

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1865.

THE ADMISSION OF HINDOOS AS FREEMASONS.

We have been requested to publish the following correspondence (which has been in our hands for some time past), and to express our opinion with regard to it. We are happily relieved from the necessity of giving an opinion, inasmuch as we understand that the M.W. Grand Master has decided that there was nothing to prevent Mr. Dutt and other of our Indian fellow subjects being initiated into the Order, although some delay occurred in consequence of the opinion held by the Provincial Grand Master, which necessitated some correspondence on the subject, which was also referred to the Colonial Board, the report of which we published about three months since.

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

SIR,—I shall thank you for your publishing the accompanying Masonic correspondence into your valuable MAGAZINE, and at the same time passing your high opinion on the subject. You will thereby greatly oblige,
Yours faithfully,
A BENGALLEE.
Calcutta, Dec. 2, 1864.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

My Lord,—It is with great diffidence I venture on so bold a step as to address your lordship direct, but trust my extreme anxiety to place before you, with as little delay as possible, a matter of deep interest and importance to very many of my countrymen, will plead a sufficient excuse for my presumption in neglecting the ordinary official channel of communication, and appealing immediately to your lordship.

The subject which I thus venture to beg your lordship's kind consideration of is the recent decision of the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, unjustly, as I humbly conceive, excluding Hindoos from Freemasonry, and more particularly my own peculiar case. My application for admission to the Fraternity, accompanied by testimonials as to character from gentlemen of the highest respectability, was submitted by the Master of Lodge Courage with Humanity (who had some doubt on the subject) to the Provincial Grand Master, who, at the quarterly meeting of the District Grand Lodge, expressed himself opposed to, and decided against, the admission of Hindoos, and I am consequently shut out.

The peculiar hardship of my case is this. Previously to the above meeting in July last, another Hindoo of my own rank in society was proposed and initiated into the Order, upon making a declaration which I also am quite ready to make, namely, "I am not a Pantheist or a Polytheist. I do not identify my Creator with any one of His creatures. I believe in the existence of our Great Architect of the Universe, whose will is law, whose laws are impressed on the heart of every right-thinking individual, and whose never-failing justices shall reach the transgressor of His laws on the great day of judgment to come." And yet, by this arbitrary decision of the Provincial Grand Master, I am excluded, whilst the Hindoo above mentioned enjoys all the privileges of Freemasonry.

This I consider unfair and unjust in the extreme; and I humbly trust that your lordship may take a similar

view, and revoke a decree that debars so many of the human race from an Order which professes to be open to all, and to exclude no man on account of his religion.

In common with a large number of my countrymen, I am, from social reasons, obliged to conform to certain caste rules; but I am not now, nor ever was, an idolator. While Mussulmen, Parsees, Jews, &c., are admitted, I complain that my exclusion is most unjust; but many of the highest Masons, and a moiety of the brethren, are in favour of our admission, and it does not seem to me altogether right that the decision of a question of so much moment should depend upon the peculiar views or prejudices of a single individual.

The objection that we cannot be properly obligated is so weak a one as hardly to deserve notice. Surely the oath on which our evidence is taken in courts of justice on matters of the gravest importance, and upon which life or death often depend, must be sufficient.

With a view that your lordship should know directly from ourselves how deeply we feel this injustice, I have taken the liberty of intruding on your valuable time.

Again asking pardon for my boldness, and trusting a favourable hearing from your lordship, I beg to subscribe myself,

Your lordship's humble and devoted servant,
(Signed) PROSONNO COOMAR DUTT.
Colootolah, Calcutta, Nov. 9, 1863.

To W. Gray Clarke, Esq., Grand Secretary to the Grand Lodge of England.

Sir,—I beg to wait upon you with a copy of my petition, addressed to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England on the 9th of November, 1863, with a hope of having my grievances, therein mentioned, redressed; but, to my utter misfortune, no reply has, up to this date, come off, and there is little room for cherishing further expectation of receiving any under such circumstances.

Sir, I am led to apprehend that my humble representation is either misled, or that, if received, no notice has been taken of it, owing to my having neglected the proper channels through which such representations ought to have been made; otherwise his lordship would not have turned a deaf ear to a subject in which a whole sect or community is concerned.

Now, Sir, as the matter referred to is of the greatest importance to my countrymen in general, and myself in particular, no stone will be left unturned to gain our object. I beg respectfully to represent the case through you, with a fervent hope of having my prayer taken into due consideration.

In conclusion, I beg leave to request that, if circumstances of an official character delay the dispatch of the result of this, my representation, I shall feel ever obliged by your kindly communicating to me the receipt of this in a letter addressed to me, postage to pay.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) P. C. DUTT.
Colootolah, Calcutta, April 8, 1864.

To Prosonno Coomarr Dutt, Esq., Colootolah, Calcutta.
Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
May 13, 1864.

Sir,—I have this morning received your letter of the 8th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a letter dated November 9th, 1863, addressed to the Earl of Zetland, Grand Lodge of England.

The subject of your letter has long been under the serious consideration of his lordship; and the only reason of your not being informed that it was so was the impossibility of deciphering your signature, which has compelled me to have recourse to tracing paper.

The Grand Master would on no consideration allow any informality in addressing him—but as regards your letter there was none—to interfere with his giving the

most careful consideration to any subject brought to his notice, affecting the interest of Masonry.

In the hope that I may shortly have the honour of again addressing you on the subject of your letter of November last, I beg to subscribe myself,

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) W. GRAY CLARKE, G.S.

To W. Gray Clarke, Esq., Grand Secretary to the United Grand Lodge of England.

Sir,—With a sense of deep pleasure and heartfelt joy I have the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your favour dated the 13th May last, which has removed the anxiety under which I was all along subject to. I am under much obligation to understand that his lordship the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England has condescended to take my grievances, complained of in my letter of November last, into his serious consideration. I do not know in what terms to tender you my grateful thanks for the interest you have taken in my cause; and the language of your letter under acknowledgment, every word of which breathes truly Masonic feeling, has infused into my mind hopes of success, with a feeling of deep anxiety.

I am expecting to have a further favour on the subject, hopes of which you are good and kind enough to hold out.

I really regret to learn of the difficulty you had to meet in deciphering my name; and, in order to remove such difficulty in future, I beg to give my address distinctly and legibly at the bottom.

With much respect, I beg to subscribe myself,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) PROSONNO COOMAR DUTT.
Calcutta, July 15, 1864.

To W. Gray Clarke, Esq., Grand Secretary to the United Grand Lodge of England.

Sir,—Since the receipt of your kind favour of the 13th May, 1864, I had the honour of addressing a letter to you, on the 15th July last, with a legible and distinct signature of mine, in order to enable you to communicate to me the result of my petition, dated the 9th November, 1863.

I regret to mention that, although the subject matter of my petition has been under the serious consideration of his lordship the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England for such a length of time as one whole year, yet I have not, up to this date, been favoured with the decision of his lordship.

It is a matter of general interest; and the great anxiety on my part, as well as constant solicitation from my fellow-countrymen, compel me to take the liberty of again addressing you after a period of four months, with a sincere and ardent hope of your taking an active and favourable part on my behalf.

I have already expressed my sincere regard for the very kind and obliging tenour of your writing, communicated to me in your letter of the 13th May, 1864; and I would again solicit the favour of your recommending the subject of my grievances to his lordship.

It is a great pity that I have not a single Masonic friend in England to lend me his aid in moving on the matter from time to time; but, notwithstanding, it is a consolation to me that your generous and good self has held out hopes of addressing me a further communication, which I expect may turn favourable towards my desired object. I beg to say that, since I had the honour of addressing his lordship on the 9th November, 1863, I often took and do still take great interest in perusing magazines and works on Masonry; and in one of the latter, called "Preston's Illustrations of Masonry," I have met with certain passages worth noticing here. I have the presumption to quote the following, which may,

as I conceive, prove of some consequence and weight to support my petition, soliciting to be initiated a Freemason:—

"Freemasonry is confessedly a latitudinarian—being, Masonically interpreted, a universal—institution; and by its statutes any person of irreproachable morals, who will publicly acknowledge and subscribe to the being of a God, may claim initiation into its mysteries, whether he be a Jew, a Christian, a Mahomedan, a Hindoo, or a North American Indian.

"... the Earl of Zetland announced as his opinion that Freemasonry, being a pure system of morality, ought to embrace within its illimitable range the rich and the poor, the Christian, the Jew, and all who acknowledge the great Creator."

In conclusion, I beg to state that you will be good enough to communicate to me, at your earliest convenience, the result of my petition, dated the 9th of November, 1863.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) P. C. DUTT.
Colootolah, Calcutta, Nov. 9, 1864.

A TALE OF THE OLDEN TIME.

It affords us much pleasure to learn that the Ascalon Encampment of Knights Templar at Poona has been resuscitated after lying dormant for eighteen months, and congratulate the members in having selected as their Eminent Commander the Venerable Sir Knight W. Wellis, the oldest Freemason in Bombay, and one who has the welfare of Masonry sincerely at heart. Bro. Wellis has worked well and heartily throughout the long period of forty years, and has earned for himself the respect and good-will of every man, high or low, who has ever had the pleasure of meeting him. The late Chevalier Sir James Burnes, Provincial Grand Master of Bombay, held him in high esteem, and in one of his most eloquent speeches in Bengal, in 1840, spoke in very feeling terms of Bro. Wellis.

Several very striking incidents occurred during Bro. Wellis's Masonic career, and we will here relate one circumstance:—In the good old times, about thirty-five years ago, only one lodge (Benevolent) was at work in Bombay, the members of which consisted chiefly of military and naval officers, with a sprinkling of civil servants and merchants. The fort was then principally occupied by military men; amongst these there were thirteen non-commissioned officers who were Masons, but too poor to establish a lodge of their own, and too modest to seek admittance in what was then considered an aristocratic lodge. They, however, met monthly in the Guard-room over the Apollo Gate for mutual instruction in Masonry. It somehow came to the knowledge of the Master of the Lodge Benevolent that another lodge was at work without a warrant, and the thirteen were thereupon summoned to appear and answer for themselves. They obeyed the summons and attended; and Bro. Wellis, who was appointed spokesman, candidly admitted that they met for mutual instruction in order to brush up their

knowledge of Masonry, but that they neither made Masons nor did any other work contrary to the Constitutions. They were then directed to retire for a few minutes, and after some consultation among the members, they were readmitted, and the whole thirteen were elected honorary members of the lodge, for which honour they returned heartfelt thanks. After the work of the lodge was over, the brethren adjourned to the banquet-table, and the thirteen were informed that a table filled with all the delicacies of the season awaited them downstairs. They went down, looked at the table, which was a very tempting one, but the spirit of Masonry took possession of their hearts, which revolted at the distinction thus made among Masons, and they one and all left the place. Shortly after some of the brethren upstairs came down to see how their brethren below fared, but to their astonishment they found that they were gone, and the good things laid out for them untouched. The next morning they were sent for by their commanding officer, who was one of the officers of the lodge, and asked to explain their conduct. Bro. Wellis told him that, as Masons, they were bound to meet on the level and part on the square; but as this fundamental principle was not practised in Lodge Benevolent, of which they had been elected honorary members, they could not partake of their hospitality. The astonished colonel said not a word, but waived his hand for them to retire. We need not say that ever after this all the brethren of Lodge Benevolent (including the thirteen) met on the level both in lodge and at the banquet-table.—*Masonic Record of Western India.*

FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS.

(From the *Indian Freemason's Friend*.)

Twenty years ago I was initiated into Freemasonry in Lodge Industry and Perseverance, then, and long afterwards, the crack lodge of Calcutta; and let me now look back through the last twenty years of my Masonic life. Of the many friends I have made in Masonry in India, there are still some left, I know, who will not think it waste of time to recall the past, and give a kindly thought to the brethren who have left us, and a sigh for those we shall never see again in life, but whom we all humbly trust to meet once more, and for ever, in that Grand Lodge above where every good Mason may hope to be admitted. Three years before I became a Mason, Sir Edward Ryan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was Senior Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bengal. He left Indian Masonry only when he left India, in 1841. Every one who remembers Sir Edward Ryan will admit that his stern dignified character added dignity to the Craft in the opinion of the Cowans. He was, however, three years before my Masonic career commenced, though I knew him well as Chief Justice. I only casually refer to him here as one

instance of the stamp of men we had in Masonry about that time. But he left his eldest son, Edmund Ryan, his clerk, and a solicitor of the court, to tread in his footsteps. Sir Edward is still in England, but the grass has long grown green over poor Edmund's grave. In 1844, when I was initiated, Mr. Neave* (of the Civil Service, I believe, but I did not know him) was Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, and with him in the Grand Lodge were Major Birch (jolly old Birch, long a magistrate of Calcutta, and whose bust is in our Masonic Hall) as Deputy Grand Master; Henry Torrens, of the Civil Service, the gifted Torrens, as Junior Grand Warden; Dr. Egerton, esteemed by all who knew him, as Senior Grand Warden; old Captain Clapperton, of the Master Attendant's Office, as Senior Grand Deacon; and that most worthy of all worthy Masons, J. J. L. Hoff, our late officiating Provincial Grand Master (who, while distressing illness keeps him from us, still lives in our hearts as he lived among us in the olden days) as Junior Grand Deacon; with such men as Longueville Clarke, whose name was a household word for talent and eloquence; Captain (now Colonel) Broome of the Artillery; Dr. Mouatt, world renowned in India; poor Edmund Ryan; and John Farley Leith, the able and successful barrister, among the other officers of the Grand Lodge. I am not quite certain, but I think Hamerton, the gifted musician, was Grand Organist. What an array of good names! Besides them in Masonry, there were Colonel Burlington, of the Bengal Cavalry, by whom I was initiated, who was for some time officiating Provincial Grand Master, and a good portrait of whom is in Stapleton's little Masonic book; Samuel Smith, a perfect devotee of the Order, who spent so much of his time and money on his favourite Craft, and at whose hands, in his own encampment, formed in his own house, I was made a Red Cross Knight; jolly old Chance, to whose memory a Mural Tablet hangs in our Masonic Hall, whose portly figure and round jovial face told what a real John Bull he was. What though he did forget his "h" when he ought not to have done so, especially and always when he trolled out, after refreshment, his praises of the favourite heroine of our youth, the

"Sweet lass of Richmond 'ill."

He always laughed at himself for it. His death was a melancholy one—lost, with all hands, in a light ship off Saugor, which foundered at her anchors in a terrible gale of wind. Poor Chance went to the Sandheads for the recovery of his health, but it was ordained otherwise, and he went to his

* Judge of Azimgurh—a first-rate Mason, regarding whom poor Bro. Boileau recorded the following stanza in our pages:—

"And Neave, like Grant, was ready still his clever pen to wield,
Enriching with his flowery style the literary field
And taking thought if benefit or help he could confer
On brethren of the mystic tie from distant Azimgurh.

—[Ed. I. F. F.]

death.* Captain Hillier, 14th Light Dragoons, aide-de-camp for many years at Government House, and a general favourite in society here; poor Sweetenham, of the 16th Lancers, who died a soldier's death in the glorious charge at Allival, and a tablet to whose memory is in the anteroom of the third floor of our Masonic Hall; Major Boileau, well known in our Masonic literature as A.H.E.B., and as the immediate predecessor in the Provincial Grand Master's chair of R.W. Bro. Sandeman; Arthur Sanders, and other military men—what a lot of military officers we had in those days! Then Dr. Wallich, superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, an old man in years before he became a Mason, but as young in heart and thought as any Entered Apprentice before or after him. Wallich was, if I mistake not, greatly on the wrong side of fifty when he was initiated, two or three years after I was; but, as he himself told me, he felt he had neglected all his previous time in keeping out of Masonry.† As soon as he entered it, he did indeed make up for lost time in the love and zeal he showed for the Craft. He was a perfect child in his ardour for Masonry, and there was no act of kindness which he would not have done, if it lay in his power to do it, for a distressed brother. No worthier Mason ever lived than Dr. Wallich. He, too, has gone to his long home; but we may well hope that he will be found where his kind old Danish heart will be glad to re-welcome those it was happy to mingle with in lodge. We had also John King, for many years chief clerk and afterwards judge of the Small Cause Court. To his memory, also, a tablet hangs in our Masonic Hall. Again, another tablet hanging there reminds us of poor George Newman, of the then firm of Leach, Kettlewell, and Co., who was cut off by cholera—a very young man, and with excellent prospects, and for a while he was Master of Lodge Industry and Perseverance. For many years a personal friend of my own, I cannot venture to say much of him, lest I should write somewhat extravagantly on the subject. I will say this much of George Newman, that I do not believe it was possible for him to make an enemy, and no one who knew him failed to be his friend. Charles Huffnagle, the American Consul, doctor, and merchant, known to all his friends as Huffy, was Junior Warden in Industry when I was Senior, with Ilbery as our Master. In those days we had many American brethren among us, and many of my brethren will recal the duets of Torry and Tuckerman, and the strong lungs of Wilmer ("Biler," as he was universally called) when he shouted out his favourite song—

"O! carry me back to old Virinny,
To old Virginia's shore."

If report speaks true, "Biler" finds that the

* Some mistake here.—Ed. I. F. F.

† He would sometimes ask Bro. J. J. L. Hoff, with a comic air of annoyance, why he had not recommended him to become a Mason many years before.—Ed. I. F. F.

Britisher's peaceful and pleasant island home is a better place just now than old Virinny.

Poor Amory, also, was an American. He, too, died a sudden death by cholera, to the sincere regret of all who knew him. But I cannot name all of our Masonic friends who have left us during the last twenty years: there are too many.* But often and often in lodge do I think of them, and the memory of each haunts me like

"The phantom of a silent song
That comes and goes a thousand times."

And now, in closing my subject, let me say that, for the last twenty years, I have, in Masonry, made many and many a friend, and have never once found an enemy or met with ill-will; and it is my happiness still to mix with Freemasons, and my hope is that the same happiness may be accorded to me for the next twenty years. Though it has been my good fortune never, in my own case, to have had to appeal for assistance "as a brother in distress," I sincerely believe, in fact I know, that much kindness and consideration have often been shown to me (as always is the case in Masonry), and my many shortcomings have been gently thought of, owing to my connection with the Craft. Need I therefore say to any reader of this letter, who is not a Freemason, that I heartily commend him to become and continue one, for a man cannot aspire to anything worthier in life than to be a good Mason. As such, a man may well possess the hope so beautifully expressed by Tennyson, in words very slightly altered by me—

"To pass ere life her light withdraws,
Not void of righteous self-applause,
Nor in a merely selfish cause,
In some good cause, not all his own,
To pass his life, ere helpless grown,
Then perish, wept for, honoured, known."

To which I would make my own poor addition—

And thus, while weeping brethren shed
Their tears around his dying bed,
Of him to have this requiem said—
"Through weal and woe, from morn to e'en,
Throughout life's long and chequered scene,
A true Freemason he has been."

W. H. A.

SAVILLE HOUSE: WHY WAS IT BURNT?

[Whilst we are building, and ere it is too late, we would commend the following observations from the *Builder* to our Building Committee, though we believe every precaution is being taken to make our New Hall as safe as possible] :—

The accounts of the destruction of Saville House by fire have omitted notice of circumstances that would deserve to be remembered in any efforts to develop a system of construction less productive of danger than that which now prevails. Something has been written, in our own pages especially, concerning the system which allows each house—or in the majority of cases.—to be as

* W. H. A. has forgotten poor "Batters."—Ed. I. F. F.

so much firewood conveniently disposed for the perfect ignition of the whole mass during a period of time to be counted by minutes. Even should the rapidity of the communication of flame be moderated by accidental circumstances, such as the absence of a great rush of air through an opened door, smoke will precede the flames, and suffocate those who might have remained some minutes longer unburnt. Though it has been shown that if quartered partitions and joisted floors were filled in solid between the timbers, the rapid spread of fire might be materially counteracted, and perhaps arrested, the greater number of partitions and floors are still constructed hollow. Fire-proof plasters which have stood severe experimental tests, are, consistently with the general inattention to the whole matter, scarcely used at all; and ordinary plastering, which, well executed, is really capable of resisting fire for a moderate length of time, is so laid that it is of little service, especially where joists are weak, and fractures in the plaster have commenced. In short each house is still built like a funeral pile, with the proper spaces and channels left for supply of air and the lapping on of flame from stick to stick, only excepting that there is an ostensible outer casing which is more or less effectual in confining the fire to one house, according to the number and arrangement of any openings in the wall, and to the vicinity of other buildings and the direction of wind. The result from the arrangement of the material quite resembles that from the housemaid's manner of laying the domestic fire when the wood has been dried, and is well laid for the crackling up quickly. The effect to sight and hearing is absolutely identical: the period elapsing from the first catching fire, to the complete inflammation, judging from what we have seen, must be the same in the two cases.

Circumstances attending the destruction of Raggett's Hotel, in Dover-street, several years ago, as then described, deserve to be recorded in the history of this subject. We cannot now turn to the newspapers; but we recollect that one of the incidents showed that the slightest hesitation in making an escape after the first intimation of an occurrence of fire, although scarcely any smoke or flame be distinguishable at the moment, involves the utmost danger. On the occasion referred to, one of the inmates of the hotel came out of his room-door, saw nothing, went back, delaying little more than an instant, and was somewhat injured in descending the stairs. It is not necessary to allude to the loss of life then, and on so many other occasions.

The value of good party walls was shown on the occasion of the destruction of Savile House; but the fire in Leicester-square should lead to consideration of the danger which there is of communication of fire from one building to another, through the existence of a feature in the arrangement of adjoining buildings, that is modern, and is be-

coming almost general. We have sometimes referred to disadvantages which there are sanitarily in the practice, growing with the increase in the value of ground, of building on the sites of yards and gardens. The structures, which in the majority of cases must be top-lighted, form a perfect means of communication of fire from one building to another. The fire in Leicester-square did not extend to the houses east and west of Savile House, in the front towards the square; but had the fire occurred in Messrs. Stagg & Mantle's premises, it would have been communicated to Savile House, by reason of the existence of a one-story building of the kind to which we have alluded.

But this circumstance is not the only one to which attention should be directed just now. There were other circumstances which, it may be said, might be supposed to have attended such a fire, but which required ocular demonstration to convey the impression of. We have spoken of them, but only slightly. The writer of these lines happened to arrive in Leicester-square only five or six minutes after the explosion; but flames were pouring out of the windows of the second principal floor; and in two or three minutes more, the whole interior of the story seemed as a furnace. So early was this, that little more than the ordinary crowd in the square was to be noticed. A long time seemed to elapse before the engines came; though we do not think there was unusual delay; and the Chandos-street station is not far off. When the engines got to work, the water from them seemed to vanish in spray without reaching the fire; or the streams bore about the same importance to the fire, as those from a boy's squirt would to the glowing fire that there could be in a kitchen-grate. The exertions of the firemen may have helped to save adjacent premises; as regards Savile House, they seemed to have no effect whatever, unless one prejudicial: the fire ceased when everything combustible was burnt. Great damage, however, was done to goods in adjoining premises, by the water.

Our own impression of the extreme rapidity and otherwise remarkable character, of the total inflammation of the principal floor, is more than confirmed by a statement to us by Mr. J. E. Collins, the painter of several exhibited portraits of Miss Bateman. Mr. Collins happened to be passing at the time on the footway next Savile House, and the window of one of the lower stories, where the explosion is said to have occurred, was blown out in front of him. He ran to the opposite side of the road, immediately turned round to see what was the matter, and saw the flames at the windows above, much as we have described their appearance only about five minutes later. His impression was that some combustible liquid, as turpentine, must have caught fire on the second floor. It seems to us that the appearance, whether due to any such cause as this last, or to combustion

of gas following the explosion—as in the case at Liverpool—or to a rapidity of communication of flame greater even than that which is ordinary, should even now suggest official investigation. Inquests on fires, after having been revived—and one of them, that on the fire of Covent Garden Theatre, having led to knowledge of possible causes of fires—seem to have again fallen into disuse, unless where there is loss of life. We venture to assert that what was seen by ourselves and others, previously to the arrival of the engines, at the fire in Leicester-square, deserves some further attention, at least with the object of greater care in the gas arrangements, as in the construction, of many classes of buildings.

There is another circumstance to be noted of the fire in Leicester-square, not less important than any other that we have alluded to. Although almost immediately after the manifestation of fire in the second or principal floor of Savile House, the whole of that story was glowing and crackling like a furnace fed with wood, it was very long before the fire got to the story above. What was the construction of the flooring we are not aware, but it could scarcely have been such as that of the commoner kind of London house. We have heard several statements from persons who witnessed the fire, and each has included surprise at what indeed was sufficient to surprise ourselves. The case affords one more piece of evidence that a floor may offer considerable resistance.

We may mention here that there is an invention, Nickson & Waddingham's "Patent Slate Ground for Plaster,"—once noticed by us in a review of the materials and manufactures at the Architectural Exhibition—which, besides other advantages over wooden laths, has the property of fire-resistance. The secretary of the Patent Plaster Foundation Company, at Manchester, has lately written to us saying that on the evening of the 20th ult., a fire occurring in certain offices in that town, in Faulkner-street, and of which the ceiling and partitions were plastered on the slate ground, the fire was confined to the one room, and did not touch the joists on flooring above, though a wooden beam below the ceiling was burnt to a depth of 2in., and the whole of the partitions and fittings, and a joiner's bench and tools, were destroyed. The actual damage did not exceed thirty pounds. The offices are in a new warehouse, and had been locked up at about eight o'clock in the evening.

In conclusion: the destruction of buildings by fire should be made to result in some accurate knowledge of circumstances which cause the calamity, and of all those which induce the rapidity of a conflagration, and eventually in an improved system of construction. Unfortunately the most important data for any questions which there are, are to be gathered only at the time of outbreak of a fire, and within a short interval after, or before the fire-brigade and persons competent to form opinions have had time to arrive.

GREAT TRIENNIAL HANDEL FESTIVAL. CRYSTAL PALACE, JUNE, 1865.

We extract the following from the prospectus of the Crystal Palace for the ensuing season, believing it may prove of interest to our musical readers:—

The Great Handel Festivals at the Crystal Palace, by their bold and striking originality, have become an acknowledged public requirement.

Their vast extent and comprehensive features have earned for them a memorable position in an age characterized by the grandeur of its discoveries, inventions, and appliances.

The triennial character which the Handel Festivals have assumed gives to each recurrence the charm of novelty. Combined with this, the adoption of every improvement experience can dictate, ensures as years roll on, a hearty welcome, not only from former patrons, but from those who, with appetites whetted in the interval by the fame of the preceding Festival, ardently desire themselves to be present at the coming great undertaking.

Originating in honest commemorative spirit desirous of placing the master-works of the greatest of musical composers before the public in such a manner as should give the Handel Commemoration of 1859 a distinctive feature, it was fortunate that, occurring as it did in an era marked by great diffusion of knowledge, and by rapid interchange of thought and personal intercourse, the period should also be characterized by such increased practice of the Musical Art as to place at the disposal of those desirous to honour Handel facilities and means unknown to, and unattainable by, their predecessors in this labour of love.

It is fortunate also that Handel's works possessed that particular speciality of grandeur in performance, which enabled the opportunities of the present day to be so advantageously made use of, that—unlike other Commemorations—additional lustre resulted even to his fame, by the Commemoration of 1859. By that colossal representation of those great masterpieces, "Messiah," "Israel in Egypt," &c.—their sublimity more fully realized because more adequately displayed—they have become more than ever the musical household gods of the English people.

Reverenced and cherished for upwards of a century as Handel's "Messiah" has been, from the monarch on the throne to the humble cottagers of Lancashire and Yorkshire, it may be said with truth, that the Handel Festivals have invested the halo surrounding the "Sacred Oratorio" with additional lustre. Of that stupendous conception, "Israel in Egypt," it may with equal truth be affirmed, that through its interpretation by thousands of enthusiastic executants in 1859 its giant power was for the first time fully recognised and its magnificence appreciated, and that it thus attained that hold on general estimation which it now, to the credit of this country, so completely enjoys.

It is not alone the extended arrangements and perfect organization of these Festivals, elevating them as this does above all other Handelian performances, which has led to their triennial celebration. Essential as this has been, it would have been insufficient without great pecuniary success.

It must be clear that, much as recurring Handel Festivals might be desired by musical enthusiasts, the very heavy liabilities and obligations which they in-

volve could not be incurred without the probability of considerable pecuniary success. How much of this is due to our cheap and rapid locomotion, and to the extraordinary development of postal and press organization, is probably hardly sufficiently felt.

In Handel's own days a Crystal Palace Handel Festival could only have been regarded as the wildest of dreams. It is not improbable that it occupied Handel, in 1741, nearly as long to travel from London to Dublin as to compose the "Messiah," which, to the honour of the Irish metropolis, was first publicly heard there.

At that time the performance of Oratoris was confined to a comparatively small and select class of persons. Except perhaps in London, the audiences must have been those resident within moderate distance of the place of performance. The means of locomotion and of publicity were alike deficient. Elaborate musical criticisms in the daily newspapers, such as are now expected of every performance of any importance, were then utterly unknown. It will scarcely be believed that no notice can be found in any public journal of the first performance in London of the "Messiah" on the 23rd March, 1743; and that the production of "Israel in Egypt," four years earlier, is only recorded, beyond Handel's own advertisements, by a letter in the *London Daily Post*, expressing a hope that Mr. Handel may be induced to perform the work once again, notwithstanding the small attendance at the previous performance.

Now, the fame and doings of a Handel Festival Great Rehearsal can not only be published to the residents of the metropolis the same afternoon, but, during its very progress, information is flashed by telegraph from the Crystal Palace to all parts of the United Kingdom, and to many of the great Continental cities. It is thus brought before hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of readers by early morning.

The magnificence of the choral display, the excellence of the solo artistes, the minute details of the execution, the transcendent merits of the great master-works thus interpreted, detailed descriptions of the building, and the vast audience congregated within it, &c., are canvassed and noticed by the readiest of pens, guided by the most intelligent of minds. Other nineteenth century wonders of manipulative and mechanical skill, acting through type and stereotype, aided by the most involved, yet perfect and rapid, machinery, and by that remarkable system of newspaper expresses—only practicable in these railway times—present a power and complete transference of observant thought, without parallel in the history of the world.

It is no exaggeration to say that in any part of the United Kingdom printed accounts of the Friday rehearsal may be perused on the Saturday, and that the reader may at a moderate outlay be present on the Monday in ample time to witness the commencement of the first day's performance. Returning the same night to his home, perhaps some hundreds of miles distant, he may so relate his own impressions of the "Messiah" as interpreted at the Crystal Palace, that, acting as the centre of the widening circle, he adds to the success of the Festival, by inducing friends and associates to go and do on the Wednesday and Friday what he has done on the Monday.

That this has been the case, the experience of the

'57, '59, and '62 Festivals abundantly proves. Doubtless a large proportion of the tickets for the entire Festival is purchased at the earliest opportunity. The desire to secure certain favourite positions causes the demand for places, on the first opening of the ticket offices to increase year by year. But it is only after the effect of the Great Full Rehearsal has been witnessed and described, that the *fièvre* to be present arises. The general desire to witness the "Messiah," with its deeply-seated religious associations, further stimulates the demand; which, increasing as the variety offered by the middle day's Selection becomes appreciated, has invariably and appropriately culminated in the last day of the Festival, that occupied by "Israel in Egypt."

That much of this happy result is due to the facilities already noted, it is the duty of the writer gratefully to acknowledge. They are of incalculable advantage to any great enterprise, extending over one week only; they are facilities not enjoyed to the same degree in any country as they are in England.

So much has been written in former programmes respecting the extent and complete organisation of the great orchestral force triennially assembled at the Crystal Palace, that it is needless again to enter minutely into the subject. Suffice it to say, that the experience gained eleven years since by the first grand musical display at the opening of the Palace, by the past three Handel Festivals, by the opening of the International Exhibition of 1862, and by constant observation of the best Continental and Provincial musical meetings, will be brought to bear on the coming Festival.

A few remarks must, however, be made on the prospects of the choral department. Since the last Festival, the combined practice of the 1,600 amateur members of the Metropolitan Division of the Handel Festival Choir has been kept up with regularity at Exeter Hall, and always under the direction of Mr. Costa. Carefully revised, and replenished from time to time with fresh voices previously tried, this great choir has so improved that still greater choral effects may be confidently anticipated than at the preceding Festivals.

The erection of large rooms and halls in the provinces, available for choral performances, has given a great impetus to choral practice. This is evidenced by the more frequent meetings of provincial choral societies, and by the formation of new societies, which must also act favourably on the choral department of the Festival, largely recruited as it is from the provinces. At the last Festival, choralists were selected from the following towns and districts, besides numerous other places of minor importance:—

Aberdare.	Dublin.	Manchester.
Aberdeen.	Durham.	Newcastle.
Armagh.	Edinburgh.	Nottingham.
Bath.	Ely.	Norwich.
Belfast.	Eton.	Oxford.
Birmingham.	Exeter.	Peterborough.
Bradford.	Glasgow.	Rochester.
Bristol.	Gloucester.	Salisbury.
Cambridge.	Halifax.	Sheffield.
Canterbury.	Hereford.	Stockport.
Chatham.	Huddersfield.	Sunderland.
Chester.	Leeds.	Wells.
Chichester.	Leicester.	Winchester.
Cork.	Limerick.	Windsor.
Coventry.	Lincoln.	Worcester.
Derby.	Liverpool.	York.

One particular feature connected with the more general practice of choral music may be said to have risen with the Handel Festivals, viz., the "Gatherings of Church Choirs." This movement, which is doubtless destined to develop, even in the most retired localities, a taste for choral music, has been immensely extended since the last Festival. It is a matter of almost weekly occurrence in the season to hear of the meeting of choirs of a thousand or more voices at York, Canterbury, Lichfield, or other cathedrals, for choral service. It may be a question whether the music selected on these occasions is the best for the purpose, and whether it might not be desirable to admit only those choristers who have by previous examination gained certificates of at least moderate musical ability (a course pursued with advantage by the conductors of the great choral concerts of the Tonic Sol-fa Association at the Crystal Palace). But without discussing these questions, it is certain that great interest attaches to these large gatherings of church choirs. If it could be arranged for deputations from these local associations to witness the effect produced by Handel's choral music at the Great Rehearsal of the Handel Festival, a spirit of emulation could not fail to be aroused in the highest degree beneficial to this important movement.

Abroad, as well as at home, the choral movement continues to extend. From our colonial possessions frequent accounts reach this country of the formation of choral societies, the staple of whose practice and performance is derived from Handel. At Boston, in America, the "Handel and Haydn Society" are preparing a "Grand Musical Festival" of about 600 performers, in celebration of their fiftieth anniversary. On the Continent the taste for Handel's choral works is spreading. "Belshazzar" was performed entire at the Lower Rhine Festival at Aix-la-Chapelle last Whitsuntide, by an orchestra of nearly 600 performers, and excited great interest. At the next one "Israel in Egypt" is to be performed. Perhaps more noticeable still are the Sacred Choral Concerts given by M. Padeloup, in Paris, during the Lent of the last two years. The male-voiced part-song practice of the French was made familiar to the English public by the visit to the Crystal Palace of the 2,500 *Orphéonistes*, conducted by M. Delaport, in 1860. Oratorio music, however, so familiar in England, has, until quite recently, been utterly unknown in France. The "Hallelujah" of "*Le Messie*," and "See the Conquering Hero Comes," under the title of "*Hymne Triomphale Haendel*," were almost the whole choral pieces of Handel ever to be met with in a French programme. This ignorance of Handel's works is less surprising, when it is remembered that Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was heard publicly as a whole, in the French capital, for the first time last Lent. It is to M. Padeloup that the Parisian public owes this novelty; and as he has successfully introduced some of Handel's choruses into his Lent programmes (from the "Censer," and the "Nightingale" chorus from "Solomon"), and as it is understood that in the coming Lent he proposes to pursue the same course still further, it is not beyond the bounds of probability that Handel's oratorios as a whole may yet find their admirers in the French metropolis, and that the "Messiah," and "Israel in Egypt," may in time become as much the fashion as the operas of Rossini and Meyerbeer. Having in view also the Great Interna-

tional Exhibition to be held in Paris, the year after next, it is to be hoped that the example set by England may not be without influence, and that choral music may then, for the first time, take its proper position in the French metropolis on such an occasion.

If it is thought strange in this country, that other nations, popularly supposed to be more musical than England, should know so little of Handel's music, let it be remembered that Meyerbeer (that illustrious musician removed from us since the last Festival)—who had probably witnessed more great musical celebrations, in all parts of the continent, than any one else—heard "Israel in Egypt," for the first time in his long life, at the Commemoration Festival at the Crystal Palace in 1859. His astonishment and delight have been already recorded; and the subject is again alluded to, as confirmation of the opinion before expressed, that Handel's choral music has acquired such additional majesty by the employment of the vast means now within reach, that its practice is likely to become universal. That Englishmen should be proud of Handel's works—written while he resided in London—is only natural. The increasing appreciation of them in all parts of the world is most gratifying, and must continue to act favourably on such great unique celebrations as the Crystal Palace Triennial Handel Festivals.

Although in these remarks so much prominence has been first given to the choral department, it is not to be supposed that the instrumental force will be behindhand in efficiency. In no capital of Europe can such a phalanx of instrumentalists be brought together as are assembled triennially at the Handel Festivals at Sydenham. Numbering above five hundred, drawn from all parts, they comprise the most talented professors, reinforced by amateurs of great musical ability, and in many cases of high social position. When it is stated that there are above four hundred performers on stringed instruments at the Handel Festival, an idea is given of the enormous total orchestral force then employed.

The leading instrumentalists in this country are of course the principals at the Handel Festival. Their talents are concentrated in the orchestra of the Italian Opera and of the Birmingham Festivals; and, in both, their execution of the most intricate and complex works, in the most varied styles, reflects the highest renown, not only on themselves, but on their great chief, Mr. Costa, who will of course conduct the coming Festival. It is only those who, through a long series of years, have closely watched Mr. Costa's devotion to his art who are able to realize the artistic advantages which have resulted to music in England from his lengthened and intimate association with it. Confessedly without a rival, the musical successes which invariably attend his *bâton*, whether connected with the harassing detail of Italian Opera, the variety, nicety, and complexity of a Birmingham Festival, or the gigantic development of a Crystal Palace Handel Festival, are due as much to his constant endeavours to promote the welfare and high standing of his profession, as to his rare ability and untiring ability, and untiring habits of industry and regularity. The association of Mr. Costa with the Sacred Harmonic Society, through many years, paved the way for an adequate Handel commemoration. The disinterested devotion to the best interests of choral art of the managers and members of this parent institution, gave

them the right to take the lead. Their ability to organise and carry out extensive musical arrangements, gave them that power which has resulted so beneficially. It was a rare concurrence of such favourable circumstances which rendered the Crystal Palace Handel Commemoration of 1859 so pre-eminently remarkable. It is the zealous continuance of these conjoint labours and advantages, which guarantees success to the coming Triennial Festival.

It has taken three Festivals to complete the great orchestra at the Crystal Palace, with its vast roof, twice the diameter of the dome of St. Paul's. The number of executants is therefore defined. They will fall but little short of 4,000.

Numbers like these at first so little impress the mind, that comparisons become requisite. It may, therefore, be stated that the performers at the 1865 Festival will exceed in number those gathered together for the last York Musical Festival, the Westminster Abbey Festival of 1834, the Leeds, Bradford, Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, Norwich, and Birmingham Musical Festivals, *all combined*.

The requirements, and the great outlay of such undertakings as the Crystal Palace Handel Festivals, render it requisite that, like the Provincial Festivals, an interval of three years should elapse between each celebration. No annual effort could result in adequate success. That success has attended them, may be gathered from the fact that they have been attended by 194,800 persons, and that the receipts arising directly from them have amounted to £83,465 9s. 9d.

As regards the Oratorios to be performed at the Triennial Handel Festival there can be but little choice. The Festivals present to the public that which the public desires—the most imposing representation of Handel's master-works which the improving practice of choral music within the preceding three years renders attainable.

"Messiah," therefore, for its religious associations, as well as the deep hold it has on the musical feelings of all, appropriately takes the lead, on the Monday.

For its unapproachable grandeur, and its peculiar power of displaying vast choral strength, and for that grand cyclopean idea of dividing its massive choruses into double choir, only capable of full realisation in the immense orchestra of the Crystal Palace, "Israel in Egypt" stands pre-eminent. This colossus of oratorios, in the Colosseum of orchestras, becomes the great speciality of a Handel Festival. As the enthusiasm of the army of performers becomes excited by each day's labour of love, the intricacies of "Israel in Egypt" are mastered with ease. What audiences were accustomed to regard with little interest, under this gigantic interpretation, reveals itself as the climax of all that is grand and imposing in choral art. It is the only possible conclusion to a Handel Festival. It will, therefore, be performed on the last day—Friday.

The middle day (Wednesday) will, as on the two last occasions, be devoted to a selection from Handel's other works. This, while comprising as much novelty as is consistent with the general desire to hear certain established favourite pieces once in three years, will also possess the speciality of seeking to present Handel to public attention in some of his most varied aspects. The warm encomiums bestowed upon the Wednesday of the last Festival, will stimulate to in-

creased exertions to render this day again a favourite with all who appreciate the universality of Handel's genius. The day fixed, June 28th, being the anniversary of her Majesty's coronation, the performance will include Handel's great Coronation Anthem, "Zadok, the Priest." Portions of "Saul" will also probably form part of the selection.

As on former occasions, the Festival will be held on alternate days, viz. :—

MONDAY, 26TH JUNE.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH JUNE.

FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE.

The Great Full Rehearsal will take place on the 23rd June, being the Friday preceding, in place of the Saturday, as heretofore.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MORE LIGHT.

Who is it that is so often quoted as wishing for "more light?"—A READER.—[A great genius and brother Freemason, one of the modern philosophers and poets of Germany—Goethe. In his biography, as narrated by Mr. Lewes, his death—which happened on the 22nd of March, 1832—is thus described:—"It was now observed that his thoughts began to wander incoherently. 'See,' he exclaimed, 'the lovely woman's head, with black curls, in splendid colours—a dark background!' Presently he saw a piece of paper on the floor, and asked them how they could leave Schiller's letters so carelessly lying about. Then he slept softly, and, on awakening, asked for the sketches he had just seen in his dream. In silent anguish they awaited the close, now so surely approaching. His speech was becoming less and less distinct. The last words audible were "More light!"

HINTS FOR LEARNERS.

How is it possible for me to commit the ceremonies and lectures to memory, when I cannot even remember what I read yesterday?—A DISMAYED BROTHER.—[By first liking what you intend to learn; secondly, by learning a little at a time, and learning that little thoroughly; and, thirdly, by making it a rule to understand every portion of what you learn. You put us in mind of Coleridge, who divided readers into four classes, thus:—I. Sponges, who absorb all they read, and return it nearly in the same state, only a little dirtied. II. Sand-glasses, who retain nothing, and are content to get through a book for the sake of getting through the time. III. Strain-bags, who retain merely the dregs of what they read. IV. Mogul diamonds, equally rare and valuable, who profit by what they read, and enable others to profit by it also. The ancient Jews had a very similar set of descriptions. An early Hebraist says:—Among those who hear the wise four species may be distinguished: the sponge, the funnel, the filter, and the sieve. The sponge swallows up everything; the funnel allows that to escape at one end which it receives at the other; the filter allows the liquor to escape, and retains merely the dregs; the sieve rejects the chaff and retains nothing but the wheat. Take heart of grace, be not dismayed, but applying the above illustrations to your case, and

acting on them, you will find a slight trial will strengthen your memory, and every systematic attempt to increase its retentiveness will be sure to lead to the desired result. We could—if it would not be an ungraceful act—mention several brother Masons, by name, who despaired, at one time, as you do now, of ever being able to master even the necessary answers to certain peremptory questions, always put before conferring degrees, but by a course, such as we have indicated, are now tolerable and useful workers. Try again—"faint heart never won fair lady."]

DRUIDS AND BRAHMINS.

Many Masonic writers are pleased to derive some of our customs from the Druids or Brahmins, just as it suits their convenience. How can two such races—so distantly located—have anything to do with each other or with Freemasonry?—W. H. B.—[We are not inclined to think your method of stating the case a fair one. The generality of Masonic writers do not claim to derive their Freemasonry from the Druids or Brahmins, whichever they may adopt, but they endeavour to show an analogy between Freemasonry and the rites of the Druids, or Brahmins, or both, just as it suits their theory. But we are inclined to think that the Druids of Gaul and the Brahmins of India had many traditions and religious beliefs in common, and that it is not so difficult a matter, as you seem to suppose, to compare them. The fair inference is, that when the nations were dispersed, they took with them their primitive faith, and when they invented monstrous systems of idolatry they still retained, in a more or less perfect form, fragments of the primitive religion. Thus truth may enter into the composition of systems of error, which are not on that account the less systems of error, nor are less to be excused. Another inference—which all will draw—is, that these universal traditions, the one grain of truth in the myriad husks of error, point to the origin of man from one and the same original source.]

TEXT FOR A MASONIC SERMON.

Wanted a good text for a Masonic sermon, by—A LAY PREACHER.—[This is one of those curious examples which show how necessary it is for a man to be a Craftsman of his Craft. "A Lay Preacher" wants to be a parson, but is ignorant of a parson's work. Suppose the parson wanted to be "a butcher, a baker, or a candlestick maker," what a cry out there would be for his indentures of apprenticeship! Would not the whole town be up in arms? Then why should the butcher, baker, &c., as the case may be, seek to oust the parson, and try to do so for a Masonic sermon. Well, well, perhaps there is no parson to be found, and so if the "Lay Preacher" wishes for a theme to inculcate the principles of mutual association, and will venture on trying his "'prentice hand" on other master's work, we should advise him to select the 10th verse of the 6th chapter of Galatians.]

THE WHITE-CLAD BROTHERS.

In Mosheim's *Ecclesiastical History*, book iii., part ii., chap. 5., it is stated that "In Italy a new sect, that of the white-clad brethren, or the Whites (*fratres albi*, seu candida), produced no little excitement among the people. Near the beginning of the fifteenth century a certain unknown priest descended

from the Alps, clad in a white garment, with an immense number of people of both sexes in his train, all clothed, like their leader, in white linen, whence their name of white brethren. This multitude marched through various provinces, following a cross borne by a leader of the sect, and, by a great show of piety, so captivated the people that numberless persons of every kind joined their ranks. Boniface the X., fearing some plot, ordered the leader of this host to be apprehended and committed to the flames. After his death, the multitude gradually dispersed." It is evident these brethren were a formidable party, for in the rolls of Henry VI., that monarch is reported to have made the following announcement when opening Parliament:—"And whereas the king hath certainly understood that a new sect hath risen up, clothed in white vesture, and assuming to themselves great sanctity, and whereas the people of this realm may lightly consent and be perverted by its novelty, their arms be divested, and the kingdom itself be subverted, should the new professors enter the realm: therefore, by the advice of the lords spiritual and temporal, the king hath ordained by proclamation that every county and seaport shall be shut against them; and any one harbouring or maintaining them shall forfeit all that he is able to forfeit." Neither Mosheim nor the parliamentary rolls give any clue to where these brethren emanated. I have my own suspicion, but, at present, cannot assert where, for want of some documentary proof to bear me out. If any brother has met with a notice of this curious fraternity—other than the foregoing—in the course of his reading, he will much oblige by pointing out his authority to—MATTHEW COOKE.

THE THREE KINDS OF SACRED ARCHITECTURE.

Creuzer, a German philosopher, thus writes of the three kinds of sacred architecture.

Hieratic architecture, or the art of temple building, considered in its completeness, is found representing three chief but essentially different characters, proceeding from three different principles, the outlines of which I will here indicate.

The *Orientalism*, if I may so call the first kind, or the *Hylozoism* and Pantheism of Hieratic architecture had matter for principle. As the worship of the ancient east incorporated nature as a whole, and transformed it, so to speak, into a god-body, thus the architecture is limitless and yet limited, and consequently inspired entirely by the genius of the wonderful; striving toward nothing less than to corporify the material world in space and time. In this sense were the Indian grotto temples hollowed and chiselled out. But the architecture of the Egyptians, in necropolis and temple, shows the tendency the most strikingly; under the ground, the dwellings of the dead and of the divinities ruling over them; above, the firmament, with all the animals consecrated in star worship; round the pedestal play in zig-zag lines the waves of the divine land-stream; the head of the pillar, a lotus-crown or palm-crown adorns; and the singularly extended body of Isis along the upper walls of the temple represents, in an altogether material fashion, Nature embracing all things in heaven and earth.

To this Hylozoism, with its blind insatiate impulse and its overlaid manner, the discreet self-limitation of *Hellenism* stands in directest contrast. As there,

matter, so is here form predominant. As the religion of the Greeks, in its popular aspect, was wholly anthropomorphism; as the weightiest truths which occupy and satisfy the mind were thrown back into a mysterious obscurity; and as custom, excluding the multitude from the inside of the temple at the sacrificial festivals, allotted them their place in the forecourts and groves—thus were the Grecian temples small, narrow, confined, and dark in the interior. So much the greater was the labour expended on outward splendour; and architecture, striving after forms at once noble and pure, was aided by Scripture, in order, through statuary of every kind, in clay, marble, and brass, to construct a dwelling, which, to those entering, might appear worthy to serve as an abode to the gods under those human characteristics with which they were associated in the minds of the Greeks. Greek architecture, at its highest perfection, was the most beautiful *Formalism*.

When, finally, the form of the basilicas, erected for heathen purposes, was abandoned, the Christian principle of sacred building was perfected in the dome or minster; and this *Christianism* of architecture announced itself as an entirely new and grander striving of the human mind—as an utterly different longing of the soul when stirred by new emotions. It ascended with the soaring pillars and lofty-pointed arches heavenwards; and the whole christian community, in the clearness and brightness of newly won knowledge and conviction assembled in the wide spaces of the temple, which, in its whole architecture, within and without, in sculpture, in pillars, in windows, and in altars, vividly represented to the eye the great work of Providence in the entire history of man, from the Creation and the Fall to the Last Judgment.—*AMANUENSIS*.

THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE.

The few disjointed and fragmentary lines annexed are copied from the memorandum of sundry remarks made by me to a brother, in a conversation at Paris, 8th February, 1863. The memorandum was put into writing shortly after the conversation, and the lines copied from are, at the request of a correspondent, forwarded to the editor of the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE, to be dealt with as he may deem expedient. * * * * "The usefulness of the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE is certainly considerable at present, but this usefulness may well be looked upon as actually nought, in comparison with what it might become, were the lodges not so indifferent regarding its success as they appear to be." * * * "Write to Brother J. M., that, in the judgment of a Past Provincial Grand Master for Kent, the lodge that does not subscribe to the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE omits to do an important act which, for numerous reasons, would, most undoubtedly, be for the good of Freemasonry in general, and of itself in particular." * * * "There is no institution which the press when, under skilful and discreet management, may not be brought to benefit, and to an extent that few can imagine, except those whose attention has been directed to the subject." * * * "Of all the establishments, social and charitable, with which I am acquainted, English Freemasonry is that whose influence and prosperity might, in my opinion, be most strengthened and increased by judicious recourse to the conveniences and powers furnished by the art of

printing." * * * To the memorandum, from which the foregoing lines are extracted, there has very recently been added this note: "Consider my communication of July last to the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE, vol. 11, p. 5, entitled, 'Panegyrical Record of Deceased Meritorious Masons.'"—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

QUOTATIONS WANTING IDENTIFICATION.

The first lines alluded to by "P. W. P." are to be found among a very good collection of Masonic songs, in an old edition of *Ahiman Rezon*, published in Belfast in the year A.D. 1782, the context being as follows:—

When earth's foundation first was laid
By the Almighty Artist's hand,
'Twas then our perfect, our perfect laws were made—
Established by His strict command.

Chorus:

Hail! mysterious—hail! glorious—Masonry,
That makes us ever great and free.

As man throughout for shelter sought,
In vain, from place to place, did roam,
Until from heaven, from heaven he was taught,
To plan, to build, and find his home.

Hail! mysterious, &c.

Hence, illustrious, rose our art,
And now in beauteous piles appear,
Which shall to endless, to endless time impart,
How worthy and how great we are.

Hail! mysterious, &c.

Nor we less fam'd for ev'ry tie,
By which the human thought is bound;
Love, truth, and friendship, and friendship socially,
Unto our hearts and hands around.

Hail! mysterious, &c.

Our actions still by virtue blest,
And to our precepts ever true;
The world admiring, admiring shall request,
To learn, and our bright paths pursue.

Hail! mysterious, &c.

The above song is set to the well-known and popular tune, "Rule Britannia." I am sorry I cannot give "P. W. P." the information he requests respecting its authorship.—R. KER.

CHICKAROONS OR TEMPLARS.

In America sectarianism is attaining a most awful pre-eminence, and it is a serious question to what results it may soon lead. The Old Know-Nothing party has produced an offshoot called the Chickaroons or Templars, and they already number some 10,000 voters in New York alone. The members are required to take an oath of strict obedience to the majority, at all hazards, and in all circumstances, under the penalty of death for disobedience. They are to abjure Catholicism, not to marry papists, nor hold any intercourse or trade with them, nor in any way recognise them as fellow-citizens. Will the Templar Freemasons quietly put up with such a parody on their Order, and allow their really venerable title of Templars to be so basely prostituted contrary to the spirit of the age?—Ex. Ex.

BRO. CRUCEFIX.

In the MAGAZINE of last week the question was asked whether there is a portrait of the late Bro. Crucefix extant, and if so where it was to be seen? In reply to the query, I beg to state there is an excellent oil painting of the said brother, in full Masonic costume as a Grand Officer (size, 4ft. 2in. by 3ft. 4in.) in the committee room of the Freemasons' Asylum at Croydon.—JOHN COMMINS.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

PHENIX LODGE (No. 173).—The March meeting of this popular lodge was held at Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday last, the 11th inst., when a large number of brethren were present, including several distinguished visitors. The ceremonies of initiation, passing, and raising, were successively performed by Bro. W. H. Hubbard, the W.M., in his usual impressive and perfect manner. These solemnities being concluded, a letter from the Secretary of the Girls' School, requesting the lodge to nominate a Steward to serve at the forthcoming Festival, was put in and read, when Bro. S. Coppock, Dir. of Cers., generously came forward, and volunteered to act in that capacity. The W.M., in accepting the offer on behalf of the lodge, observed that the brethren might congratulate themselves upon being so well represented, and the Institution and the Craft feel proud of so respected and influential a supporter. The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to banquet. The dessert having been placed on table, and the customary formal toasts disposed of, Bro. G. S. States, I.P.M. and Treas., rose, and addressing the brethren, said, that the W.M. having entrusted him with the use of his gavel, the use to which he intended to apply it would be at once anticipated, namely to propose the health of their highly esteemed and much-respected W.M. The Phoenix Lodge must, and did, feel proud in having one of the most able and accomplished Masters in the Craft to preside over it, and it was with feelings of regret he had to announce that this was the last time it would be his duty to propose the health of Bro. Hubbard in the capacity of Master, this being their last banquet meeting. In addition to the necessarily arduous duties attached to the Master's chair, Bro. Hubbard had charged himself with those of Secretary, and the excellent manner in which he had discharged those duties was potent to all.—The W.M., in responding to the toast, spoke as follows:—Past Masters, officers, and brethren,—I scarcely know how to express my thanks for the kind manner in which this toast has been introduced, and for the fraternal and cordial manner in which it has been received; but believe me, brethren, I do thank you most sincerely and gratefully. Brethren, although the greater part of a year has rolled away since I had the honour of rising in this place to address you for the first time in the capacity of Master, it seems but as yesterday; and the rejoicings and congratulations of that brilliant evening—perhaps the most brilliant evening—within the memory of the Phoenix Lodge, almost ring in my ears still. Brief, however, as this period has been, or has appeared to be, it has not been an idle one, and in the midst of active professional employment, I have done my best to redeem the promise I gave on that, to me, ever memorable occasion, to spare neither time nor pains in promoting the interests, and maintaining the dignity, of the lodge. As reference has been made to my discharge of the Secretarial duties, it may, perhaps, be as well if I explain why I undertook those duties. When our esteemed and gifted friend, Bro. H. G. Warren, felt necessitated to relinquish the office he had filled—so worthily filled—for so many years, I scarcely knew what course to pursue in that emergency, but after some consideration I concluded that the interests of the lodge would be best served if I undertook them myself, leaving my successor in this chair to make his own appointment. In conclusion, brethren, I can only express my gratification that my services, such as they have been, have proved acceptable to you; and although I shall soon cease to be your Master, I hope still to be with you; and so long as the Phoenix Lodge requires and continues to appreciate my services, so long will those services be at its disposal. (Cheers.) The health of the newly-initiated brethren, the visitors, Past Masters, and officers followed in due course, accompanied by appropriate remarks from the W.M., and were severally responded to, Bro. H. R. Green speaking for the Initiates, Bros. Fox and Laxton for the Visitors, and Bro. States for the Past Masters. The proceedings were greatly enlivened by the exertions of the musical members of the lodge—Bros. Coward, Distin, Weeks, Walker, and Carter.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKSHIRE.

READING.—*Lodge of Union* (No. 414).—The regular monthly meeting of this large and very flourishing lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Greyfriars-road, on Tuesday evening, the 14th inst., at six o'clock, when there were present Bros. W. H. Hole, W.M.; F. Bulley, Moxhay, Gill, Clacy, Botley, and Williams, P.M.'s; Sellar, S.W.; Ivey, J.W.; Smith, S.D.; R. B. Body, Dir. of Cers.; Blowers, I.G.; J. Leaver, Sec.; and Bros. Cooper, Druco, Beale, Hurley, Rogers, Randall, Lyddon, Simmonds, Dahse, Stracham, and several others. After the confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, and the ballot had been taken for three brethren as joining members, Bros. Randall, Rogers, Simmonds, and Dahse were raised to the third degree by Bro. W. H. Hole, W.M., in his usual impressive manner. Bro. R. B. Body, Dir. of Cers., then presented the lodge with a very elegantly-bound Bible, and after other business the lodge was closed shortly after ten o'clock.

CHESHIRE.

EDUCATIONAL MASONIC INSTITUTION.

Probably the 250 or 300 people who were present in the Craven Room, on Tuesday, listening to Mr. Robert Anderson's reading from the poets, never spent an evening in a more rational and entertaining manner. So choice were the selections, and so well were they given by the talented reader, that it seemed as if the drama had been localised for the nonce, or that some great master of the arts of rhetoric was present, giving point to Barham, pathos to Longfellow and Tennyson, and exquisite touches of humour to the comic pieces, with which Mr. Anderson regaled his hearers. It was a luxury to listen, and those who enjoyed it will not soon forget the evening they spent with Mr. Anderson among the Muses. The occasion was in connection with the great body of Freemasons, for the purpose of raising funds for the Cheshire Educational Institute which has lately been founded. Accordingly some of the leading brothers of the Order in this locality were present, including Bros. W. Hind, 32, Lancashire (in the chair); E. G. Willoughby, P.M. 537, P. Prov. S.G.W. Cheshire; John Parry Platt, P.M. 537, and P. Prov. J.G.D. Cheshire; Thomas Platt, P.M. 537, and P. J.G.D. Cheshire; Henry Bulley, P.M. 537, and P. Prov. J.G.D. Cheshire; William Bulley, P.M. 537, and P. Prov. J.G.D. Cheshire; Joseph Brattan, P.M. 477, P.G. Supt. of Works Cheshire; Clarke Rampling, Treas. 537, Cheshire; Joseph New, P.M. 477, Cheshire; William Hardisty, W.M. 537, Cheshire. The chairman made a few observations on the worthy character of the institute, and the good it was calculated to do, after which Mr. Anderson came forward, and was received with great applause. The programme consisted of Barham's burlesque on the "Merchant of Venice;" "Enoch Arden," by Tennyson; "Bullum v. Boatum," by Stevens; "Falcon of Sire Federigo," by Longfellow; "Daniel v. Dishelout," by Stevens, &c. In all of these he elicited frequent applause. At the close he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of the chairman, seconded by Bro. Willoughby, both of whom spoke very highly of the entertainment and of Mr. Anderson's elocutionary talents. A vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Bro. Brattan, closed the proceedings.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

KENDAL.—*Union Lodge* (No. 129).—The regular monthly meeting of this ancient and flourishing lodge was held on the second Friday in March at the Town Hall. Bro. E. Busher, Prov. G. Sec., W.M. was supported by Bros. John Whitwell, S.W.; Titus Wilson, J.W.; Joseph Bintley, S.D.; Samuel Gawith, J.D.; A. K. Wood, I.G., and a full attendance of brethren, among whom were Bros. Horne, P.M., Prov. S.G.W.; Johnston, I.P.M., Prov. J.G.D.; John Bowes, P.M., &c. The lodge was opened in solemn form according to ancient custom, when Bro. Mann, Sec., read the minutes of the previous meeting which were declared correctly recorded. Mr. Robert Butterwith having been duly elected at a previous meeting, and now being in attendance, was duly and impressively initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, by Bro. Busher, W.M.; the working tools and charge being given respectively by Bros. Bowes and Horne. Bros. W. Cartmel, Geo. Cartmel, and Jonathan Otley Atkinson being candidates for promotion, and having given proof of proficiency in the first degree, were

entrusted and retired. On re-admission they were duly passed to the degree of F.C. by Bro. John Bowes, P.M. Bro. Rev. J. F. Black, B.A., being a candidate for the third degree, was examined and approved. Bro. Horne, P.M., now assumed the chair, when Bro. Black was admitted and raised in a most solemn manner to the sublime degree of M.M. The W.M. again resumed the chair of K.S. and closed the lodge down to the first degree. The routine business was now transacted, the most important item being the consideration of the report of the General Purposes Committee. For some time, it appears, the lodge meetings have, by the courtesy of the worshipful mayor, been held in the Town Hall; but in consequence of the great increase in the number of members, combined with other obvious reasons, it was decided to remove to private rooms as soon as such could be found. The committee now reported that a house, centrally situated and in every way desirable as a home for the Craft, was to let, which at a small outlay for alterations would ensure privacy and a complete suite of rooms. After mature discussion, it was unanimously agreed to take the house, and at once render it suited for its new employment. The chance of success which the boy Wilson would have at the forthcoming election of candidates for the Boys' School was canvassed, and earnest hopes were expressed that he might be one of the favoured. The advocacy of the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE was warmly and gratefully acknowledged. We believe the brethren are about to petition the Supreme Grand Chapter for a new warrant. Masonry is evidently making rapid strides in this ancient borough. To the discreet enthusiasm of the present W.M., Bro. Edward Busher, his Wardens, and officers, coupled with the fostering care of the D. Prov. G.M., Dr. Greaves, and aided by Bros. Savage, of London, and Bannister, of Liverpool, this is due. We congratulate our Kendal brethren on possessing such truly Masonic friends, and trust they will continue their exertion, and thereby become a model lodge.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

GARSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 220).—This lodge was opened at the Wellington Hotel, on the 6th inst., by Bro. T. Marsh, W.M., assisted by the brethren and officers of the lodge. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Messrs. Corless and Hollander; both were elected. Bro. Smith, of the Ellesmere Lodge (No. 758), was also elected a joining member. Mr. Corless being in attendance, was initiated into the Order by the W.M. Bro. Jenkins was raised to the third degree also by the W.M. The business over, the lodge was closed in solemn form. At refreshment, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were regularly proposed from the chair, and duly responded to by the brethren whose names were associated with them.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

YARBOROUGH CHAPTER (No. 554).—A convocation of this chapter was held on Thursday, the 9th, at the Green Dragon, Stepney, under the presidency of Comps. H. J. Thompson, M.E.Z.; E. W. Davis, H.; and Middleton, J. There were also present Comps. Bond, H.; J. W. Thompson, A.S.; Walter Lean, D.C.; and Vasey, E., Principals; J. Horatio Wynne, Treas.; G. W. Mobbs and Taylor; and E. Sisson, J. and H. elect of the Domestic Chapter (No. 177), a visitor, who rendered essential service in taking the position of P.S., which duty he performed in his usual happy style. The business before the chapter was the admission of the Bro. Charles Walker, of the Prosperity Lodge (No. 65), who was, according to ancient form, exalted to this supreme degree. The chapter room was on this occasion draped with black, and the companions appeared in Masonic mourning, in consequence of the death of the M.E. Comp. John Purdy, P.Z. 169, who most ably assisted the father of this chapter, the M.E. Comp. Thomas Vesper, at its formation. The deceased was universally respected and lamented. A vote of condolence to his family was recorded. Several companions having testified to his worth and to the valuable services he had rendered to the chapter since the formation, it was closed in harmony at eight o'clock.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

GARSTON.—*Chapter of Harmony* (No. 220).—This chapter was opened at the Wellington Hotel, on the 9th inst., by Comp. May, M.E.Z., assisted by Comps. Thos. Wylie, P.M.E.Z. as H., and Leedham, M.E.J. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Chas. Hartman, of the Union Lodge (No. 331), Nassau, Providence, was ballotted for and accepted. The candidate being properly prepared, was exalted a Holy Royal Arch Mason in due form, Comp. James Hamer, P.M.E.Z. acting as P. Soj., and Comp. Rev. J. Dunkley, Assist. P. Soj. The first historical lecture was delivered by Comp. J., the symbolical by Comp. Hamer, and the mystic by the M.E.Z. There were present Comps. C. J. Banister, P.M.E.Z. and P.G. Dir. of Cers. of England; Pearson, Ladmore, Wood, Ammersteine, Robinson, &c. Refreshment was done justice to by the companions, and they separated, happy to meet again.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT CALVARY ENCAMPMENT.—The members of this encampment met at head-quarters, 14, Bedford-row, on Saturday, the 11th inst., to celebrate the anniversary of the martyrdom of Jacques de Molai, Grand Master of the Order of the Temple. Sir Knt. William Stuart, M.E., and S.G.M. (a member of the encampment), honoured the occasion with his presence. The encampment was opened according to ancient usage by the eminent and reverend Sir Knt. Joseph Hill Grice, M.A., E.C., assisted by Sir Knts. C. Swan, P.E.C., acting as 1st. Capt.; Shuttleworth, G.V.C., as 2nd Capt.; H. J. W. Thompson, Expert; Walter Lean, Standard Bearer; Chancellor, Capt. of Lines; W. Ganz, Org.; H. J. Thompson, P.E.C., Registrar. There were also present Sir Knts. Comps. Stone, Rosenthal, Jno. Watkins, M.R.C.S., P.E.C.; and other respected knights. The ballot was declared to be unanimous in favour of Comp. Huggins, who was introduced and installed a Kut. Comp. by the E.C., afterwards proclaimed by the Heralds, and conducted to his stall. Sir Knt. J. H. Grice, E.C., then informed the Knights that he had prepared a paper specially for this occasion, which, he trusted, would prove interesting and instructive to all present. He then proceeded to read a most able document on the past and present history of the Knights Templar. The M.E. added:—I am unwilling to conclude without alluding to an event in which it has pleased the Most High in His Almighty wisdom to cause us the deepest sorrow. In ordinary affairs, the loss even of any person with whom we have constantly travelled the road of life, independent of other circumstances, is to endear his memory, and must affect every sensitive mind with some sorrow. Every place which he frequented recalls his idea to our remembrance; the recollection of him brings a melancholy thought to our minds, until by degrees the impression wears off. How much more then ought some of us here collected regret that we have been deprived of one from among us whom we loved with all the affection of a brother; one who, in addition to his high station in the Order, added to the qualifications which endeared him to all who knew him, who was at all times right in his principles, regular in his attendance, affable in conversation, ever willing to communicate information, punctual, honest, and just in his dealing! When such a brother as this is removed from us, it would ill become our duties to allow the event to pass without allusion to it, or without its making a deep impression on our feelings, and causing us to experience a regret for a loss upon which the more we reflect the greater grief must arise, because it is irreparable. This humble tribute to his worth and good qualities is most justly due to the memory of Sir Knight John Parly. At the conclusion, a cordial vote of thanks was ordered to be entered on the minutes to the E.C. for his valuable address; and it was carried *nem. con.* that this paper should be printed at the expense of the encampment, and circulated amongst the members. We would advise every Knight Templar to secure a copy, as the perusal of it will furnish him, perhaps, for the first time with the history of his predecessors, in addition to giving him many interesting statistics relative to the Order, from the earliest times down to the present day. The encampment having been closed, the Knights adjourned to a banquet, at which the E.C. most ably presided, supported on his right by the M.E. and S. Grand Master, and on his left by the

P.E.C.'s of this encampment. The usual toasts were given and responded to, and this memorable meeting was brought to a close.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Encampment of Jacques de Molay.*—This conclave was opened in the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, on the 10th inst., in the absence of the E.C., Sir Thomas G. Hesketh, Bart., M.P., by Sir Knt. C. J. Banister, P.E.C., &c., assisted by the 1st Capt., Sir Knt. S. White, P.E.C. Sir Knt. Crankshaw, as 2nd Capt., and the rest of the officers. The muster-roll was called, and the minutes read and confirmed. The E.C. elect was then advanced under an arch of steel, and promised to support the laws, rites, and ceremonies according to the statutes of the Grand Conclave of England and Wales. He was then obligated, and installed E.C., and placed on the throne of his predecessors by P.E.C. Sir Knt. Banister. After being duly proclaimed, the E.C. appointed the following officers:—Sir Knts. Edward Pierpoint, Prelate; William Horner, 1st Capt.; C. Cotesworth, 2nd Capt.; H. S. Alpass, Treas. and Reg.; J. Heyes, Almoner; Hall, Capt. of Lines; A. F. Sparks, Expert; Berry and Fowler, Heralds; Melladew and Busher, Standard Bearers; Smith, Equerry. The ballot was taken for Comps. Gilliam and Slee, and both were unanimously elected. The latter being in attendance, was properly prepared, and installed a Sir Knt. of the Order by P.E.C. Sir Knt. Banister with his usual care. The Almoner made his collection, which is never omitted in this encampment, and five guineas were unanimously voted to the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution. Business being over, the encampment was closed in solemn form. Sir Knt. W. H. Wright, Prov. G. Chancellor, was the only visitor. The banquet was held at the Adelphi Hotel, at six o'clock, under the presidency of the E.C., Sir Knt. S. White, supported by P.E.C. Sir Knt. W. H. Wright, P.E.C. Sir Knt. H. S. Alpass, &c. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. Sir Knt. W. H. Wright returned thanks for the Provincial Commander and himself; Sir Knt. Alpass for the P.E. Commanders and Officers. The health of the E.C. was proposed by the representative of the I.P.E.C., and replied to in excellent style by the E.C., who proposed the health of the newly-initiated Sir Knt. E. Slee. The toast was done full justice to, and acknowledged in suitable terms. The last toast brought a most agreeable evening to an end.

AMERICA.

OUTRAGES UPON FREEMASONS.—THEIR LODGES BURNED AND DESECRATED BY GEN. GRIERSON.

The desecration and burning of Masonic lodges by Grierson has caused, as we learn by accident, no little excitement among the mystic brotherhood. The New England Masons have publicly repudiated their obligations, and declared that their "brethren" of the South are not deemed Masons. Grierson, himself a Mason, accepts the New England creed and disregards the obligations of the Order. When he first entered upon his career of crime, as a soldier, he burned the Masons' Lodge at Rising Sun, in West Tennessee.

The then commander of the department condemned Grierson's conduct, and compelled him to make ample restitution. It seems, however, that he has received specific instructions to destroy every vestige of Southern Masonry. He burned the Masons' building in Verona and also at Okalona. The wife of a colonel in our service, who is a Mason, made herself known as such, and was ruthlessly driven from her house with an infant in her arms. Her house was plundered and burned.

Masons may fight each other to the death on the battle-field, but when the field is lost or won their obligations as members of a world-wide fraternity are revived, the philanthropy supplants bloodthirstyness and barbarity. It is said that the Masons at Verona, Okalona, and adjacent points have offered a large sum for the head of Grierson. If we are correctly informed, it becomes the duty of every Mason in the world to take his life. If that absurd old story about the death of Morgan has any foundation, it is surely not improbable that some loyal Mason will put a period to Grierson's career of plunder, rape, and robbery.—*Macon Beacon.*

INDIA.

(From the Masonic Record of Western India.)

MHOW.

LODGE OF ST. PAUL'S (No. 389, S.C.)—The monthly meeting of the brethren of this lodge was held on the 2nd of December last. In consequence of the unavoidable absence of Bro. Captain Ouchterlony, the W.M., Bro. Steers presided. The lodge was opened in due and ancient form in the 1st degree, when a letter was read from ex-Secretary Bro. C. B. Fowler to the W.M., requesting the lodge to accept a handsomely bound folio Bible for use on the altar of the lodge. The W.M.'s answer of acceptance to the same was also read, thanking Bro. Fowler for his handsome and much-prized testimonial. The minutes of the last meeting were then read, approved of, and confirmed. Mr. Bedford, having been balloted for, and elected at a previous meeting, was regularly introduced, and initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry in due and ancient form. Bro. Robinson, Sec., then proposed that the thanks of this lodge be tendered to Bro. Allen, in consideration of the active co-operation given by him in working this lodge for the space of three years as Junior and Senior Warden, and the endeavours he has made to advance the younger members in Masonic knowledge; and that this resolution be printed on white satin and sent to Bro. Allen. This proposition was seconded by Bro. D. Nusserwanjee, and carried *nem. con.* The lodge was then passed to the 2nd degree, and Bro. Stanley, Cowasjee Mendosjee, and Sorabjee Dadabhoj, being found proficient in the 1st degree, were passed to that of Fellow Craft. The lodge was then raised to the 3rd degree, when Bros. Blenkinsopp and Pallonjee Nusserwanjee, after strict examination, were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. The lodge was then lowered to the E.A. degree. No further work remaining, the lodge was closed with prayer at 9.45 p.m. We record, with great pleasure, the free and willing manner that the brethren have come forward with their subscriptions for Bro. Fowler's testimonial: the sum collected fully comes up to our expectations. The Committee has decided on purchasing a silver tea-service, for which they have forwarded the necessary amount to England.

BENGAL.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE KIDDERPORE NEW MARKET, OR THE MAZUCHELLI BAZAAR.

The 5th of December will be long remembered in Calcutta. It is some time since such an imposing spectacle was witnessed. Thousands of spectators were present, European and native.

At half-past four in the evening the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, assisted by the lodges in Calcutta, Howrah, and Dum Dunn, laid the foundation stone of a large European market at Kidderpore. The fraternity mustered very strong. The brethren assembled at Mr. Grey's house at Kidderpore, about half an hour before the ceremony. At the hour appointed the procession began to move.

The procession having arrived within a proper distance of the appointed place of ceremony there was a halt. The ranks of the brethren opened the right and left, the whole of them facing inwards. The Provincial Grand Master passed up the centre, preceded by his Standard and Sword Bearers, the Provincial Grand Officers and brethren following in succession from the rear.

The Provincial Grand Master's chair was placed to the East, the District Grand Lodge forming up on the same side. The three other sides of the square were filled by private lodges.

The music continued till the Provincial Grand Master had taken his seat. Prayers were then offered up by the Rev. Bro. F. Mazuchelli, and the inscription on the plate read.

The ceremony proceeded by the Provincial Grand Treasurer depositing his phial of coins in the cavity prepared for it in the stone.

The Provincial Grand Master then descended to the stone, proved that it was properly adjusted by the plumb, rule, level, and square, which were successively delivered to him by the Provincial Junior Grand Warden, the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master; after which he received the mallet, and declared the stone truly and well laid with three knocks.

The Provincial Grand Wardens then handed the cups of corn, wine, and oil to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who poured them on the stone.

The plan and elevation of the building were next presented by the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works to the Provincial Grand Master for his inspection, who, after approving them, delivered them to the architect for his guidance.

R. W. Bro. H. D. Sandeman, Provincial Grand Master, in addressing the Rev. Bro. F. Mazuchelli, said that he felt highly honoured at being asked to lay the foundation stone of a building that was so long a desideratum in Calcutta, and was certain that as soon as it was completed persons of all classes would visit it, without being put to the inconvenience and extortion by their domestic servants, at present existing in the bazaar. He hoped ere long to see many follow the good example of the Rev. brother, and that the building which was now commenced would, in a short time, be in a flourishing state. Bro. Sandeman then addressed the brethren, both of the Scotch and English Lodges. He was aware, he said, of the little inconveniences they had been put to in attending him at the ceremony, but as it was work which was so necessary, he hoped that they would not care about it. Three cheers were then given for the success of the building; a cheer for the Provincial Grand Master, and the last cheer for the ladies.

After this the brethren marched back in the same order to the place from whence the procession started, accompanied by the band of the gallant 52nd, "discoursing most eloquent music."

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

TURKEY.

The Annual Masonic Charity Ball, under the auspices of the lodges subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England at Constantinople, was held in the Ball-room of the Palais de Cristal, in that city, on the 16th ult. The members of the English Lodges Oriental (No. 687), Bulwer (No. 891), Deutscher Bund (No. 819), and the newly-formed Lodge Areté (Greek), mustered in considerable force, in addition to a number of the brethren of the French, German, and Italian lodges of the capital. The District Grand Lodge was represented by W. Bros. W. W. Evans, P.S.G.W., acting for the D. Prov. G.M.; G. Laurie, P. Prov. S.G.W.; H. Harvey, P.G. Reg.; R. A. Carleton, P.G. Sec.; T. Junor, P.G. Treas.; J. O'Connor, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; A. Thompson, P. Prov. S.B.; C. Green, P. Prov. J.G.D.; S. Hekimian, P. Prov. G.O.S. These brethren, assisted by the Stewards, did the honours with true Masonic zeal, Bro. Hähnel most admirably discharging the functions of M.C. The attendance of ladies and the *élite* of all nationalities was brilliant in the extreme, the number present at the ball exceeding 500. As a financial success, the ball is reported to have been a decided one, exceeding any of a similar kind hitherto held in that city. In consequence of the ball taking place during the month of Ramazan, Bros. H. H. Fuad Pasha the Grand Vizier, H. E. Caboni Pasha, Kiamil Bey, H. E. Mirza Hussein Khan, Persian Minister, and other leading Oriental brethren were unable to attend.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

A change in the programme having become unavoidable through the indisposition of Mr. Fechter, the play of "The Stranger" was represented on Monday, with Madlle. Beatrice in the character of *Mrs. Haller*. It had been already understood that this lady, who elsewhere produced a very favourable impression on the metropolitan public, would shortly make her *début* on these boards;

and in thus appearing before a Lyceum audience, the period of her performance has only been agreeably antedated. The grace and intelligence which we had before recognised in this interesting impersonation were displayed with marked prominence on the present occasion, and the deep pathos exhibited in the last scene commanded the fullest sympathy of an auditory who had previously bestowed on the actress frequent tributes of admiration. Mr. Ryder supported the morose dignity of the *Stranger*, and Mr. H. Widdicomb infused great mirthfulness into the small part of *Peter*. "The Roadside Inn," still included in the bill, although Mr. Fechter's name is absent from the cast, concluded the evening, Mr. Emery being the substituted *Robert Macaire*.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

Following the drama of "The Streets of London," a new farce, called "An Ample Apology," on Monday night merrily wound up the programme. The trifle is one of those boisterous pieces of extravagance which, with continual slapping of hands, backs, and doors, hiding in cupboards, and a general disarrangement of furniture, keep the stage in too great a bustle to allow the spectators to coolly criticise the probability of the reasons for such excitement. When it is stated that the personages endowed with those alliterative appellations known only in farcical nomenclature are respectively named *Crushington Clasper*, *Millingham Mawley*, and *Snoozington Spooner*, their peculiarities will be sufficiently understood, and as embodied by Mr. C. Seyton, Mr. F. Charles, and Mr. Dominick Murray, it cannot be said their individual characteristics were missed by the audience for want of forcible expression. The jealous husband, supposed intriguer, and valentine-sending medical student, who persecutes a married lady under the impression she is single, have evidently had a previous existence on the French stage. Mr. G. Roberts, the adapter, has changed the scene to Furnival's-inn; but the incessant demand for "slugs, sawpits, and satisfaction," which comes like an echo from the Palais Royal, would hardly be heard by the most vigilant of keyhole listeners in a region where our social wrongs are supposed to be redressed by a very different process.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

The new and successful comedy of "Faces in the Fire" was, on Monday evening, preceded by what is styled in the bills an original comediotta, entitled "The Three Furies." A retired merchant, named *Hector Hobby*, wanting to provide one of his three daughters with a husband of his own choice, introduces *Mr. Orestes Pickleton*, to each of them successively, as a most eligible suitor. The young ladies, being severally prepared with a lover more to their liking, render themselves as disagreeable as possible to the new visitor. One affects to be engrossed with the care of young alligators in a vivarium; another, equipped in rifle costume, pretends to be a dexterous manipulator of fire-arms; and the third amazes and terrifies the timid *Pickleton* by her supposed knowledge of anatomy, and apparent acquaintance with the whole art of adulteration. When this *Orestes* has been

pursued sufficiently by these Furies, a declaration that he never intended to marry any of them, on account of a previous engagement, enables them to make similarly explicit avowals, and with the father's consent to their union with the suitors of their own selection the curtain falls. The author, Mr. G. Roberts, can certainly not be congratulated on the brilliancy of his dialogue, and, from what has been already stated, it will be seen that little credit can be taken for the invention of an amusing plot. Mr. Felix Rogers bustles through the part of the timorous suitor in his own peculiar style, and the three young ladies are represented, with some curious peculiarities of accent, by Miss Weber, Miss Colinson, and Miss Aldyne.

Poetry.

A MARTYRDOM.

(Extract from "A Sad Story anyhow.")

BY WILLIAM BRADFIELD.

Well, months had passed away, and winter reigned
 And mankind shivered in the sun and shade,
 When Common-sense was chained unto a post
 Upon this very spot—*here stood the stake!*
 Here, covered only with a scanty shroud,
 An iron chain drawn firmly o'er his breast
 And fastened with a staple to the beam,
 Was truth's own martyr, honourable still.
 And what a crowd was congregated round
 To see the faggots piled up to his neck,
 And shout and jeer at every grim event!
 "Recant, recant!" a bald-head brother cried,
 Holding his symbol crucifix aloft;
 But when our martyr solemnly declined
 To lay the ugly falsehood on his soul,
 I really thought he'd brain him with the cross;
 Instead thereof he turn'd away—to weep;
 He placed his hands before his sorrow face,
 But as for tears or that convulsive throb
 When tears refuse to come, or are suppressed,
 It seemed to me, who peeped beneath his hands,
 That something glistened to his moving eyes
 As unlike sorrow as dissembled hate.

Now rose the smoke above the kindling flame
 In graceful curling wreaths around the pile;
 Now glittered beads of fire, which burst anon
 With noisy crackling into tongues of flame;
 While surged the mighty crowd with fearful throes—
 A yelling, screaming, cursing, praying mass,
 Each atom full of eagerness to see
 The furious flames scorch up the living flesh,
 Draw out from living man the living blood,
 And rend the helpless creature limb from limb.

You wonder at the cruelties of old,
 And never dreamed perhaps that men had been
 Such eager lovers of a spirit's sport;
 But lay the unction to your troubled soul,
 That all this happened in "Ye olden time,"
 That kindness is all paramount to-day,
 That cruelty is dead—alas, poor me!
 For here on earth my occupation's gone.
 To end my story—Common-sense though brave,
 Screached out his agony but died a man;
 A thousand staring eyes gazed on the scene
 Watching the changes of an awful death;
 The long and patient waiting for the fire,
 The flinching shiver when the flames were felt,
 The smouldering shroud, the scorching, bursting flesh,
 The writhing, jerking, moaning, panting life
 Tearing itself in helpless agony,
 The last convulsive throb, and then the corpse
 That seemed to dance amid the roaring flames,
 With hair ablaze so like a fiery crown,—
 The body rent asunder at the last,
 The dropping limbs, the disappearing hulk,
 The slow expiring fire, the blackened spot,
 Charr'd wood, charr'd bones, a stake, a reddened chain—
 My tale is told, I've nothing more to tell.

ELEANOR CROSSES.—Mr. John Abel has addressed another letter to the *Athenaeum* on this interesting subject. He says:—"To the courtesy of Mr. Burt, of the Public Record Office—the author of a paper read before the Archaeological Society, published in No. 33 of the *Archaeological Journal*, and entitled 'Queen Eleanor of Castile; some New Facts illustrative of her Life and Times'—I have been only too glad to be indebted for facilities which enable me to state that King Edward was himself the chief executor to the will of his deceased consort; and that is Chancellor, Robert Burnel, Bishop of Bath, was associated with the King in his fiduciary office. There were other executors, but nothing certain is known as to who they were. It is sufficient to recognise, whoever they may have been, that, in such a co-executorship, they could exercise only a subordinate authority in reference to the will, and in the distribution of the effects of the Queen; whilst, on the other hand, and in the absence of the will itself, it is by no means improbable that the King, in relation to the estate of his deceased wife, stood in the position of residuary legatee, in which relation he would be personally interested in the expenditure of whatever assets remained unappropriated by that will. In aid of the same view I might have referred to the touching letter of the King to the Abbot of Clugny, asking for the prayers of his convent for the repose of the soul of his late consort 'whom living he had dearly loved, and who being dead he would not cease to love,' which letter ends by requesting to be informed of the obligations incurred in respect of the number of masses to be said by his clergy; but I presume it is not sought to include such services amongst the charges to be rendered to the executors. And of a similar character are other documents referred to in Mr. Burt's interesting paper, to which I have already drawn attention."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen left Windsor on Monday afternoon for Buckingham Palace, attended by the younger members of the family and by her suite. In the afternoon her Majesty held her second Court, which was brilliantly attended. The young Princesses have since been visiting the theatres. On Tuesday the Queen visited the Brompton Consumption Hospital, and spent some time in the inspection of the several wards. On Wednesday her Majesty visited the Lying-in Hospital, York-road, Lambeth. Her Majesty returned to Windsor on Wednesday. The Prince of Wales gave a grand dinner at Marlborough House on Tuesday. The Executive of the Dublin International Exhibition have received an official intimation that the Prince of Wales will open the Exhibition on the 9th of May. His Royal Highness has consented to open the International Reformatory Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Friday, the 19th May. It is understood that an "interesting event" is expected to take place in His Royal Highness's family, which will prevent the Princess accompanying His Royal Highness to Dublin. The drawing rooms of the season (with the exception of one) will, it is said, be presided over by the Princess of Hesse (*née* Alice) or Princess Helena.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS, on Thursday, the 9th, the Lord Chancellor introduced a bill, which was read a first time, to "complete the abolition of imprisonment for debt." The measure also contains a clause providing that no order of discharge shall operate to protect the property that a debtor may afterwards acquire, unless the estate has paid 5s. in the pound, or five-sixths of the creditors, in point of amount, have given their assent to the insolvent's release.—On Friday Lord de Grey stated that it was intended to sell nineteen of the smaller barracks in Ireland,—a proposal which was condemned by Lord Dalhousie and Lord Malmesbury.—After a good deal of discussion, the Lord Chancellor's Attorney's Remuneration Bill was thrown out on the second reading by 23 votes to 21.—

On Monday, the Public Schools Bill—based upon the recommendations of the Commission which recently reported upon the subject of public school education—was read a first time.—The bill authorising the annexation of British Kaffraria to the Cape Colony, and the Election Petitions Act Amendment Bill were read a second time.—On Tuesday, the Marquis of Westmeath again introduced the case of Mary Ryan, the nun, who was forcibly removed from London to a lunatic asylum at Bruges. He said he was prepared to prove that the abduction was the result of a conspiracy got up by a Roman Catholic priest calling himself the "Vicar General of Westminster," and strongly censured Sir George Grey for not having interfered more actively in the matter. Lord Russell said the forcible removal of a person from this country was an illegal act, but it having been ascertained that Mary Ryan, who is an orphan, was suffering from acute mania, and was well cared for in the asylum in Belgium, it was not deemed advisable to have her removed back to England. After some remarks from Lord Malmesbury, condemnatory of the course taken by Sir George Grey in this matter, the subject dropped.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Thursday, the 9th, Lord Henry Lennox gave notice of his intention to move, as an addition to Mr. Walpole's motion on the British Museum, that a responsible minister should be appointed to control the Museum and other similar institutions of the country.—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to Mr. White, said he was unable to state whether the budget would be introduced before or after the Easter recess.—In answer to another question from the member for Brighton, Lord Palmerston stated that her Majesty's Government did not intend to propose the repeal of the Aberdeen Act—an act by which British cruisers are authorised to overhaul and seize suspected slavers sailing under the Brazilian flag. He said that negotiations were still going on for a renewal of diplomatic relations between England and Brazil. He expressed his regret at the atrocities committed in the present war between the Brazilian empire and some of the neighbouring republics, and, with regard to the threatened attack upon Monte Video, stated that assurances had been received that the property of all foreign residents should be respected as far as possible.—In reply to questions from Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Bright, Mr. Layard was understood to say that the American Government had not made any demands for compensation for losses sustained by citizens of the United States from the depredations of the *Alabama* and other Confederate vessels, but that claims had been made against the Government of Washington by British subjects who had suffered in the course of the war.—The debate on the first vote in the Navy Estimates was resumed by Sir S. M. Peto, who, with other members, freely criticised the proceedings of the Admiralty, and the committee reported progress without any vote being come to.—On Friday, the Attorney-General, in reply to a question from Mr. Hibbert, said the Government intended to bring in a bill this session based upon the recommendations of the Patent Law Commission.—Mr. J. B. Smith asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it was proposed to rectify the anomaly in our tariff, that while wooden ships and articles manufactured of wood are allowed to enter British ports free, the raw material (wood) is subjected to a duty. Mr. Gladstone admitted the anomaly, but said he was not prepared to propose a duty on wooden ships. This was all he could state on the subject until the time arrived for the introduction of the budget.—Mr. Arthur Mills moved an address to the Crown on the subject of the troubles in New Zealand, but, after a long discussion, in which Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Adderley, Lord Stanley, Mr. Cardwell, and other members, took part, the motion was withdrawn.—A motion of Mr. Mac Evoy relative to the claims

of Ireland to a grant of the half cost of union medical officers, was rejected by a narrow majority; while Sir H. Bruce's Irish Game Bill was read a second time by a majority of 42.—On Monday, Sir George Grey stated, in reply to a question from Mr. Scully, that the Government did not intend to ask the Belgian authorities to deliver up Mary Ryan, the insane nun, who was some time ago "improperly" removed from London to Bruges.—In reply to Mr. Peacocke, Mr. Layard said that Captain Beall, the Confederate officer, who was recently executed in Governor's Island, New York, was not surrendered to the United States Government by the Canadian authorities, but was captured in the State of New York. Lord Robert Cecil asked if the Confederate officers now on their trial in Canada would be surrendered to the Federal authorities without the concurrence of the imperial Government. The Attorney-General replied that, in his opinion, it was only in circumstances of a very extraordinary character that the Home Government had the right of interference within Canadian territory.—In reply to a question from Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Hutt stated that the letter purporting to be written by General Hutt, setting forth various reasons why he could not be appointed to the secretaryship of Chelsea Hospital (an office to which he has since been gazetted) was a forgery.—Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald called attention to Colonel Jervois's report on the defences of Canada, and stated that the American Government were already strongly fortifying New York, Boston, and other exposed ports. An officer, in point of fact, had informed him that New York was now more formidable than Sebastopol. A large force of gunboats was also being placed upon the lakes. An American firm in this country had received an order for 40 steam launches, five of which had already left England, and he wished to know what her Majesty's Ministers were doing in the midst of all these preparations for war. Mr. W. E. Forster said the fear of a rupture with the United States was as groundless as the French panic a few years ago, while Mr. Cardwell affirmed that the relations between the two countries were "perfectly friendly." At the same time the right hon. gentleman reminded the House of the statements which have on previous occasions been made by members of the Government as to the measures being taken for the defence of Canada. Mr. Disraeli said there was every reason to believe that at the close of the civil war the Americans would have enough to do without provoking a rupture with a powerful empire like England. At the same time, he was glad to find that some measures were at last being taken to place Canada in a proper state of defence. The discussion was continued by Mr. Lowe, Lord Elcho, Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Bright, Lord Palmerston, and other members, but did not lead to any practical result.—On Tuesday there was a severe fight on "the Great Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Junction Railway Bill," by which the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company sought powers to join the Great Eastern Company in making a line from Long Stanton, near Cambridge, to a point on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway near Askern. This scheme was stoutly opposed in the interest of the Great Northern Company, and the motion for the second reading was defeated by a majority of 41,—121 members voting one way, and 162 the other.—In reply to a question from Mr. Ewart, Sir George Grey said that no order had been issued for the seizure of South American beef when exposed for sale either in London or Liverpool.—Lord Clarence Paget, in answer to Mr. Damer, said that experiments of a satisfactory nature had been made with the view of testing Captain Coles's cupola.—In reply to Mr. Watkin, Lord Hartington said the proposal to relieve volunteer officers from service on juries was under consideration at the War Office.—Sir Fitzroy Kelly moved for a select committee to inquire into the claims of the Prince Azeem Jah to the dig-

nity of Nawab of the Carnatic, but, after a long discussion, the motion was rejected by a majority of 15.—On Wednesday Sir C. O'Lochlen moved the second reading of a bill containing declaratory provisions in reference to the law respecting juries in criminal cases, and also containing provisions for the amendment of the law. The bill provided that after a jury had retired to consider their verdict the judge might order them refreshment, also that juries should not separate without the leave of the judge, but that if they did separate it should not invalidate the verdict; also that the judge should have the power in cases of felony of allowing juries to separate and go to their homes. The Solicitor-General opposed the bill, deeming it to be unnecessary, but suggested that the provisions with respect to refreshment to juries, and for the purpose of removing the difficulty experienced in some places in Ireland, might be introduced in a short bill. The bill was ultimately withdrawn.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in the ten principal towns of the United Kingdom was higher than in the previous week, the rate being 29 in the thousand as compared with 28 the week before. In these rates London and Salford stood the lowest, at 26 in the thousand; Liverpool and Glasgow the highest, at 37. The aggregate number of deaths for the week was 3,039; of births, 4,280. Of this number the deaths in London amounted to 1,508, which is slightly above the average; the births were 2,226, or more in both cases than half the number registered in all the ten towns together. The London births last week were considerably above the average.—In the cotton manufacturing districts two or three weeks of decreasing pauperism are followed by two or three of increasing numbers—to be succeeded by another week of diminishing pressure—comparing the first week of the present month with the last of February we find, according to the return of the Poor-law Board, that there was a net decrease of 930 paupers. Eleven unions had 1,290 more on their lists. Of these, Bury had 200, the Fylde 230, Glossop 230, and Haslingden 260. Fourteen unions had 2,220 less—the principal being Ashton-under-Lyne 140, Chorlton 400, Manchester 520, Oldham 170, Preston 420, Salford 160, and Warrington 130. Three unions experienced no change in their relief lists. The adult able-bodied paupers fell off by 510; and the sum disbursed by the Guardians, in the shape of out-door relief, slightly declined.—We regret to record the sudden death, on Tuesday morning, of the Rev. John Davis, the highly-respected Ordinary of Newgate. It appears that the rev. gentleman was seized with illness in an omnibus while on his way to the prison in the discharge of his daily duties, and on the vehicle reaching its destination Mr. Davis was found to be dead.—The Prince of Wales has appeared in support of the Duke of Sutherland's crusade against the practice of tradesmen offering servants a per centage on their masters' bills. His Royal Highness has directed the Comptroller of his household to "discharge from his service every servant who may receive, and to cease employing every tradesman who may pay, such a per centage, or who may make a present of any kind in consideration of his Royal Highness's custom."—Sir Henry J. Brownrigg, who holds the important post of Inspector General of Constabulary in Ireland, is about to retire from the service.—Mr. John F. Lewis, the Oriental painter, has been elected a Royal Academician, to fill the vacancy left by the decease of Mr. David Roberts, R.A.—Mr. Gladstone does not expect to be able to make his financial statement before the 27th of April.—It is stated that Mr. Guinness, the Dublin brewer, who has so nobly restored St. Patrick's Cathedral, is to be made a baronet.—The Senate of the University of Cambridge has adopted by 55 votes against 51, the scheme for the examination of girls.—A meeting of commanding officers of

the various rifle corps in London, which had been adjourned from a previous day, was held on Wednesday at the rooms of the National Rifle Association, Pall-mall. The subject immediately demanding their consideration was the question whether the ensuing Easter Monday review should be held this year at Brighton or at Dover. Several officers went down to Dover a few days ago to examine the capabilities of the ground for review purposes, and it appears their observations were unfavourable. Accordingly, it turned out that at the meeting there was only one voice raised in favour of Dover, the rest of the meeting being in favour of returning again this year to the old review ground at Brighton.—On Saturday an influential deputation from the parish of Chelsea, introduced by Mr. Tite, had an interview with Mr. F. Peel, at the Treasury, to remonstrate against the smallness of the sum allowed by Government for the poor rates of the parish as the quota for Chelsea Hospital and other Government property occupied in the parish. It was argued that the sum allowed to Chelsea was quite disproportioned either to the value of the property or to the sums allowed at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and other places where Government had works. Mr. Peel promised to take the subject into consideration.—A conference took place on Wednesday at Newcastle-on-Tyne between the Ironmaster's Committee and delegates representing the workmen employed in the north. The masters could not, of course, violate the Birmingham agreement, and promise to put an end to the lock out in their own district; but they intimated their intention of calling a general meeting of the trade, to be held at York on Friday, to which the workmen's associations will be invited to send delegates.—One of the most serious disasters that can happen to a commercial community has befallen Birmingham and the surrounding district. The bank of Messrs. Attwoods, Spooner, and Marshall's, which was formed in 1791, and was one of the most trusted banks in the district, has stopped payment, and the liabilities are said to amount to £1,000,000 sterling. The bank had a fixed issue of £26,395, the deposits reach £700,000, with customers' balances amounting to £300,000. Though it is impossible at present to ascertain accurately the assets, the calculations are more favourable than was at first expected. The lowest estimate gives a dividend of 10s. in the pound, while some rate it as high as 13s. or 14s.—The business of the assizes for the hundred of Salford commenced on Saturday last, when Mr. Justice Shee delivered the charge to the Grand Jury. The learned Judge, before commenting upon the most prominent cases in the calendar, congratulated the Grand Jury upon the taste and magnificence of the provision which has been made in the new Assize Courts for the administration of justice. His Lordship, in the course of his address, defended the institution of grand juries, expressing an opinion that the preliminary inquiry by such a jury is a great protection to character, and saves innocence, in many cases, from the stain of having been tried on a charge of crime.—It would be unsafe to affirm that we have heard the last of the Yelverton case; but the Court of Session gave a decision on Monday which seems to bring the whole litigation to a close. It will be remembered that, after the adverse decision of the House of Lords, Miss Longworth applied to the Scottish Court for a "reference to oath;" that is to say, as we understand it, that Major Yelverton should be examined upon oath with reference to the whole facts of the case. On Monday, three out of the four Judges held that the petition must be dismissed, as it involved the interests of Mrs. Forbes (Yelverton) and her children, whose rights have been established by the House of Lords. Lord Deas dissented on the ground that the duty of the Court was not to look after the interests of a third party, but to arrive at the truth.—

A case of a very unusual nature has been brought before the Master of the Rolls. It appears that Lord Robert Montagu has come into possession of a series of letters that had passed between the late Duke and Duchess of Wellington, and from both to Lady Olivia Sparrow, an intimate friend of both duke and duchess, from whom they passed by bequest to Lord Robert. The present Duke of Wellington, hearing that his lordship was offering these letters for sale, wrote to remonstrate against this, or against such private documents being shown to others at all, and as the reply was not satisfactory he applied to the Master of the Rolls for an injunction to restrain him from the sale or publication of the letters. The Master at once granted an interim injunction.—One of the most singular cases that ever came before a court of law was tried before the Lord Chief Baron on the Home Circuit on Tuesday. A woman named Acford brought an action against Lord Huntingtower for arrears of an annuity he had consented to pay her. Lord Huntingtower, who some time since married a lady by whom he has a family, now pleaded that the plaintiff was his wife by a Scotch marriage; and the evidence adduced on this point was so strong as to satisfy the judge that there was *prima facie* proof of the Scotch marriage, and therefore the plaintiff being a wife could not recover from her husband the reward of their cohabitation. The point of law, however, is reserved, the Chief Baron observing that the peer might find it very inconvenient if he had to answer a charge of bigamy.—A case bearing upon the extradition treaty of criminals between this country and France was brought before the police magistrate at Marylebone, on Tuesday. Two Frenchmen were arrested at the Euston-square Railway Station as they were about to start for Liverpool, and one of them confessed that he had robbed his employer at Havre, and was about to proceed with his companion to New York. But it appears that the extradition treaty only applies to cases of fraudulent bankruptcy, forgery, or robbery. The magistrate therefore declined to proceed under the Extradition Act, but as there was a doubt whether they might not be punished for unlawful possession of stolen property they were remanded to a future day.—The prisoners who are in custody on the charge of the great robberies in the City were again brought before the Lord Mayor on Tuesday—all but the wife of Hurley, who has been delivered of a child in Newgate since the last examination. Several witnesses were examined, and at the close the Lord Mayor again remanded them, refusing bail in each case.—The final examination of the affairs of Mr. Leigh, late one of the metropolitan police magistrates, took place before Mr. Registrar Winslow on Monday. The case, as the Registrar said, was a very painful one. With a fixed salary of from £1,000 to £1,200 a-year, he had contracted debts to the extent of £30,000. But it was not from mere extravagance he became thus involved. His losses began in the failure of a bank in which he held shares, and to relieve himself he speculated on the Stock Exchange, for which he had neither the requisite knowledge nor capital. Loss succeeded loss, and they were met for a time by loans at a ruinous rate of interest, which completed his fall. The Registrar awarded protection, but ordered that all his future earnings should belong to his creditors—except, of course, the means of his subsistence—till he had paid five shillings in the pound on his debts.—The inquest on the little boy who was murdered a short time ago by his aunt, who afterwards attempted to cut her own throat, was resumed on Monday, when a little boy, a playfellow of the deceased, said that two days before the murder the boy told him his aunt had attempted to cut his throat. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the woman, who appears to be likely to

recover from her self-inflicted wound.—The inquiry into the drowning of the cadets trained on board the *Worcester* was resumed at the Erith Pier Hotel on Tuesday. Several of the boys who were in the barge when she capsized were examined, as well as some watermen who witnessed the accident, and helped to rescue the survivors, the captain of the ship, and the sailor who had charge of the boat; but none of them was able so much as to suggest a probable cause for the capsizing of the boat at the time and in the manner she did. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. It is sad to state that with the exception of the boy who was brought ashore dead at the time of the accident none of the bodies have been recovered.—Another addition was made on Tuesday to our iron-clad navy afloat. The *Pallas* was launched at Woolwich. She carries six guns, which are intended to be worked on the end-on principle, but which can be fired from broadside ports if necessary. Mr. E. J. Reed designed the vessel, and it is believed she will prove one of the most effective vessels in the navy.—A woman named Martin was brought up on Tuesday at Westminster Police-court, charged with throwing her infant on to a fire. In a state of intoxication she went into the parlour of a public-house in Pimlico and threw her child on to the fire. It rolled off, and was instantly taken up by some persons who were present. It was very much cut and burnt, and is now in the hospital. The woman seemed to have no regret for what she had done. She was remanded.—A meeting of delegates from the London Trades Societies was held at the Sussex Hotel, Bouverie-street, on Wednesday, to hear delegates from the ironworkers locked out, and to consider the propriety of relieving the men. Mr. George Potter presided. There was considerable dissension at first in reference to the manner in which the meeting had been called. This was got over, however, and then the delegates from the locked-out men delivered addresses. Resolutions were agreed to declaring the conduct of the masters to be cruel and wrong, and promising subscriptions in aid of the men who are locked out.—An inquest was held at the Strand workhouse on Wednesday on the body of George Drake, a farmer, of Enfield. On Tuesday week he went to the Gordon Hotel and engaged a bed. He was perfectly sober when he went to bed, but next morning did not rise when called. Waiters entered the room, and he complained of being ill, and was unable to dress himself. On the order of the landlady he was removed to the police station. He was insensible when he got there. Some time afterwards the divisional surgeon saw him and said he was suffering from the after effects of drink. He was removed to the workhouse, and died on the Friday following. Dr. Rogers, of the Strand union, said death had been caused by effusion of blood to the brain, and that the man's life might perhaps have been saved if he had not been bandied about from place to place on the Wednesday, but had been actively treated. The inquest is adjourned.—Mr. Wentworth Buller, one of the members for North Devon, died on Monday night last. The hon. gentleman was a Liberal in politics, and was first elected for the county in 1857. He had previously sat for a few years for the city of Exeter. Mr. Buller's health has for some time past been in a delicate state, and his death was not unexpected.—A case of some importance to tradesmen was decided by the Master of the Rolls on Wednesday. A ribbon manufacturer advertised his business for sale, and found a purchaser. The amount of profits which the seller guaranteed, and the fact that he was in possession of certain "trade secrets" which he engaged to communicate to the buyer, were all set forth in the deed of purchase. It turned out that the profits were only about one-third of the amount guaranteed, and that there were no trade secrets. Under these

circumstances the purchaser applied to be set free from his bargain, and the Master of the Rolls granted his application.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—It is said that the unexpected death of the Duke de Morny, which occurred on Friday last, seriously affected the Emperor, and that at the Cabinet Council on Saturday his Majesty was quite overwhelmed by grief. The receptions at the Tuileries have been suspended for the present. The remains of the deceased duke were interred on Monday with great pomp, in the Cemetery of Père la Chaise.—According to advices from Rome General Montebello has sent a dispatch to the French Government requesting it not to withdraw at present any portion of the French army, as otherwise it would be impossible to guarantee the maintenance of public order in the Imperial City.—The King of Italy has signed a decree granting a full amnesty for all political offences, and for all persons who were compromised in the Aspromonte affair.—The Italian Minister of Finance made his annual statement on Tuesday last, and it can hardly have been heard with much pleasure by the legislators who will be compelled to vote fresh loans and heavier taxes. According to the Minister's estimate, there will be, in spite of the loans and imposts already authorised, an accumulated deficit of £17,000,000 at the end of September, 1867; and he asks for the power to contract a fresh loan of £17,000,000, for the imposition of house and property taxes expected to produce £2,400,000 a year, and for sundry alterations in the stamp and registration laws in order to augment the revenue.—The American journals not long since published apocryphal accounts of disasters to the French troops which were besieging Oajaca; but they now contain the announcement of the unconditional surrender of Oajaca to Marshal Bazaine, on the 9th ult., and of the capture of the whole Mexican garrison, 7,000 strong. Diaz, one of the principal Juarist leaders, attempted to make his escape, but was, it is said, arrested and immediately shot. Some Mexican guerilla bands are also stated to have been "annihilated" by the French, who are alleged to have given no quarter, and to have instantly shot a guerilla chief who fell alive into their hands.—Advices from Berlin assert that in that city it is believed that Austria will, after all, consent to the annexation of Schleswig-Holstein, provided she receives a guarantee of all her present possessions. Nevertheless, it is stated that the plan of annexation is for the present given up because Russia opposes it, and France would only consent to it with the object of putting in a claim for territorial compensation. Vienna telegrams speak of projects nurtured by the party of the Chevalier von Schmerling, to come to an understanding with France and get rid of the Prussian alliance; but the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Mensdorff, is represented as entirely opposed to such views. The Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia are, moreover, stated to be quite determined to keep up the alliance. An agreement, therefore, on the Schleswig-Holstein question is looked to as an ultimate result in Vienna as well as in Berlin.

AMERICA.—No very important event is announced in the intelligence brought by the *Europa*, and such accounts as we have of General Sherman's movements are obscure and contradictory. On the one hand, it appears to have been reported in New York that General Sherman had marched in an easterly direction, and had effected a junction with General Schofield on the 27th ult. at some place not named. On the other hand it seems to have been stated by the Richmond newspapers that General Sherman was moving against Raleigh, the capital of North Carolina, and had left the Confederate army, under its new Commander-in-Chief, General Joseph Johnston, in his rear at Charlotte. The Confederate troops which had garrisoned Charleston under General Hardee had crossed the Santee river,

and were hastening to join General Johnston. All or part of General Hood's army was said to be marching to join General Johnston's forces at Charlotte; and indeed, some of General Hood's troops were alleged to have already arrived at Augusta—though there was also a report in New York that Augusta had been captured by the Federals. It was affirmed that the Confederates had begun to remove guns and stores for the purpose of evacuating Petersburg; and it was supposed that General Grant's army was about to make some movement. The Federal Congress had passed the Bill for a new loan of 600,000,000 dollars. A despatch from Melbourne announces that the Confederate cruiser *Shenandoah* had arrived there, and that she had burned eleven Federal merchantmen since her departure from the Cape of Good Hope for the Australian coast.

NEW ZEALAND.—A telegram from Melbourne, dated the 26th January, states that in New Zealand affairs were not looking so peaceable, and that the Taranaki tribes, assisted by Tauranga and Waikato natives, were preparing to resist our forces.

INDIA, CHINA, &c.—The intelligence from Bhootan, received by the Calcutta mail, is far from satisfactory, and the disbandment of the Bhootan field force must be postponed. The Bhootas had attacked four of our posts, and although driven back by our forces they are so active and numerous that reinforcement of men and material will be required to subdue them. In China various bands of stragglers, consisting mostly of men belonging to the class from which the late insurrection sprung, were assembling in the neighbourhood of Fuhchau, and although the inhabitants were alarmed and getting out of the way, the Chinese authorities were looking on with the greatest supineness. In Japan the Daimios had assembled a large fleet for the purpose, it is said, of punishing Prince Nagato for rebelling against the Tycoon. The report that the Prince was rebuilding his batteries is proved to be incorrect.

AUSTRALIA.—The last advices from Australia state that there was a good deal of excitement in Victoria arising from the new tariff which the Government had submitted to the colonial legislature. Many of the shopkeepers are up in arms against the measure, but it is generally believed that with some modifications it will become law. The announcement that transportation to Western Australia would be abandoned had given much satisfaction, but an influential Melbourne paper now expresses its unqualified belief that if the system had been persisted in, the affectionately loyal people of the great Australian colonies would have carried their resentment the reluctant length of complete severance from British authority rather than submit to the undeserved disgrace and injury of being the convict depôt of Great Britain.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BRO. ROBT. A. CARLTON.—If the report named has not appeared—and we have no recollection of it—it never came to hand.

BRO. ED. COX is thanked.

J. H. (Quebec).—The ruling was absurd. There can be no doubt the lodge had the right to suspend the by-law, which was, however, evidently unnecessary, as the interpretation put upon it could not be supported either by the language or common sense. The amount involved, however, is so contemptible that we would advise the brethren to pay it out of their own pockets.

P. P.—We decline to answer any such questions.

R. B. B.—We shall be happy to hear from you as often as convenient.