and Atlanta had been destroyed; but "having plenty of provisions in Atlanta, he felt secure so far as his main body was concerned. The Richmond journals had published a despatch announcing that Rome had been taken by the Confederates, who had made 3,000 prisoners. A flotilla of Federal transports which was ascending the Tennessee river had been attacked by General Forrest's Confederates, who destroyed two transports, and compelled the others to retire with some loss. The Confederate General Price had "proclaimed his intention to remain in Missouri," and had passed the Osage river, and moved westwards. His army, which was said to be 20,000 strong, was pursued by 8,000 Federal cavalry under General Pleasanton, who had "engaged its rear" at Jefferson, while the Federal General Curtis, "coming from Kansas, engaged General Price in front." President Jefferson Davis had returned to Richmond from his visit to Georgia. The elections in Indiana and Ohio have resulted in a victory of the Republican party "by a large majority," but in Pennsylvania "the Democratic party had gained largely," and "the soldiers' vote was awaited to decide the result of the election." The "Democratic National Committee" had issued an address protesting against the suppression of Democratic journals and the imposition of test oaths at the elections in Tennessee. This address was couched in threatening language, and vehemently condemned "President Lincoln's revolutionary purpose."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. F.—It is impossible to say how many Boys will have to be elected in April. The Committee will determine the number in March.

J. W.—We have not heard.

P.Z.—The question is of too private a nature for our columns. Owing to a pressure of Masonic matter, several communications are unavoidably postponed until our next.