

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1865.

MASONIC SAYINGS AND DOINGS ABROAD.

FRANCE.—The *Monde Maçonique* publishes an account of the *fête* that was given in Havre, in favour of the poor of the town, by the Masonic lodges of that city. We subjoin the following extract:—On the 29th of February a family *fête* took place at the Masonic Hall, of the Rue du Débarcadère, which was attended by an assembly of Freemasons, Lowtons, and also profanos, who were, however, all initiated into the mysterious pleasures of benevolence. No oath of silence was made; besides, there was a large number of “sisters” present. The labours that were performed may, therefore, be divulged without scruple and without indiscretion. The musical band of the *Union des Travailleurs*, “marching under its banner,” gave some admirable songs, which were received with much cheering. The rules of this choral phalanx are headed by the following clause:—“The object of the *Union des Travailleurs* society is to procure to its members an artistic recreation through the study of music, and to cooperate wherever a good action has to be done, or a distress to be relieved; in fine, to work for the progress of civilisation and benevolence. “No regulations were ever adhered to in a more dignified manner, both as regards the spirit and the letter. Mlle. Vantier, the prima donna of the evening, sang with much feeling and taste the air, “*Il faut partir*,” from the “*Fille du Régiment*,” also the grand air from the fourth act of “*Charles VI.*” Mons. Lallouette performed most admirably on the flute, amongst others Heman’s “*Souvenir Suisse*” (this artiste is a pupil of Mr. Bénard, of the orchestra of the Grand Theatre). After this, various comic songs were given by Mons. M. St. P., and at last the tenor, Mons. Matt, gave the grand air of “*Eleazar*,” from “*La Juive*.” The musical performances were followed up by a *séance* of *legerdemain*, consisting in all sorts of clever tricks. The assembly dispersed at half-past eleven, in perfect peace and harmony, to meet again at St. Cecile for another Masonic benevolent entertainment.

ALGERIA.—A ball was organised lately by the St. Vincent de Paul Lodge, of Constantine, in favour of its *Caisse Hospitalière*. 232 tickets, at 5f. each, were sold, making 1,160f., besides 120f. of voluntary contributions. The expenses amounted

to 710f. There remained, therefore, a balance of 570f. in favour of the object of the entertainment.

GERMANY.—The German *Logenkalender* for April, published by the *Freimaurerzeitung*, contains a list of 291 lodges, working under the various Grand Lodges of Germany. There are sixteen lodges in operation in Berlin, three in Breslau, six in Frankfort, thirteen in Hamburg, three in Hanover, three in Leipzig, and three in Dresden; in all other towns there are either one or two lodges. It appears to us that the Austrian empire is still unrepresented in the “*Kalender*.” Is this fact to be ascribed to a total want of Masonic institutions in the south-east of the Fatherland, or does it merely denote the “small German” tendencies of the framer of the “*Kalender*.”

To a recent issue of the *Bauhütte*, we are indebted for a statistical survey of the Masonic lodges in the kingdom of Hanover. There are at present 23 “workshops” in operation under the ægis of the Grand Lodge of Hanover, presided over by his Guelphian majesty. These lodges contain an aggregate of 2,345 brethren, besides 212 honorary members, and 86 subordinate brethren. The weakest of all these lodges is the Hermine, of Bückeberg, with 29 members. The most numerous are the three lodges of the Residence, containing upwards of 200 brethren each, altogether 760 members. The *Bauhütte* is of opinion that there ought to be five or seven lodges in the town of Hanover, instead of three, and the old rule be acted up to, according to which no lodge was to hold more than 100 members.

During the last year 131 additional members were received in the 23 Hanoverian lodges, being seven less than in the preceding year. Of these there were 16 adepts received by the Friedrich zum weissen Pferde Lodge of Hanover, and 15 by the Königliche Eiche Lodge of Hameln. In each of the Bückeberg, Clausthal, and Harburg Lodges one reception only took place. There are at present 1,114 Masters belonging to the lodges of the Hanover Grand Lodge, 413 members of the second, and 818 of the first degree. We concur in the opinion of the *Bauhütte*, that the publication of such statistical data by the Grand Lodges is highly conducive to the furtherance of the interest of the Craft.

SIX first is pleasing, then it grows easy, then delightful, then frequent, then habitual, then confirmed; then the man is impatient, then he is obstinate, then he is resolved never to repent, and then he is ruined.

CHURCH BELLS: THEIR ANTIQUITIES AND CONNECTION WITH ARCHITECTURE.

Read at the Architectural Museum, by the Rev.
John H. SPERLING, M.A.

So much has been said and written of late years on Church Bells, that, notwithstanding this is the first time the subject has been brought before the Architectural Institute in the shape of a lecture, it is by no means easy to discourse upon it with any charm of novelty to the scientific audience which I now have the honour to address, many of you being probably as well up in the subject as your lecturer. Campanology, however, is a science (I use this term advisedly) which most appropriately holds a place in an association like our own, whose object is to develop and enunciate the close and inseparable connection of high art with the Catholic faith, for no musical instrument has ever exercised so great an influence upon architecture as the church bell. To it we owe the most striking external features of our churches, whether in the varied groups of the many-towered city, or in the country spire pointing amidst the trees to the skies, or rearing itself heavenward like a ladder of fire, as seen in the horizontal rays of the rising or setting sun against the tame horizon of the fen country of East Anglia. Then, again, there are the hundred different forms of cot and gable which crest the humbler village church.

Sometimes we find large towers standing altogether detached from the churches to which they belong; the campanile at Chichester is a well-known example to most of us. Canterbury and Salisbury also yielded similar examples, the latter having been wantonly destroyed almost within the memory of those still living. Beccles, in Suffolk, is another notable example; so is Ledbury, in Herefordshire, and West Walton, in Norfolk, the latter forming a noble entrance gateway to the churchyard. I might name a dozen smaller ones. Now these towers were not built for mere fancy or picturesque effect, but to contain heavy bells, the vibration of which would have a gradually ruinous effect upon the general fabric of the churches to which they belonged, were they an integral portion of them. For the same reason the central towers of minsters and other large churches were intended to be lanterns proper, and not campaniles. The experiment was tried in a few instances, and great was the ruin that followed where the bells were at all heavy, as at Winchester and Ely. Bell towers proper were invariably as little connected as possible with their churches. With the exception of Hereford, which fell down—Ely which never had a large bell—Wimborne Minster, and two or three other examples, we never see a minster proper even with a *bonâ fide* west tower; and yet we may be sure that their architects would most gladly have had them could it have been possible, for the

greater space allowed for fenestration permitted by their absence is no equivalent (viewed internally at least) for the noble western arch which their existence would have afforded. The tame internal western perspectives of Winchester or Norfolk will hardly bear comparison with the western tower churches, even of the smaller type of Boston or Wymondham. Bell towers were placed either westward of the aisles or on one side of them, as at Exeter, on purpose to lessen their connection with the building, and guard against the ruinous shake of vibration. A virtue may indeed be said to have arisen out of the necessity, and an elegance and dignity to have been conveyed externally, by the double western tower; but this must, I think, be viewed as an effect necessitated by a cause rather than as an original creation unfettered by circumstances.

Whether you agree to this theory about western towers or not, we shall all, I think, concur in this, that our forefathers did not build towers and spires only to put into them the very small and ill-sounding article, the click of which is a standing nuisance to the western half of the metropolis. Most old churches were furnished with such bells over and above the chiming bells; they occupied either the eastern gable of the nave as a sanctus bell, or they hung in some picturesque little louvre, outside the tower or spire. Specimens of this lattoo treatment may be seen at Hadleigh in Suffolk, Ichleton, and Hinxton in Cambridgeshire. Sometimes they hung in the weather-boarding of the belfry windows; but this latter arrangement is much more common on the Continent than in England, whole chimes being thus exposed to view in the belfries in the south of France, Italy, &c. Though no larger than the modern call-bell of a London district church, their tone was sweet and silvery. Neither, again, did our ancestors build their towers as a very convenient smoke-flue, as was so common twenty years since, till we were bold enough to venture upon the good, open, honest, undisguised chimney. I would urge upon all connected with church building that the object of towers is to contain bells, spires being merely their ornamental capping; and that, unless there is a good and reasonable prospect of more bells than one, the money would be far better expended in adding height and dignity to the interior, which in a town church, where we have now to contend with the rapidly-increasing bulk of secular architecture, is becoming more than ever a vital point.

However, we must fall back upon the bell itself. In the first place, it is a satisfaction to be able to claim an unmistakably Christian origin for an instrument which has laid so mighty a hold upon ecclesiastical architecture. The earliest names for bells—"nola" and "campana"—would seem to point to Nola, in Campania, as their birthplace, and the fifth and sixth century as their earliest date. A favourite and expressive name for a church bell was "signum," I not long ago read

in one of the newly-printed Record publications, but I have unfortunately mislaid the extract giving names and dates; but the fact is this, a certain Irish bishop, who was also suffragan to the see of Worcester, was sent over to Tewkesbury to consecrate two new bells for the abbey church in that town, and the legal term employed for them is "duo magna signa."

The very earliest bells were probably mere sheets of metal curled into a circular shape, and rivetted together at their junction, the top being flattened in. These were struck on the outside by a hammer, having no connection with the bell itself. This, of course, produced no very exquisite tone. Once started, bells soon developed into shape and size somewhat analogous to those now in use. The art of working and fusing metals together was a very early invention; and the sister one of melting and casting not long in following. We know that both tin and copper ore were worked in Britain during the Roman occupation of the island, probably still earlier in more civilised Europe. There is no reasonable doubt that a bell, or even bells, in important places, formed a portion of the furniture of every church, before the Norman Conquest. Judging from the vast size of Norman towers, I think it highly probable that church bells had at that time reached their largest dimensions in this country, and also attained a perfection not since surpassed. The fact of no bells of Norman date remaining at the present day, when we consider the 101 different accidents to which such an instrument is subject is no proof in the case whatever. Considering the bell as an instrument of percussion, it is only a cause of wonder that so many examples, even of the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, have come down to us uninjured. Then, again, there are other causes for change besides breakage, fashions as to shape and size, and number changed also, just as churches themselves were always more or less under alteration and supposed improvement.

The lecturer here read a short MS. account of the bells of Canterbury Cathedral (Canterbury, vol. i. p. 91, No. 453) as an example out of many of this constant change; and though perhaps churches of less note and smaller revenues were favourable exceptions, still this rule of change remained in a very large percentage. From this account you will see, amongst other things, that bells, as I said before, attained very large dimensions in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. They so continued till the Reformation; soon after which, the art of change-ringing coming in, completely overturned the existing order of things. Under the old system bells were few and heavy, dignity of tone and solemnity being the main desideratum, and, as they were only chimed, lightness was not an object. Cathedral churches were not allowed to possess more than five or seven bells, and these often not placed together for simultaneous use; collegiate and parish churches

not more than three besides the sanctus bell. There is a curious injunction extant relative to the village churches on the coast of Kent and Sussex, to the effect that they should not possess more than one bell each, lest they should present an object of plunder to opposite neighbours; church bells not being readily movable like plate, vestments, and lighter articles. It is curious that to this day the same rule seems in force, for in no other districts in England are there so many one-belled churches as along that coast, while directly we get a few miles inland, peals of three and five are the prevailing number.

The oldest bells that have come down to us bear simply the names of the saints to whom they are dedicated—the tenor, or heaviest bell, usually representing the patron saint of the church; the others, for the most part, the names of those saints who had altars below; and I very strongly suspect that each bell was tolled for mass at the altar of its own dedication. This is a point I should much like to have cleared up by some one learned in Mediaeval ritual. At present I would only throw it out as a probability, from the fact that out of a number of such cases which I have examined I have found a considerable number in favour of the connection between the names of bells and the records of altars so dedicated. At Durham, for instance, there were four great bells in the Galilee tower, and four smaller ones in the lantern tower, dedicated, the largest to St. Cuthbert, another to Christ and the Blessed Virgin, a third to St. Margaret, another to St. Benedict, another to St. Michael, another to St. Oswald, another to the Venerable Bede; all of whom were commemorated either in the nine altars or elsewhere in the church. I will take one other example. At the church of St. Bartholomew-the-Great, Smithfield, now undergoing its interesting restoration, is a little peal of five bells, dating from the close of the fifteenth century. Here the treble is dedicated to the patron saint, the others to St. Katherine, St. Anne, St. John the Baptist, and St. Peter, each dedication ending, as was usual at that period, with an "*ora pro nobis.*" Possibly there may be documents yet remaining which may connect this peal with some subsidiary altars in that church. If some of you do not mind doing a little chimney-sweep's work, you will be rewarded for your trouble by personally inspecting these bells; also a similar peal of three in the adjoining church of St. Bartholomew-the-Less. These are almost the only ancient bells remaining in London. I would recommend you, however, to send a man up two or three hours beforehand with a broom to remove the soot from their crosses. The bells of St. Bartholomew-the-Less are dedicated to St. Augustine, St. Vincent, St. Michael, the legends being in full:—1. "*Vox Augustini sonat in aure Dei.*" 2. "*Vincentius revocat ut canta potia tollat.*" 3. "*In tonat de celis vox campana Michaelis.*" The two smaller ones are by a well-known Mediaeval manufacturer,

William the Founder, and have his arms on them, a Λ between three ewers. The tenor, about the same date, has the initials S. O., with a cross between them on a shield. It has not yet been identified.

While upon London bells I may mention that King Edward III. erected a clochier, or bell tower, and placed in it three bells for the use of St. Stephen's Chapel, at Westminster. On the tenor was inscribed,

"King Ed. made me thirty thousand weight and 3,
Take me down and wey me and more you will find me."

This, by the way, if true, is the earliest example known of an inscription in English. They were taken down in the reign of Henry VIII., when some one wrote underneath, in chalk,

"But Henry the Eight
Will bait me of my weight."

Stow tells the story, explaining that Sir Miles Partridge staked £100, and won them of Henry VIII. at a cast of dice. He, however, affixes it to a clochier standing on the site of the present St. Paul's School, and says that there were four bells, the greatest in England, and called the Jesus Bells.

It is exceedingly difficult to guess the exact date of the oldest bells that have come down to our times. Dates there are none at that early period, rarely even the founder's mark, or lettering, which may give the exact cut. In bells of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries there is not this difficulty for, though they are rarely dated, they invariably have shields, lettering, and other architectural devices, which enable us to form a tolerably correct guess at their date. These marks, however, are by no means infallible guides to the uninitiated in such matters; for foundries often went on for generations, and marks and stamps were handed down from father to son often for a century or more. A little close inspection, however, will usually afford some slight addition, either in the stopping or moulding, which decides against the hoped-for antiquity. I have myself several times seen Mediaeval shields and lettering upon bells only dating early in the seventeenth century: a date in Arabic numerals often unravels the mystery. Dates came in about 1570 in England, and have been continued ever since. In foreign countries they are met with much earlier. The earliest known dated bell is at Freybourg. Its diameter at the mouth, according to Mr. Tyssen, is 57in.; height 5ft. 5in.; weight, about 2 tons. The inscription is " \dagger O Rex Glorie veni cum pace,—me resonante pia populo succurre Maria,—A.D. 1258." At Duncton, in Sussex, is a bell which Mr. Tyssen supposes to be the earliest dated bell in England. The date on this is 1319. This also is of foreign manufacture. At All Hallows, Staining, London, is another with an inscription in honour of St. Martin, dated 1458.

We come now to the prolific subject of inscrip-

tions. The oldest known bells, as I have already said, bear the simple name of the saint to whom they were dedicated. After this came "ad laudem" or "in honorem" St. So-and-so. Then set in the everlasting "Ora pro nobis," which was the stereotype of the fourteenth century and very common up to the Reformation. There were, during the fifteenth century, two celebrated foundries in East Anglia, one at Norwich, another at Bury St. Edmund's. Both of them, I believe more or less connected with monasteries, and they issued a much superior style of inscription, usually cast into the form of a Latin hexameter, laudatory or imprecatory of the saint to whom the bell was dedicated, and often commemorated one of his or her supposed attributes. Some of these are so good that I will read you a selection from them:—

"To our Saviour—

1. { Rex celorum Christe
 { Placeat tibi chorus iste.
2. { Filius Virginis Marie
 { Det nobis gaudia vite.

To the Blessed Virgin—

Sum Rosa pulsata Mundi Marie vocata.
Virginis egregie vocar campana Marie.
Stella Maria Maris succurre piissima nobis.
Virgo coronata duc nos ad regna beata.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| St. Mary Magd. | { Dona repende pia
{ Rogo Magdalena Maria. |
| St. Katharine | { Subveniat digna
{ Donantibus hanc Katerina. |
| St. Anne..... | { Celesti manna tua proles
{ Nos cibet Anna. |
| St. Margaret | { Fae Margarita
{ Nobis hec munera leta.
{ Hec nova campana
{ Margarita est nominata. |
| St. Michael... | { Intonat de celis
{ Vox campana Michaelis.
{ Dulcis sisto melis
{ Campana vocor Michaelis. |
| St. Gabriel... | { Hac in conclave
{ Nunc pange mane
{ Gabriel ave.
{ Missus de celis
{ Nomen habes Gabrielis. |
| St. Giles | { Sonitus Egidii
{ Ascendit ad culmina celi. |
| St. Edmund | { Meritis Edmunde
{ Semper a crimine mundi. |
| St. J. Baptist | { Munere Baptiste
{ Benedictus sit chorus iste. |
| St. Thomas... | { Nos Thome meritis
{ Mercamur gaudia vitis. |
| St. Peter..... | { Petrus ad eterna
{ Ducat nos paseua vite. |
| St. Nicholas | { Nos societ sanctis
{ Semper Nicholaus in altis. |
| St. J. Evan. | { Johannes Xti care
{ Digna pro nobis orare. |
| St. Peter..... | { Hoc mihi jam retro
{ Nomen de Simone Petro. |
| St. Anthony | { Antonius monet
{ Ut campana bene sonet." |

The two most common inscriptions of the age, common to all parts of England, are "Sit nomen Domini benedictum," and "In multis annis resonet campana Johannis." These, however, were

not used by the Norwich or Bury foundries. At Elsenham, in Essex, is a very pretty bell of this date, bearing the letter S, thrice repeated in beautifully illuminated character, and crowned. This is no doubt an ancient sanctus bell. I have never seen a similar example.

During the latter part of the sixteenth century, and up to 1630, we find some very good inscriptions also in Latin; many of these would well bear reproducing at the present day. At Cherry Hinton, near Cambridge, the two heaviest bells have legends from the "Venite;" the remaining three were probably once similarly treated. On those that remain are—

"Omnis populus teare plaudite Domino,
Cum psalmis venite ad Dominum."

At Oxbury, Norfolk, we find legends from the "Te Deum" similarly employed. Other pleasing inscriptions of this period are—

"Non clamor sed amor cantat in aure Dei,
Sonoro sono meo sono Deo.
Cantabo laudes tuas Domine.
Domini laudes non verbo sed voce resonabo.
Jubilante Deo salutari nostro,
Cantate Domino canticum novum.
Merorem mœstis, letis sic leta sonabo.
Domine dirige nos."

To this period belongs the well-known legend—

{ "Laudo Deum verum
Populum voco: congreco clerum."

In the eastern counties, the stronghold of Puritans, we find the following:—

{ "Non sono animabus mortuorum
Sed auribus viventium,"

by way of a fling at the old faith.

Also the following, which I have never heard satisfactorily translated—

"Cano trista mori
Cum pulpeta vivere desi."

Another is very good—

{ "Vocem ego do vobis, } 1638. St. Brinda,
Vos date verba Deo } Cornwall."

At Norwich, All Saints', is the curious inscription—

{ "Gallus vocor,
Super omnia sono."

The English legend, though it peeped out as an exceptional thing in the fifteenth century—instance the beautiful tenor at Minster, Thanet, "Holy, pray for us;" and another at Long Sutton, Hants, "Hail! Mary full of gras!"—did not come into general use till quite late in the sixteenth century. In the next fifty years English and Latin were used pretty equally, some foundries supplying one, the others the other. The English ones are usually very short and simple, as—

"Jesus be our speede,
God save His church,
God save the King,
Laud the Lord alwaies,
Fear God, &c."

But sometimes more extensive. At Attleboro',

Norfolk, cast by Wm. Brend, of Norwich, in 1617, we find on the three heaviest—

1. { "It joyeth me much,
To go to God's church."
2. { "Do not slack thee
To repent thee."
- Tenor 3. { "I wish to die
To live heavenlie."

To this date belong the tenor inscriptions,—

- { "I sweetly tolling men do call,
To taste of meats that feed the soul."
- And { "My roaring sound doth notice give,
That men cannot here alwaies live."
- Also { "God save the church,
Our Queen, and realme,
And send us peace in Xt. Amen. 1601."
- And { "I sound to bid the sick repent,
In hope of life when breath is spent."
- { "First I call you to Gord's word,
And at last unto the Lord."

These examples might be multiplied to any amount.

After 1660 nearly all interest in inscriptions ceases. We find little more than the founder's name and date of casting, added to which, on the tenor, are usually the names of the rector and churchwardens. Those that do occur are usually vulgar, as,—

"Pull on, brave boys, I am metal to the backbone. I'll be hanged before I'll crack."

"My sound is good, my shape is neat,
So-and-so made me all compleat."

"I sound aloud from day to day,
My sound hath praise, and well it may."

"All ye who hear my solemn sound,
Thank Lady Hopton's hundred pound."

Bath Abbey.

"I ring to sermon with a lusty boom,
That all may come and none may stay at home."

A founder, early in the last century, named Pleasant, was for ever punning upon his own name. Another, named Penn, of Peterborough, of the same date, was much more successful. Some of his Latin verses are very well turned. He also occasionally condescended to English, as at St. Ivo's, Hunts.

"Sometimes joy, sometimes sorrow,
Marriage to-day and death to-morrow."

"When backward rung I tell of fire,
Think how the world shall thus expire."

"When souls are from their bodies torn,
'Tis not to die, but to be born."

These, perhaps, led to the writing of the well-known verses for the Whitechapel foundry, about 1750, which they have placed upon most of their bells since. I will only give two other examples—one from St. Helen, Worcester, where a peal of eight was cast in 1706, and dedicated in honour of the Duke of Marlborough's victories; the other example is from Masham, Yorkshire, cast by Harrison, of Barrow, in 1776, and containing a set of rules for singing (vol. i., p. 136, No. 676). It is very desirable that some steps should be taken to ensure decent inscriptions on

church bells in the present day. With a few notable exceptions, as St. Gabriel, Pimlico, St. Paul, Brighton, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, where the clergy have taken the matter up, either nothing but founder's name and date, and those of the parochial authorities, or else such rubbish as was allowed to be put up at Sherborne only a few years since, was found. I should very much like to print a few dozen suitable inscriptions, short and to the point. As from 4d to 6d per letter is charged for the casting, a very long inscription is both expensive and tedious.

Having rung so many changes upon the inscriptions of the last five centuries, I must hasten on to some other notabilia connected with ancient bells.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE HISTORY OF THE MARK DEGREE.

Where is the best history of the Mark degree to be found?—J. O.—[What Mark degree do you mean? There are three in existence; the one venerable, as being beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant, and practised in the North; another, the Scotch, of the blushing age of eighteen; and the third, a juvenile, established, founded, concocted, arranged, made up within the remembrance of the youngest inhabitant of Bedford-row. There is no history of either of them to be found. The Northern Mark history is bound up, so to speak, with a number of degrees now rarely practised. The Scotch Mark history has yet to be written, and, when it is so penned, will disclose some startling facts that will make Freemasons open their eyes as to the manner of making degrees. The latter may have a history, for aught we know; but it must be a very wee, little, tiny, Tom Thumb kind of record, if it exists. Since the foregoing was written we have received a copy of *The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland's Reporter*, March 31st, 1865, in which, under date of a committee meeting on the 11th of November, 1864, is the following lucid report of the position of the Mark degree:—

“After a long discussion upon the subject of the memorial from the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in England, the Committee unanimously adopted the following Report to be laid before the meeting of the Supreme Chapter in December:—

“*Report by the Committee of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland upon “Memorandum for the information of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, with reference to the Status and Position of the Degree of Mark Master in England and Wales, especially in connection with its working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, Wales, and the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown.”*

“In dealing with the question remitted to your Committee, they find it necessary to take a wider view of the subject than that embraced in the document now under consideration, and while they notice the statements therein contained, they will also

advert to the position of the Mark Masters degree generally, in the hope that the Grand Lodge of England may be induced to reconsider the question, which has already been before it, and, if possible, that the position of the degree in the three countries of England, Ireland, and Scotland may be clearly defined.

“In this country, from time immemorial, and long before the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, what is known as the Mark Masters Degree was wrought by the Operative lodges of St. John's Masonry in connection with the Fellow Craft degree.

“At the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in the year 1736, and from that date down to the year 1860, it continued to be worked on this footing in the Operative lodges, but in what may be termed the Speculative lodges it never was worked at all, or, at all events, only in a very few.

“Such being the state of matters when the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter was formed in the year 1818, that body, considering it necessary that candidates for the Royal Arch degree should be instructed in the Mark Masters degree, assumed the management of it (which the Grand Lodge of Scotland had declined), and constituted it the fourth degree in Masonry, or the first in the series of degrees worked in the Royal Arch chapters holding of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland.

“Nothing occurred to disturb this arrangement until the year 1856, when a chapter in the city of Aberdeen, called the Bon Accord Chapter, No. 70, took upon itself to grant a charter or warrant to certain brethren in England to work the Mark Masters degree there. Immediately upon this coming to the knowledge of the Supreme Chapter, the Bon Accord Chapter was suspended, but the Supreme Chapter could not get possession of the illegal warrant granted by the Bon Accord Chapter, nor could they get it cancelled.

“At this time the position of Mark Masonry in England was very anomalous. It is stated in the Memorandum now under consideration, and your Committee believe correctly, that several old lodges (as in Scotland) continued to work the Mark Masters Degree; but neither the Grand Lodge nor the Grand Chapter of England would recognise it, and it was therefore without any lawfully constituted head. Such being the position of the Degree in England, some brethren in that country who highly prized it, applied to the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, as the only lawfully constituted governing body in Great Britain which recognised and superintended the degree, to issue warrants in England for working it.

“Had the degree been recognised by either the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of England, or had it been superintended by any lawfully constituted body in that country, the Supreme Chapter would not have listened for a moment to the application, and even when in the special circumstances of the case they reluctantly entertained it, they inserted the following clause in the charters, or warrants, issued by them:—“Farther, in the event of the Degree of Mark Master, hereby authorised, becoming at any time hereafter a degree lawfully sanctioned and acknowledged by a Supreme Body of the country in which the Mark Lodge hereby constituted shall be

situated, this present warrant or charter of constitution shall, *eo ipso*, become void and null, the holders thereof be deprived of their functions under it, and thereupon bound to return the same to our Supreme Chapter." Since the year 1856 a number of warrants have been granted to Mark Master Lodges in England, all of which contain the clause above quoted.

"In the year 1856 the members of the Bon Accord Lodge of London (illegally constituted in the manner already described) and the members of certain Craft Lodges (which are stated in the Memorandum to have worked the degree from time immemorial) formed themselves into what is termed "The Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales, and the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown," and this body has continued down to the present date to issue Charters to subordinate Lodges for the purpose of working the Mark Master's Degree, not as a portion of the Fellow Craft Degree, but as a distinct and separate Degree. The Lodges holding of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland have also, during the same period, continued working in England, but have not recognised or visited the Lodges holding of the Lodge styling itself the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters. The object of the Memorandum now before your Committee is to call upon the Supreme Chapter to recognise the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters as the lawful head of the Order in England, and, as a necessary consequence, and in terms of the clause in the Charters, above quoted, to recall those charters, and to cease in all time coming from issuing new ones. If the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters can satisfy the Supreme Chapter that they are truly and lawfully the head of the Order in England, then unquestionably they are right in their contention, and it must be given effect to.

"Your Committee will, before considering the reasons advanced by the Grand Mark Masters Lodge of England in support of their demand, shortly advert to what has taken place in the Grand Lodge of Scotland on the subject of the Mark Masters Degree.

"As already explained, latterly only a few of the old Operative Lodges holding Charters from the Grand Lodge of Scotland continued to work the Degree—the great majority of Lodges on the roll knew nothing about it; and so much was this the case, that an old Operative Lodge in Glasgow was actually suspended by the Provincial Grand Lodge of that city for working this degree, in respect the constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, cap. ii. sec. 1, provides that "The Grand Lodge of Scotland practices and recognises no degrees of Masonry but those of Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, denominated St. John's Masonry." The Lodge referred to appealed to the Grand Lodge and maintained, 1., That they had worked the degree of Mark Master prior to the constitution of the Grand Lodge, and down to the date of the proceedings adopted against them by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow; and, 2., That apart from this the Mark Masters degree was truly an integral part of the Second or Fellow Craft degree. After a long discussion, the Grand Lodge reversed the decision of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow on the first ground stated, and with reference to the second point raised, it was remitted to a Committee to examine into and report.

"At the same time, with the view of putting matters

on a proper footing as regarded the working of the degree in Scotland, the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter appointed a committee to confer with the Grand Lodge Committee. The Committees accordingly met and adjusted a joint report, the resolutions in which were adopted, both by the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. These resolutions, which now form the law on the subject in Scotland, are as follows:—

"1. That all lodges holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland shall be allowed to work this Degree in virtue of the Charters which they already possess.

"2. That to prevent confusion with brethren belonging to Lodges out of this kingdom, or with Sister Grand Lodges, this Degree, although held by the Grand Lodge to be a second part of the Fellow Craft Degree, shall only be conferred on Master Masons, and the secrets shall only be communicated in presence of those who have taken it either from a Lodge or Chapter entitled to grant it.

"3. That the Grand Lodge of Scotland and Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland shall adopt the same Ritual in conferring the Degree, being that now adjusted by their respective Committees.

"4. That the candidate applying to be admitted to the Royal Arch Degree, if he has received this Degree in a regular Lodge of St. John's Masonry, shall not be required to take it a second time from the Chapter into which he seeks admission, but in event of his not having received it, he shall be obliged to take it from that Chapter.

"5. That as regards the Royal Arch Degrees, this Degree shall be reckoned the fourth Degree in Masonry.

"6. That nothing contained in the regulations shall interfere with the superintendence which the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter claims over Mark Masonry out of Scotland, or with the Lodges holding of it in England or abroad."

"The Mark Masters Degree, whether viewed as a separate Degree or as a part and portion of the Fellow-Craft Degree, is now recognised and worked in Ireland, Scotland, and Canada, and in all the Grand Lodges and Chapters in the United States, England being the only country in which the English language is spoken, where the degree is not recognised either by the Grand Lodge or Chapter. In the Memorandum now under consideration, a narrative is given of the proceedings adopted by the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England on the subject of this Degree, from which the following may be extracted:—

"In England, as has been shown, the knowledge and working of the Degree has never been lost, though it has been more or less in abeyance, its estimation varying according to varying circumstances.

"In the Colonies much difficulty has been encountered from the establishment of Lodges under different jurisdictions, some recognising the Mark Degree and some altogether ignoring it.

"To remedy this state of things, and to restore the Degree to its rightful position in connection with the Masonic system, an attempt was made about the year 1855 to obtain its recognition by the United Grand Lodge of England, and a Committee, consisting of Members of that Grand Lodge, and of Members of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of

England, was appointed to investigate and report upon the subject of the Mark Degree.

"Some Members of this Committee were already Mark Masters, those who had not taken the Degree had it conferred upon them in the Albany Lodge (time immemorial), Isle of Wight, and in other old Lodges, and some in the Bon Accord Mark Lodge, then recently established in London under a Charter received from the Bon Accord Royal Arch Chapter of Aberdeen.

"The report of the Committee approved by the M.W. Grand Master pronouncing the Mark Degree as in their opinion not positively essential, but a graceful appendage to the Degree of Fellow-Craft was presented to the United Grand Lodge of England at the Quarterly Communication in March, 1856, and was unanimously adopted.

"At the next ensuing Quarterly Communication of The United Grand Lodge of England, on special motion duly proposed and seconded, that portion of the Minutes of the previous Quarterly Communication, referring to the Mark Degree, was non-confirmed, and the *status in quo ante* was resumed."

"This being the position of the Mark Degree, in so far as the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England are concerned, the question now arises, what is the position of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, and has it succeeded in establishing its right to be considered the lawful head of the Order in England to the effect of requiring the Supreme Chapter to recall the Mark warrants granted to subordinate Lodges in England, and to cease from issuing such in all time coming?

"As already explained, the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters was at first composed of the Brethren of a Lodge confessedly spurious, and that Lodge itself was one of the Lodges which joined in its formation. The other Lodges may have been legal, but of this there is no evidence. It is further evident that at the present moment the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters is not recognised by either the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of England, and were it now to be recognised, it would have the effect of creating a new governing Masonic body in England wholly unknown in other countries.

"In these circumstances, your Committee do not recommend the Supreme Chapter to acquiesce in the call made upon it in the document now under consideration. But they would be very glad to see the degree of Mark Master put on the same footing in England as in Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and America, and, with this view, they recommend the Supreme Chapter to bring the matter before the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of England, and should either of these bodies sanction the working of the Mark Masters Degree as a part of the Fellow-Craft Degree (as has been done by the Grand Lodge of Scotland), or separately, as is the case in the Grand Lodges and Chapters of Ireland, Canada, and America, or should they recognise the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters as the lawful head of the Order in England; in any of these events, your Committee would recommend the Supreme Chapter at once to recall the warrants already granted to Lodges in that country, and to cease from granting new ones in time coming but, until the recognised governing Masonic bodies in England do this, your Committee do not think the

Supreme Chapter could take the initiative in recognising as a lawful governing body the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in England.

"(Signed) ALEXR. HAY, *Chairman.*

"16th December, 1861. (*Quarterly Meeting.*)

Having resumed consideration of the Memorial from the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, with the documents therewith connected, and the Grand Scribe E. having read Report of the Committee thereon, it was moved by Companion Hay, Grand Recorder, seconded by Companion Ramsay, and unanimously agreed to, that the Supreme Chapter approve of the Report of the Committee upon Memorial from the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England; and in terms of the recommendation therein contained, remit to the Supreme Committee, with the addition of Companion Andrew Kerr, to prepare a Memorial to be laid before the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of England, and with the view of establishing a uniform working in the countries of England, Ireland, and Scotland, that the Committee be directed to suggest to the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England, that if these three Grand Bodies would recognise the Degree of Mark Master as a part or portion of the second or Fellow-Craft degree, it would tend to promote this object. Farther, direct a copy of the Memorial and Report to be sent to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, with a request that that body would communicate with the Grand Lodge of England on the subject, and that copies be sent to the Grand Lodges and Chapters of Ireland and Canada, to the body styling itself the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, and to all Mark Master Lodges holding of the Supreme Chapter.

"13th. February, 1865. (*Committee Meeting.*) In obedience to the Remit from the Supreme Chapter a Sub-Committee, consisting of Companions Alexander Hay, Andrew Kerr, and Alexander Cannon, was appointed to prepare a memorial for the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England, as to the working of the Mark Masters Degree in that country.

"1. March, 1865. (*Quarterly Meeting.*) The following Memorial to the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England on the subject of Mark Masonry in that country was read and approved of:—

"*Memorial for the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland to be laid before the Grand Lodge and Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England.*

"A memorial was sometime ago laid before the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland by a body in England styling itself the "Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales, and the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown," claiming to be the lawfully constituted head of the Order of Mark Masonry, and calling upon the Supreme Chapter to recognise it as such. This Memorial was remitted to the Committee of the Supreme Chapter, who, at the last Quarterly Communication brought up a Report on the subject.

"This Report, copies of which are sent herewith, sufficiently explain the object of the present application to the authorised and acknowledged governing Masonic Bodies in England, and it is unnecessary to do more than to refer to it.

"The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, therefore, in terms of the recommendation contained in that Report, now respectfully submits to

the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England the following points for their consideration,—and requests, at their earliest convenience, a deliverance thereon:—

"1. Whether these Grand Bodies are prepared to sanction the working of the Mark Masters Degree in England, either as a part of the Second or Fellow Craft Degree (as has been done by the Grand Lodge of Scotland), or as a separate Degree, as is the case in the lodges holding under the Sister Grand Lodges of Ireland, Canada, and America; or

"2. Whether these Grand Bodies are prepared to recognise the Body styling itself "The Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, Wales, and the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown," as the lawful head of the Order of Mark Masonry in England.

"In submitting the questions to the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England, the Supreme Chapter of Scotland would express a hope that some arrangement may be made which will have the effect of bringing about a similarity of working in the two countries, which, from their close alliance, is much to be desired; and that in this way the proper place may be assigned to the Mark Masters Degree in the Degrees of Masonry.

"Signed, in name and by order of the
Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of
Scotland, at Freemasons' Hall, Edin-
burgh, this 1st day of March, 1865, A.D.;
and 5869, A.L.

(Signed) "J. WHYTE MELVILLE,
"Grand Z.

(Signed) "L. MACKERSEY,
"G.S.E."]

THE CHEVALIER RAMSAY SAID TO HAVE ASCRIBED
THE RESTORATION OF KING CHARLES THE SECOND
TO THE FREEMASONS.

A brother writes that some years ago he read in the manuscript book, entitled my "Denton Court Jottings," a passage in which the Chevalier Ramsay is said to have ascribed the restoration of King Charles the Second to the Freemasons. The ensuing is a copy of the passage to which he alludes, and by his desire it is sent to the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE:—"G., qui fit, en 1741, connaissance, à Paris, avec Ramsay, et s'entretint fréquemment avec lui, apprit de sa bouche beaucoup de détails sur la Francmaçonnerie. * * * Enfin, G., apprit encore que la restauration du trône royal d'Angleterre avait été préparée par les Francmaçons, auxquels appartenait le Général Monk; mais que Ramsay n'avait pas voulu citer ce fait dans son "Histoire de la Francmaçonnerie" (ouvrage probablement demeuré inédit) dans la crainte d'exposer ses confrères au soupçon de s'occuper habituellement de politique."—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

MASONIC CYPHERS.

How many kinds of Masonic cyphers are there and where, or by whom, are they used in the present day? I have one which has hitherto escaped all attempts at elucidation although it is made in the same kind of character, that is in the six spaced cross and the St. Andrew cross, usually presumed to be the key for interpretation.—STUDENS.—[It would be presumptuous to say there are any fixed number, but we have six varieties of those professing to be Craft

alphabets; two Royal-Arch; two of the Illuminés; four Rose Croix; one of the twenty-fourth degree; two of the thirtieth degree; one of the thirty-second degree; and one of the thirty-third degree. In addition we have that of the Bavarian high grades; the French military order; the Order of Knights Templar; German high grades; Dutch High grades; four of other grades not included in any rite; and that of the alchemists. Then there are scores upon scores of secret cyphers—based upon the divisions you refer to—scattered up and down in the books of the astrologers, Rosicrucians, mystics, and antiquarians. The difficulty is not to find cyphers of the kind, but to hit on the right one to read by. We, ourselves, have been most sorely perplexed,—for how long we are ashamed to state,—by a series that absolutely gives the key and when it is applied from right to left, left to right, or even upside down, the inscription baffles us. We cannot get, out of three hundred and thirty-eight characters, one single word we can recognise in any language we have the slightest acquaintance with. You may say "Why don't you give it up, then?" At first we were so inclined, but it grew upon us. Every now and then we imagine we have it, sit down earnestly and work,—and real hard work it is for the brains, too,—but alas! our reward has not come yet. It is tantalizing, and has now assumed something of the definite shape of a difficulty we feel we *must* conquer. Unfortunately for us, few persons use these cyphers now. One brother who professes to know more than all the Freemasons who ever lived, do live, or will live, said he could put us right, two years ago, so, having our doubts about his talents, we wrote him some six or eight letters in various Masonic cyphers, amongst them the commonly received Craft one, asking him how he got on with the interpretation of our stumbling block? Not long since we got our answer thus: "Ah! I know you now! here I've had several letters full of levels, squares, and perpendiculars, and all sorts of outlandish marks, and couldn't make out who they came from. Now it's all clear; I thought I knew the handwriting, and sure enough, now I've seen you sign that, it's yours. Why didn't you write a letter that could be read at once without fidgetting about so that it made me uncomfortable." The reply you may guess; and as the brother is sure to see our answer to you he will know the reply also. If we can help you we shall be very happy to do so, but— with the experience gained—we don't promise to unravel your mystery. At any rate, if we cannot do it we shall not be ashamed to say so.]

OLD SUMMONSES, BY-LAWS, &C.

For some time I have been making a collection of Summonses, By-laws, Impressions of Masonic Seals, and the thousand and one odds and ends of Masonic documents which many brethren regard as waste paper. I want to get as many of these together as I can, and also the canvassing cards of candidates for the Masonic Charities, Grand Lodge, and Provincial Grand Lodge reports; or, in fact, anything that bears on Freemasonry, English or foreign, Craft, Mark, Royal Arch, Templar, or high grades. Brethren having no use for, or setting no store by, such papers, &c., would confer a favour by sending them to—
MATTHEW COOKE, 43, Acton-street, W.C.

THE SACRED NUMBERS.

Dr. Dalcho, at the end of his manifestos, says we "salute you by the sacred numbers." What is the literal meaning of this figurative expression? If it really alludes to certain numbers will some one be good enough to point them out and explain why they are sacred?—NUMBER ONE.

THE OLDEST MASONIC CHARITY.

Which is the oldest Masonic charity?—R. G.—[That of the Apostle which tells us that "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it proffereth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth; * * * And now abideth, faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." 1 Corinth. xiii. The oldest Masonic charitable institution—quite a different form of charity from that indicated above—which, with Freemasons, "covers a multitude of sins," is alms deeds and is an Orphan home established by the lodges, at Stockholm in 1753. The oldest in England is the Girls' school founded, in 1788, by Bro. the Chevalier Ruspini.]

DR. WOLFF AND FREEMASONRY.

Seeing your remarks on the above subject in your MAGAZINE of last week, I have been induced, for the benefit of the seven inquiring brethren in particular, and for the members of the Craft in general, to copy the following extracts from a work published by Dr. Wolff only a short time before his death, and which I think will be found interesting to your readers. I would just observe that Dr. Wolff almost invariably speaks of himself in the third person singular. He was singular in many things, and in nothing more than his avoidance of the authoritative, editorial, and high-sounding "We." The extracts are taken from "Travels and Adventures of Dr. Wolff," published in 1860.—G. B., D.—"Caviglia was a Genoese captain of a merchant vessel. He went to Egypt, and spent the greater part of his days in the Pyramids, and found most mighty monuments of ancient time, which he sent to the British Museum. His great study was the Bible, especially the Old Testament. He compared the contents of it with the existing monuments in the Pyramids and with the ancient history of that country; and came to the conclusion that the Pyramids of Egypt had not been the sepulchres of ancient kings, but colleges in which Freemasonry was taught and practised—in fact, that they had been lodges for Freemasons and ancient mysteries. With respect to science and theology he said that the system of reserve must be used. The deacon is not allowed to speak as much on religion as the priest, and the priest

not so much as the bishop, and the bishop not so much as the archbishop, and the archbishop not so much as the Pope. When Wolff asked him the reason of all this, his reply was simply (after looking first around him as if he was watched by an unseen spirit) 'In the temple of Solomon were two pillars—the name of the one was Jachin, and Boaz was the name of the other.' When Wolff asked him to explain he merely replied, 'Piu non vi posso dire' (more I cannot tell you). Wolff, at that time, thought that all this was absurdity, and told Caviglia so. But now Wolff understands the whole reason for this mystical answer, and Caviglia was quite right not to tell it. And though Wolff knows now what prevented Caviglia from speaking more plainly, he can himself only repeat to the reader the same words, 'Piu non vi posso dire.' Once Wolff asked his friend how old he was. Caviglia replied, 'Four times fifteen.' When Wolff asked him why he replied in this way, he answered, 'Piu non,' &c. And so Wolff must again say to the reader, although he knows the reason of that reply. Caviglia also one day asked Wolff where he came from, and whither he was going? Wolff said he came from England and was going to Jerusalem. Caviglia said it was not the answer he expected. Wolff asked what answer, then, he must give? Caviglia replied that he must find out; and he has since found out the expected answer, but cannot tell it to others." * * * * "Suliman Pacha said Freemasonry is to be found in chap. iv. of Revelations. Wolff distinctly knows to which verse he alluded, which every good Free and Accepted Mason will immediately find out."

THE ORDINANCES OF STRASBOURG.

It is reported that Erwin of Steinbach, when commencing the Cathedral of Strasbourg, founded in that city a lodge, which was the centre and model of other lodges in Europe. The heads of the lodges, established after the plan set them, assembled at Ratisbon on the 25th of April, 1459, and drew up an act of incorporation, which instituted in perpetuity the Lodge of Strasbourg as the chief lodge, and its president the Grand Master of Freemasons in Germany. This was formally sanctioned by the Emperor Maximilian in the year 1498, and was afterwards ratified by the Emperor Charles the V. and Ferdinand the I. These Ordinances, renewed and revised, were printed in the year 1563. Will some brother kindly communicate the originals or a translation?—STUDENS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

A WORD OR TWO IN FAVOUR OF "THE POLITE LETTER WRITER."

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—It was with much surprise, not unmingled with regret, that I read in last week's number a letter signed "A Lover of Plain English," in which the writer says that, although not a Steward at the forthcoming anniversary of the Freemasons' Girls' School, he received three separate packets of circulars relating to that Festival; and in the fulness of his wrath he proceeds to criticise the

language of the circular, holding up to ridicule the document itself, as well as those connected with the Institution, however guiltless they may be of any share in the composition in question.

As regards the first charge, the Secretary declares that he has not sent circulars to any but Stewards; and when some of that body have had a second supply, it has been on their own application only. Here we have assertion against assertion, and in such case, without wishing to throw any doubt on the writer's credibility, he must be reminded that the usual course is to accept the testimony of one who speaks in his own proper person, in preference to that of an individual who shelters himself under the guise of an anonymous signature.

As to the document in question, I have ascertained that the form of circular was adopted a few years back by an estimable brother, who was Honorary Secretary to the Board of Stewards on that occasion, and whose zealous and disinterested exertions on behalf of our Charities must, in the opinion of all right-minded brethren, far outweigh any accidental imperfection either in grammar or style. The same form has been in use since that time, and if the Secretary of the Institution has overlooked the inaccuracy, such oversight may fairly be assumed to have arisen from his not being more desirous of scrutinising the composition of others than of being himself subjected to a similar ordeal. But, surely a slight oversight of this kind can hardly justify so angry and personal a letter, to say nothing of the probable injury that may accrue to the Charity in consequence. A private note addressed to the Secretary would have evidenced a better feeling, and have answered every useful purpose; and any little hint contained therein would have been received in the true spirit of Masonry, and have met with every attention.

As to the House Committee, of which I am a member, that body cannot be fairly chargeable with any complicity in the matter, as the circulars relating to the Festivals emanate from the Stewards, and are issued by their recognised Secretary.

Notwithstanding the worthy brother's professions of regard for "Plain English," he fails to convey to my dull understanding what he means by the remark "There cannot be a question that under the present high charity pressure brought to bear upon the Craft it is extremely difficult to get subscriptions." Does our friend complain of the "high pressure" process? And why? Surely it must be more difficult to obtain subscriptions *without* those exertions than *with* them. The "Lover of Plain English" can scarcely mean to assert the contrary. If the worthy but irascible brother, instead of being disposed to be captious, will get rid of his spleen and endeavour to devise some other, and better, means of benefiting the Charities than those now in operation, I will undertake to say that any suggestions to that end will receive the deliberate consideration of all those who are concerned in the management of these Institutions.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

JAMES RICHMOND SILEEN.

Upper St. Martin's-lane, W.C.,

April 18th, 1865.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

A balance of £32 remaining in the hands of the Stewards after paying the expenses of the late festival for the Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows, the money has been handed over in augmentation of the collection made on that occasion.

We remind the brethren that the anniversary festival of the Girls' School will take place on the 10th of May, and that Bro. Havers, P.G.W., will preside. We trust that the attendance and the collection will be worthy of the occasion.

The inauguration of the new Schoolhouse for the Boys at Wood Green, is to take place on the 8th July, under the presidency of the M.W., the Grand Master.

The anniversary of the Stability Lodge of Instruction is to be held at Radley's Hotel on the 25th April. The chair at the Banquet will be occupied by Bro. John Havers, P.G.W.

THE ROYAL FREEMASONS' SCHOOL FOR FEMALE CHILDREN.

On Thursday, the 13th inst., a Quarterly General Court of the Governors of this Institution was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, for the purpose of transacting the general business of the charity, and electing twelve children, out of a list of sixteen candidates, to the benefits of its funds.

The proceedings were presided over by Bro. John Udall, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Institution.

From a statement submitted by the Committee, it appeared that since the Institution was established no less than over 800 children have been educated, clothed, and maintained within its walls, most of whom, at the expiration of their term of residence, had returned to their parents or friends, while those who had no home had been provided with suitable situations, or apprenticed to respectable trades. The Institution was situated on the high ground of Battersea-rise, adjoining Wandsworth-common. An enlarged system of education had for some time past been in operation in it, and by a recent enactment children remained in the establishment till sixteen years of age. The number in the school had hitherto been limited to eighty, but accommodation for increasing that number to 100 had been provided by building an extra wing at a cost of upwards of £1,500. That, together with an additional outlay of £600 for the maintenance of the twenty additional children, all of whom had been admitted during the past two years, rendered it necessary that a special and earnest appeal should be made to the Craft for funds to carry out so desirable an object. In November last there were 101 children in the Institution, and the election of that day would fill up the vacancies occasioned by those who had left since that date.

The usual business of the Quarterly Court was then transacted. Authority was given to pay £820 1s. 4d., the amount of the Midsummer bills for the past quarter. Mr. Benjamin Bond Cabbell was elected treasurer of the Institution, and thirty brethren from the list of annual subscribers were, in accordance with the usual practice, elected life governors and members of the general committee.

The polling for the election of the children then commenced, the Chairman stating that while in the polling papers ten were said to be the number who would be elected, one girl had since the making up of the list died, and another had left the Institution, so that twelve would be elected to keep up the full number

in the Institution. The candidates consisted of nine who were unsuccessful at the last election and seven new candidates.

The Chairman having declared the poll as follows, the proceedings terminated:—

Warner, Maria Louisa	543
Winter, Annie Gorton	431
Fleck, Selina Jane	413
Kelly, Emily Frances.....	315
Schofield, Louisa Emily	299
Johnson, Edna Jane	289
Manger, Mary Anne Alice	277
Hemmings, Nora Taylor	277
Measor, Elizabeth Adelaide	274
Wicks, Emma Louisa.....	267
Holland, Ellen.....	257
Palot, Mary Jane	217

Woodcock, Sarah Ann	191
Buck, Priscilla Sarah.....	152
Stansfield, Clara	100
Gillard, Eliza Alice	15

The first twelve were elected.

Votes of thanks to the President and Scrutineers closed the proceedings.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

A quarterly court of the Governors and subscribers of this School was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday last, Bro. John Symonds, V.P., in the chair.

The minutes of the various Committee meetings having been read,

The following resolutions were moved and carried.

"That the son of a member of the Order contributing five guineas or upwards to the funds of the institution, on the occasion of the inauguration of the new building, shall receive *two* votes at all elections of children for every such sum of five guineas so contributed."

"That the Trustees and Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys be authorised and empowered to borrow £10,000, for the purpose of paying for the works in connection with the new building, and for the furniture and other necessaries appertaining thereto, by mortgage of the lands and premises at Wood Green, or otherwise, as may be determined."

"That in the event of any candidate elected for admission to the Institution being proved indigible for reception from any cause, his name shall be struck out from the list of elected candidates, and the name of the properly qualified candidate polling the next highest number of votes at such election shall be declared, and be elected in his stead."

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

Kelly, Charles George.....	805
Floyd, Henry William	723
Tappolet, Frederick	720
West, Walter Bowditch.....	714
Jones, Edwin Price.....	700
Denton, Henry Joseph	691
Recknell, George Samuel	614
Hill, J. Stainforth	612
Wilson, Robert Christopher	581
Dawson, William	522
Smith, Oliver	510
Gasson	434

Pearson, Lauman Saxe	420
Bayly, Alfred James	404
Collingwood, Samuel	371
Crabtree, Benjamin T.	370
Martin, John Ross	269
Johnson, Henry	260
Story, William George	246
Hicknott, Henry.....	147

Meeryweather, J. Thomas	140
Owen, William Henry	104
Martin, Ed. Henry	69
Ashton, Henry Jas.	65
Jackson, Herbert James	41
Bentley, Edwin Thomas.....	31
Graham, Frederick	2
Wheeler, Harry Slater	1

The first twelve were elected.

Votes of thanks to the Scrutineers and Chairman closed the proceedings.

[It will be observed that the boy Wilson whose case we advocated, has been elected—but that Crabtree was again unsuccessful. In addition to the brethren whose names we have already published as assisting us, we have to return our thanks to Bro. Adlard, and to a brother who sent us anonymously ten proxies for Crabtree, whose case we shall again take up, and we trust more successfully, at the next election.]

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE.—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday last, when Bro. Richard Spencer, P.M., of the Bank of England and other lodges was duly installed as W.M. of this the premier lodge of England, by Bro. William Watson, the Secretary. At the conclusion of the ceremony Bros. John Gurton, P.M., of the St. James' Union and Strawberry Hill Lodges, was appointed S.W.; George Spencer States, P.M., of the Phoenix and St. Thomas's Lodges, J.W.; William Kirby, P.M., of the Prudent Brethren Lodge, S.D.; Henry Norman, P.M., of the Manchester Lodge, J.D. Some formal business having been transacted, the brethren adjourned to dinner, the W.M. being supported by his officers and by Bros. Bennett, Samuels, and H. G. Warren, P.M.'s; Patten, P.G.D., Sec. of the Girls' School, and Bincks, Sec. of the Boys' School. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts, with one or two extra, were admirably proposed and responded to, and in the course of the evening every brother present entered his name as a Steward for the inauguration of the Boys' School in July next. The brethren separated at an early hour.

EASTERN STAR LODGE (No. 95).—The last regular meeting of the season was held on Tuesday, the 18th inst., at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. In the absence of Bro. Griffiths the W.M., Bro. E. W. Davis, P.M., occupied the chair, and initiated Mr. John Faith. This is one of the Athol lodges, and the warrant it holds—one of confirmation—records the fact that its original warrant is dated September 4, 1765, consequently in September next the lodge reaches its centenary. Bro. How therefore moved, and Bro. Marriot seconded, a resolution that a committee be appointed to take the necessary steps for obtaining permission of the M.W. Grand Master for the members to adopt and wear at all Masonic assemblies a jewel demonstrative of the event; the resolution was carried unanimously. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to their usual pleasant banquet.

PHENIX LODGE (No. 173).—The monthly meeting of this excellent lodge was held on the 8th inst., under the presidency of Bro. Hubbard, W.M., who most ably initiated Mr. White and Mr. Jagers into the Order, passed two and raised one brother, to their respective degrees. An election then took place for W.M., when the ballot fell on Bro. George Wilson. Bro. G. S. States was re-elected treasurer, and it was unanimously resolved to present a P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Hubbard in testimony of his valuable services during the past year. The lodge having been closed the brethren partook of a light refreshment and separated at an early hour.

PANMURE LODGE (No. 720).—The annual election of officers took place at this lodge on the 17th inst., when Bro. Thomas, P.M. of several London lodges, who had consecrated the Panmure Lodge on its establishment, and who had filled in it various offices and always exhibited the greatest interest in its prosperity, was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Reid, the retiring W.M., was elected Treasurer in the room of Bro. Farmer whose resignation, after several years service, was accepted with regret. Bro. Bradley was re-elected Tyler. A vote of thanks to Bro. Stevens, P.M. and Sec. was

ordered to be placed on the minutes in recognition of his services as Steward at the last Boys' Festival. After the raising of Bro. Smetzer to the sublime degree of a M.M. and the transaction of the remaining Masonic business, the brethren sat down to a substantial repast, at which (in the absence of the W.M.) Bro. Stevens presided, supported by Bro. N. B. Allen, P.M., Prov. G. Treas. South Wales; N. W. Hodges, P.M., P. Prov. G. Sec.; W. Lloyd Jones, S13; and numerous other members and visiting brethren. After the three first Masonic toasts the acting W.M. proposed "Our Provincial Grand Lodges," coupled with the names of Bro. Allen and Hodges, the former of whom suitably replied, and proposed "The Health of Bro. Stevens," which was duly acknowledged. Bro. Hodges proposed "The Health of the W.M. elect," whom he eulogised for his general conciliatory manners and courteous behaviour towards his brethren. He was confident that the lodge would prosper under his direction. Bro. Thomas thanked the brethren for the cordiality with which they had received the toast. Bro. W. Lloyd Jones of the New Concord Lodge, returned thanks on behalf of the visitors, and Bro. Oswyn for the officers. The brethren shortly afterwards separated, having passed a very agreeable evening which was much enlivened by the excellent singing of several brethren.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*Lodge St. Aubyn* (No. 954).—The regular meeting of this lodge took place on Tuesday, the 11th inst., at 4.30 p.m. precisely. The meeting was called thus early in consequence of the amount of work, there being no fewer than ten candidates altogether, viz., four raisings, three passings, and three initiations. Accordingly at 4.10 p.m. the W.M. Bro. Horace B. Kent, opened the lodge and commenced the business of the evening. The minutes of the last regular and subsequent emergent meetings having been read and confirmed, a ballot took place for Messrs. Redgate, Hay G. Picken, and John Graham, which proved unanimous in their favour. Bros. Jones, Snell, Greenslade, and Scott, were then examined, and such being satisfactory the W.M. entrusted them. Bros. Jones and Snell were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and subsequently Bros. Greenslade and Scott. Bros. Duncan, Joey, and Nicholson were then examined, entrusted, and passed to the second degree, all the duties of the evening thus far having been performed by the W.M. The W.M. having left the chair was succeeded by Bro. S. Chapple, P.M., 159 and 954, who proceeded to the ceremony of initiating the candidates already ballotted for and accepted. This he performed in his usual admirable style, the solemn charge peculiar to this degree being most impressively delivered by Bro. F. G. Irwin, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W. of Andalusia. The W.M. having again taken the chair said he should be most happy on the next regular lodge to hear the names of those brethren submitted to him to fill the offices respectively of W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler. Business being ended the lodge was closed with prayer at 9.10 p.m. precisely.

DORSETSHIRE.

WAREHAM.—*Lodge of Unity* (No. 386).—A lodge of emergency of this old and now rapidly reviving lodge was held on the 12th inst., for the purpose of raising to the sublime degree of M.M. Bro. H. Patten, of Portland, and advantage was taken of the occasion by the W.M. to discharge a most pleasing duty which had devolved upon him. We should premise that during the year 1861 the then W.M., Bro. Poynter, had, as a true man and Mason, so strenuously exerted himself in furthering the interests of his lodge, as undoubtedly to have rescued it from hopeless decay. On the evening of his retirement from office (St. John's Day) it was resolved unanimously that a P.M.'s jewel should be publicly presented to him as the most suitable, although certainly inadequate token of the value the brethren attached to his services. Last lodge night, being the first opportunity, the S.W., as the proposer of this well-merited tribute, upon the lodge being opened in the F.C. degree, called upon the W.M. to suspend at the breast of his J.P.M. and ever-ready and capable coadjutor the small offering of his lodge's esteem. The W.M., Bro. Barfoot, remarked that he felt it but a right and just thing that Bro. Poynter's Masonic abilities and zeal should be fully

acknowledged and markedly recognised, as far as possible, by those for whom he not only had laboured, but moreover continued to labour. To Bro. Poynter the lodge owed a second life: it, indeed, was flourishing now again. Pleasant prospects for the future were dawning upon it; but let it flourish ever so vigorously, he, for his part (and he trusted that he could say it as the feeling of all the brethren present), should never forget that to Bro. Poynter so very much—he could not say how much—was owing. And you, Bro. Poynter, I am sure will never forget that your work has been appreciated, and gratefully and warmly recognised. May the jewel hanging upon your breast be another link to unite you to us, if any link can be wanting; and may the Great Architect of the Universe prolong your days to their furthest limit that you may labour more abundantly, and even more successfully, in selecting good materials and sound for the Lodge of Unity, and in securing those materials, when selected, in their proper places. Bro. Poynter disclaimed such credit as was thus attributed to him, affirming that to other brethren who had so cordially assisted him during his year of office, most certainly to Bro. Barfoot, his S.W., whatever success had attended him was mainly due, but he felt thanks which it would be very hard fully to express. The lodge was then raised to the third degree, when Bro. Poynter was desired by the W.M. to proceed with the sublime ceremony, which he went through with a precision and earnestness that elicited the warmest eulogiums from all present. No further business being before the lodge it was duly closed.

SURREY.

CROYDON.—*East Surrey Lodge of Concord* (No. 463).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 6th inst., at the Greyhound. Bro. J. G. Chancellor, W.M., opened the lodge, assisted by his officers. The minutes of the former meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Thomas Hawkins was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Woodward, the W.M. elect, was then presented to receive at the hands of the W.M. the benefit of installation. The Board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. Woodward was installed as the W.M. for the ensuing year. All the brethren were then regularly admitted, and he was formally proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees. He thereupon appointed and invested his officers. Business being finished, the W.M. duly closed the lodge. The brethren afterwards sat down to an excellent banquet, served up in Bro. Bean's best style. After dinner the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and honoured, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

LAYING A FOUNDATION STONE.

On Wednesday the foundation stone of a Mechanics' Institution at Lockwood, near Huddersfield, was laid by Earl de Grey and Ripon, Prov. G. Master, with full Masonic ceremonial, in the presence of a vast concourse of spectators. His lordship arrived in the town by the train at 10 a.m., and was received by a guard of honour, composed of ninety men of the 6th West Yorkshire (Huddersfield) (Rifle Volunteers). Subsequently a procession was formed at the Masonic Hall, South Parade, a large number of Masonic lodges being represented, and proceeded to the place where the ceremony was to be performed, where commodious platforms were erected for the spectators. The banners of the Masonic lodges, the flags of the Mechanics' Institution, the dresses of the ladies, and the uniforms of the riflemen, together with the large assembly of Masons in full Masonic costume, rendered the spectacle an extremely pleasing one. The proceedings commenced with a verse of the National Anthem, followed by prayer by the Prov. G. Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. J. Hope, M.A., Halifax; and then Bro. Bentley Shaw, Prov. G.M., President of the Institution, presented to Earl de Grey and Ripon a silver trowel. A mallet was also presented, and Bros. R. N. Nelson, Prov. G. Sec. Leeds; J. G. Berry, Prov. G. Treas., Huddersfield; W. Cocking, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, Huddersfield; D. A. Cooper, W.M.; J. Roberts, W.M.; S. Hardy, P.M., Huddersfield; and M. J. H. Abbey, architect, took part in the ceremonial. After the stone had been laid,

Earl DE GREY and RYON addressed the assembly. He said:—Ladies and gentlemen, I will now ask you before we conclude this ceremonial, to allow me to address to you a few observations upon the occasion which has called us together to-day. We have met here in this large assemblage to take

part, each of us in our respective degrees, in the good work of laying the foundation stone of the new Mechanics' Institute in this district. It is not here, in Huddersfield or its neighbourhood, that I need detain you by dilating upon the value of Mechanics' Institutes. During the long period of now twelve years since I have had the satisfaction of being well acquainted with this borough, I have learned to know how thoroughly you value institutes of this description, and you have here in the Mechanics' Institution of Huddersfield an establishment which all the friends of institutes have long been accustomed to regard as a model for the imitation of others—(hear, hear)—because the object has been solid, earnest, and not superficial study; because there the friends and managers of the Institution have constantly endeavoured to make it a real place of education and of instruction, and not merely a substitute for the reading-room or the club. (Hear, hear.) Knowing well, therefore, how thoroughly the real objects of such institutions as this are appreciated in this district, and seeing in the vast multitude by which we are surrounded to-day the best proof that that interest is as lively now as it has been during the last ten or twenty years, I feel that I can dispense on this occasion with the necessity of detaining you by dilating on the objects which this Institution has in view. All that I can say is that I sincerely trust that it may be worthy of this neighbourhood, and its predecessor in Huddersfield, of which the foundation stone was laid not many years ago, on an occasion when I had also the pleasure of being present—(applause)—and that this Institution may grow up as a dutiful child of the Huddersfield Institution, striving only to walk in the steps of that worthy example. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Bentley Shaw in the address which he just made to me spoke to us of the difference between operative and speculative Masonry. I am not about to enter now into the mysteries of the Masonic Craft, nor to tell the ladies any of the secrets which they are always so anxious to learn—(laughter)—but this at least I may say—that I am confident I speak the sentiments of a good Mason, as I certainly speak the sentiments which I have always entertained, when I say that it is, in my opinion, one of the first claims that these institutions have upon our support and our approbation that they are intended to bring, and that they do bring, when well conducted, the means of increasing knowledge, and of developing education within the reach of the operative classes. It is to that spread of education that we owe those great results which have been attained of late years, and which have made our country so happy, so prosperous, and so peaceful. (Applause.) And I trust that we shall never relax in that course, but steadily improving on methods, and developing our means of education—combining the voluntary efforts of the people with the aid of Parliament and of Government—we shall continue that wise system which has borne such fruits in the past, and which, I trust, the blessings may be, through the means of this Institute and others, long felt in this important district. (Cheers.)

When his lordship had concluded, thanks were voted on the motion of Mr. J. Crossland, seconded by Mr. N. Berry, the National Anthem was sung, and the proceedings closed with a series of hearty cheers for the earl and countess, the Institution, the ladies, &c.

ROYAL ARCH.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*St. Aubyn Chapter* (No. 954).—This Chapter held their quarterly convocation at the Morice Town Freemason's Hall, on the evening of Monday, the 17th inst. The E. Comp. L. S. Methan, P. Prov. G.H., P.Z., and First Principal of the Chapter, as Z. The minutes of the last regular chapter having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for the candidates named on the summons, and the same being unanimous they were declared elected, and being in attendance were introduced and elected to this supreme degree. The lectures of each chair were respectively given by E. Comps. Methan, Z.; Chapple, H.; and Kent J., in a manner rarely equalled. The by-laws for the government of the chapter were read by the Scribe E. and confirmed. The Principal having received an intimation that the Grand Chapter of the Province would shortly be held at the St. Aubyn Chapter Rooms, a committee was nominated

to make such arrangements as might be deemed desirable. The voting papers of the Royal Benevolent Institution were ordered to be forwarded to the Grand Superintendent of the Province. A cordial vote of thanks was proposed and unanimously carried, thanking Comp. Littleton for his kindness in presenting a very handsome set of working tools to the chapter. The business of the evening was closed by the nomination of the officers for the ensuing year. Slight refreshment was served in the banquet rooms, the E. Comp. Methan presiding, who, in reply to the toast of his health, congratulated the Companions of the Chapter on the efficiency of their working and the appointment of their furniture, concluding his speech by some wholesome advice, and wished every prosperity to St. Aubyn Lodge and Chapter.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

HANDSWORTH.—*St. James's Chapter* (No. 482).—The opening and consecration of this chapter connected with the St. James's Lodge (No. 482), held at the New Inn, took place on the 20th ult. The ceremony of consecration was performed by M.E. Comp. W. K. Harvey, Prov. G. Superintendent for Staffordshire, assisted by Comps. John Burton, P.G.B., and Foster Gough, P.G.J. The music performed during the service was composed and directed by Comp. J. A. Beaumont, E. 938, Org. 587, who presided at the harmonium, and was efficiently rendered by Comps. Pursall, Beresford, Bragg, and Beaumont. Comp. Edwin Yates having been installed as M.E.Z., and Comps. J. J. Turner and J. Hopkins, as H. and J.; and the M.E.Z. having appointed and invested his officers, Bros. G. W. Bayley, John Hutton, G. T. Green, Rev. B. Willmore, Henry Davis, Henry Yates, J. H. Pearson, F. Meyer, W. C. Woodcock, and E. W. Hoffman were balloted for, elected, and duly exalted to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Masons, the various lectures during the progress of the ceremony being admirably given by Comps. Hopkins, Turner, and E. Yates. After the conclusion of the ceremony the companions proceeded to the banquetting room, where an elegant repast was provided. The M.E.Z. Comp. Yates presided, supported by Comps. J. J. Turner, H. and J. Hopkins, J.; M.E. Comps. W. K. Harvey, Prov. G. Superintendent; J. Burton, P.G.N.; F. Gough, P.G.J., &c. After the cloth was drawn the usual toasts were given and responded to, and the proceedings of the evening were enlivened with some excellent songs by Comp. Pursall, Machin, and Hoffman.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

DEVONSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CONCLAVE.

A Grand Conclave of the Province of Devon was held on Wednesday, the 5th inst., at the Temperance Hall, Devonport, by command of the Very Eminent Provincial Grand Commander, Sir Knight the Rev. John Hayshe, who, after the usual preliminaries, appointed his officers as follows:—

Sir Knt. Moore.....	Prov. D.G.M.
" Capt. Davy	" G. Prior.
" Sir W. Fairfax	" G. Sub-Prior.
" Rev. R. Benden	" G. Prelate.
" W. M. Tweedy	" G. 1st Capt. of Col.
" J. T. Liscombe.....	" G. 2nd Capt. of Col.
" R. Rodda	" G. Chancellor.
" T. Mills	" G. Vice-Chancellor.
" J. Gibbard.....	" G. Registrar.
" J. Ash	" G. Treasurer.
" H. O'Neil	" G. Chamberlain.
" W. H. W. Blight.....	" G. Hospitaller.
" T. S. Bayly	" G. 1st Expert.
" T. Linde.....	" G. 2nd Expert.
" John Heath	" G. 1st Standard Bearer.
" John R. H. Spry	" G. 2nd Standard Bearer.
" E. Worth	" G. Almoner.
" J. Thomas	" G. Dir. of Cers.
" E. Arnold	" G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.
" T. Chergwin.....	" G. 1st Assist. Dir. of Cers.
" J. Hocken, jun.....	" G. 2nd Assist. Dir. of Cers.
" S. Chapple.....	" G. 1st Capt. of Lines.
" Rev. G. Ross.....	" G. 2nd Capt. of Lines.
" J. Sadler	" G. Sword Bearer.

Sir Knt. H. B. Kent	„	G. 1st Herald.
„ H. Gribble	„	G. 2nd Herald.
„ E. Anderton	„	G. Organist.
„ Vincent Bird.....	„	G. Banner Bearer.
„ J. Gregory	}	G. Equeries.
„ J. Rogers		

On the conclusion of the appointments the By-Law Committee brought up the report, and after some slight discussion the by-laws as amended were passed and ordered to be printed.

A vote of £5 5s. was made to the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport.

The duties of the Almoner having been performed, the Grand Conclave was closed. Immediately after which the

ROYAL SUSSEX ENCAMPMENT was opened, the V.E.P.G. Commander occupying the chair of E.C. Sir Knight Clase as E.C. elect for the ensuing year was presented, obligated, and was forthwith installed into his chair of office, and appointed and invested his officers, viz.:—Sir Knights Theodor Laude, 1st Capt. of Col.; Samuel Chapple, 2nd Capt. of Col.; Vincent Bird, Prelate; John R. H. Spry, Chancellor; Francis Codd, Treasurer; B. W. Stoneman, Expert; E. J. Worth, Capt. of Lines; John Rogers, Equerry.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Royal Kent Encampment.*—The annual meeting of this encampment was held according to ancient custom on Good Friday, when it was opened by the P.E.C. Sir Knight C. J. Bannister, in the absence of the E.C. Sir Knight Swithenbank. On the ballot being called, Companion Emra Holmes of the Chapter of Strict Benevolence, Sunderland, now proposed in open encampment by Sir Knight B. Levy and seconded by Sir Knight J. Jensen, he was found to be duly elected. Comp. Emra Holmes being in attendance was properly prepared and duly installed a Sir Knight Templar with all the impressive ceremonial observed in this degree, by P.E.C. Sir Knight Bannister. P.E.C. Sir Knight Hotham was then installed E.C. for the ensuing year by Sir Knight Bannister. The Eminent Commander then appointed the following officers:—Sir Knights Punshon, Prior; Dalziel, Sub-Prior; Bannister, Chancellor; Edward Shotton, 1st Captain; Jensen 2nd Captain; Banning, Registrar; Ludwig, Almoner; B. Levy, Expert; Poulsham, Captain of Lines; Thompson, Standard Bearer; Storey, 1st Herald; Emra Holmes, 2nd Herald. The other business of the encampment being concluded it was closed, and the usual banquet was served. On the removal of the cloth the E.C. proposed “The Queen” which was of course duly honoured. Then came “The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Royal Exalted Religious and Military Order of H.R.D.M.K.D.S.H.,” “Grand Elected Knights Templars and Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.” The E.C. proposed next “The Grand Officers of the Grand Conclave of England and Wales,” coupled with the name of Sir Knight Punshon, who the E.C. remarked was held in such high estimation as to have been consulted on more than one occasion by both the Grand Conclaves of England and Scotland. Sir Knight Punshon, in responding, said he had now been 50 years a Templar, and this (the Royal Kent) was the only Encampment where the Grand Cross of the Order of which he was Grand Master, was worked in the North. Sir Knight Bannister then proposed their “Eminent Commander Sir Knight Hotham” in flattering terms, who made a suitable response, and gave as the next toast “Sir Knight Bannister” whom he eulogised as a most enthusiastic Templar and a very distinguished brother in the Craft. “Our newly-installed Companion in Arms, Sir Knight Emra Holmes” was then given and others followed, and the evening was spent in that harmony and good fellowship which always characterise the gatherings of brethren of the mystic tie. This encampment was founded in 1812 under the auspices of his Royal Highness the late Duke of Kent. In 1844 the Hon. Arthur James Plunkett Lord Killeen, was installed a Sir Knight Templar in 1822 Sir Charles Loraine, Bart., became Eminent Commander, and in 1830 the late Earl of Durham succeeded to that office, which he held till 1840, in which year Sir Charles Loraine was Grand Prior. Sir Cuthbert Sharp was Herald in 1839, and in 1841 became Aide-de-camp; in 1843 Savile Craven Henry Ogle, M.P., joined, since which time the encampment has continued to flourish.

MARK MASONRY.

DEVONSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masters for this county was held on Thursday, the 6th inst., at the Charity Lodge Room, Union-road, Plymouth, by the R.W. Bro. the Rev. John Hayshe, P.G.M. A committee to frame by-laws for the government of the province was appointed, a report of which will be brought up at a meeting to be held in June next. The R.W. brother then appointed his Grand Officers for the year:—

Bro. R. Dowse	Prov. D.G.M.	
„ Major Brent	„ S.G.W.	
„ Captain Wood	„ J.G.W.	
„ J. C. Radford	„ 1st. G. Overseer.	
„ J. Sadler	„ 2nd „	
„ J. Woods	„ 3rd „	
„ Rev. J. C. Carwithen	„ G. Chap.	
„ J. S. Phillips	„ G. Treas.	
„ J. Briggs	„ G. Reg.	
„ R. Rodda	„ G. Sec.	
„ Thos. Heath	„ G. Assist. Sec.	
„ T. Ash	„ S.G.D.	
„ C. Elphinstone	„ J.G.D.	
„ W. Ashford	„ Inspector of Works.	
„ W. Hill	„ G. Dir. of Cers.	
„ J. May	„ G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.	
„ H. B. Kent	„ G. Sword Bearer.	
„ Hallett	„ G. Org.	
„ Lose	„ G. Puist.	
„ Thos. Ellis	}	„ G. Stewards.
„ S. K. Gudridge		
„ I. K. Jane	}	„ G. Tylers.
„ J. Gregory		
„ J. Rogers	„	

Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed with the usual solemnities.

JERSEY.

For several months past the arrangements have been in progress for the establishment in this island of a Mark Lodge under the registry of the Grand Mark Lodge of England. The degree has existed there for some years in connexion with the Justice Craft Lodge under Irish jurisdiction; and as many English Masons have availed themselves of this opportunity of obtaining it, they formed a good nucleus for the foundation of another Mark Lodge under English Warrant. The first meeting of its promoters was held in February, when a petition was determined upon, and three brethren were recommended as W.M. and Wardens. In a few weeks the petition was granted and a warrant issued. At a subsequent meeting the other officers were appointed, who have frequently assembled for the purpose of instruction in the ritual. Meanwhile all the other requisite preparations were made, and three Past Masters of the Justice Lodge having kindly undertaken the task of installing the W.M., Monday, April 10th, was fixed for the opening. The brethren accordingly assembled at the Masonic Temple, St. Helier, soon after five o'clock in the evening. The chair was taken by Bro. Grimmond, P.M., who, after opening the lodge, explained the purpose of the assembly, and called on the Secretary to read the minutes of previous meetings, which were subsequently confirmed, declared valid, and signed by the Installing Master. The warrant was also read, and the lodge duly constituted under the title of the Casarean Lodge of Mark Masters (No. 74). Bro. Dr. Blood, P.M. and W.M., and Bro. Hastings P.M., then presented Bro. Dr. Hopkins for the benefit of installation, who was duly obligated as Master elect, after having given his assent to the usual conditions. The brethren having been requested to retire, a Board of Installed Masters was formed, by whom the W.M. was duly installed in the chief chair of the lodge. On their return the brethren gave the customary salute. Bro. Dr. Hopkins, W.M. then delivered the following address:—

“Brethren, we have much on our hands this evening, on which account, as well as others, the ceremony just completed has been made as short as possible, too much so to be in perfect accordance with the arrangements usual on such occasions. The exact form of installation to be permanently adopted not having yet been arranged by the constituted authorities, though it has for some time been under consideration; the ritual used

to-day was at the discretion of the brethren, Past Masters, whose long experience was a sufficient guarantee that nothing which was essential would be omitted, and who have so kindly, nay, generously, come forward to perform the ceremonial necessary to enable us to commence operations as a regularly constituted lodge. Had they refused their aid we could not have complained, because the jurisdiction under which their Mark Lodge exists is different from ours, and it must be confessed that we may very considerably interfere with their interests. They have, however, acted with true Masonic feeling, and in the spirit of universal brotherhood, notwithstanding that in the Craft generally we are not called upon to do anything which may be 'detrimental to ourselves or our connections,' by accepting our invitation in the most disinterested manner. We must all admit that the style and efficiency of their efforts have been admirable, and in perfect accordance with the cheerfulness and promptitude which characterised their response to our call. Therefore, our first duty is formally and heartily to acknowledge the obligation we owe to them." I propose "That the best thanks of the Cæsarean Lodge of Mark Masters (No. 74) be presented to Bro. Grimmond, P.M., for conducting the ceremony of installation, and to Bro. Dr. Blood, W.M. and P.M., and Bro. Hastings, P.M., for their kind assistance and co-operation therein; with an expression of the appreciation the brethren entertain of the skill and ability with which the ceremony has been administered, as well as of the generous feelings which have prompted a ready and cheerful compliance with their request; and, farther, that the Secretary be instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution in writing to each of these Past Masters."

The preceding resolution was seconded by Bro. Dr. Small, S.W., and carried unanimously, after which the W.M. resumed his address as follows:—

Brethren, having discharged this first duty, it now only remains for me to state my own sense of the honour you have done me personally, by the confidence you have displayed in placing me in the high position of the first Master of a Mark Masters' Lodge under English jurisdiction in Jersey. When I came to this island seven years ago, I was by many regarded with distrust and suspicion. My only course, therefore, was to labour on in the Craft, to endeavour by my conduct to prove myself at least not an unworthy member of it, and to endeavour to entitle myself to that respect and consideration which each among us owes to every other who faithfully carries out the great principles of Masonry, whether hailing from this or from any other province. The rank I have held in a Craft Lodge in Jersey, and that which your favour has now conferred upon me bear testimony to your kind regard as the reward of my feeble efforts, for which I am truly grateful, and I trust that when my term of office shall have expired you will have no reason to regret a misplaced confidence.

I confess that in the position which Mark Masonry now holds, particularly in this province, there are some difficulties to encounter, and there may be some obloquy to be incurred. I rely most confidently on your support and assistance in overcoming them all, and where differences of opinion occur I trust that they will be regarded with feelings of charity, without however calling for any sacrifice of principle. Let us bear in mind that whatever may be our private opinions on the various questions that may arise, all are bound by the constitutions of each branch of the fraternity to which they belong, and that those who hold high office are further pledged by certain obligations of a more stringent character which they dare not violate. There may be different views as to the extent of those obligations, especially where two different sources of authority appear to clash or to be inconsistent with each other, whatever amount of care is taken to prevent it, and the opinions and actions of such of us as are in responsible positions, must as far as possible, be respected, as to the mode of carrying them out when it can be done without compromise. Unhappily this Mark degree is not recognized by the Craft Grand Lodge of England, and hence there may be conflicting interests which it may be difficult to reconcile. Although we are amenable only to the Grand Mark Lodge, without the intervention of a provincial jurisdiction, the establishment of which would, I conceive, be a mistake, yet we must be careful not to give cause of offence to the local Craft authorities, but endeavour by our moderation and our regard to our earlier Masonic obligations, to win their respect and consideration, as having a concurrent sphere of usefulness, without infringement on established rights and privileges. While on this topic allow me to express my

satisfaction and grateful thanks, that without exception the whole of our members present have complied with the request made in the circular of summons by appearing in the costume appropriate to the Mark degree, for while I have very high authority, that by which I intend to be guided, for allowing Craft clothing to be worn in this lodge under certain circumstances, it is still most desirable that we should maintain uniformity in that respect as well as in ritual.

Lastly, whilst for myself individually determining not to participate in what are called the high ranks of Masonry, consisting of various orders of knighthood, which, though tacked to our order, have still I conceive nothing to do with it, I do claim attention to the Mark degree as being intermediate in the Craft course, cordially recommending that it should be generally taken by Freemasons; and I call upon you all to endeavour to induce your Masonic friends, members of your respective Craft lodges, to become candidates for advancement at our quarterly meetings, and thus secure success to our undertaking this evening so auspiciously inaugurated.

The W.M. invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Grimmond, P.M.; Dr. Small, S.W.; P. W. Benham, J.W.; E. D. Le Conteur, M.O.; J. Durell, S.O.; G. Rogers, J.O.; P. W. Le Quesne, Treas.; W. Adams, Reg.; W. T. Pugsley, Sec.; Josh. Stevens, S.D.; J. Oatley, J.D.; A. Schmitt, Dir. of Cers.; P. Binet, I.G.; H. Du Jardin, Tyler. A ballot was then taken for eleven candidates for advancement, and for Bros. Ph. Le Bruu and Geo. Britton as joining members, all of which were unanimous in their favour. Of the candidates only the following five made their appearance in time for the ceremony:—Bros. C. Le Sueur, Dr. R. G. F. Smith, W. H. Long, J. D. Chevalier, and Philip Blampied. These brethren having been introduced and properly proposed, were duly advanced as Mark Master Masons by the W.M., who also delivered the lecture in explanation of the traditionary history of the degree. Several brethren were proposed for advancement at the next meeting. The W.M. was requested to make arrangements for printing the by-laws, which, having been adopted at a previous meeting, were confirmed with the minutes this evening. The lodge having been closed in the usual form, and with solemn prayer, at eight o'clock the brethren adjourned to the banqueting-room for supper, after which due honours were paid to the Queen and Craft, the Grand Master, the Installing Past Masters, the newly advanced brethren, the W.M., and officers, &c.; and by ten o'clock the proceedings of the evening, which had been of a most satisfactory character, were brought to a close.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

All the associations of a thoroughly English holiday-making were to be found at this theatre on Monday night.

The play of "The Fool's Revenge" commenced the entertainments, Mr. Phelps as the hero, *Bortuceto*, with quickly bandied jests amidst the dissolute noblemen, but deep utterances of emotion when he finds his own daughter has become the victim of his vengeance, securing the frequent acclamations of the auditory.

The play was followed by Milton's "Masque of Comus," which, whilst furthering the object of the present management, who are making laudable exertions to keep the poetical drama on the stage, gives as much scope for musical and scenic embellishment as any of those Easter pieces which the two larger theatres at this season used regularly to bring forward.

That "Comus" had its origin in a real incident, occurring at Ludlow Castle in 1634 few will need to be told. When the Earl of Bridgewater entered on this his official residence, he was visited by a large number of the neighbouring nobility and gentry. His sons, the Lord Brackley and Mr. Thomas Egerton, and his daughter the Lady Alice, being on their journey to join him, were benighted in Haywood Forest, in Herefordshire, and the lady for a short time was lost. The adventure being related to their father, Milton, at the request of his friend Henry Lawes, who taught music in the family, wrote the masque. Lawes set it to music, and

it was acted on Michaelmas night, the two brothers, the young lady, and Lawes himself bearing a part in the representation. "Comus" is an exquisitely beautiful poem, but nearly destitute of everything we more especially look for in a drama. Passion, character, and story are quite absent, and there is very little action or movement of any kind. The poem flows on in a continuous stream of eloquence, fancy and most melodious versification; but there is no dialogue of a thoroughly dramatic character, no replication of divers emotions or natures. The masque, as we have said, was set to music by Henry Lawes, the valued friend of Milton, whose own musical taste had been cultivated in Italy. His music of "Comus" does not appear to have been ever printed, and, with the exception of some fragments, is irrevocably lost. Dr. Arne, however, one hundred years later, reset "Comus" and many have considered this the masterpiece of that composer.

The prominence given to the operatic rendering of the masque on all previous occasions has been again ensured by the engagement of competent vocalists to render the songs and concerted pieces, and the scenic resources of the theatre have been developed in aid of the supernatural effects with Mr. William Beverley's usual skill and taste. In the depths of a wild wood we have nearly the whole extent of the stage picturesquely employed, and the change from the Enchanter's Palace and Hall of Revelry to the water nymph's retreat and Sabrina's translucent home is one of those glittering developments of pictorial and mechanical art which spectators hitherto have only had revealed to them about the last week in December. Mr. Walter Lacy gives the flowing lines of *Comus* with dramatic force and due elocutionary expression; Mr. Edmund Phelps as the *Elder Brother*, and Miss E. Falconer as the *Second Brother*, impart the requisite impressiveness to the admonitory speeches; and Mrs. Hermann Veizin is a perfectly efficient interpreter of the fine blank verse with which the poet has endowed the lips of the lady. Miss Augusta Thomson, who made her *début* here as *Sabrina*, is understood to have been a pupil at the *Paris Conservatoire*, and to have been one of the principal members of the *Bonnes Parisiennes* as well as a provincial actress at the chief towns in the norths of England. Her appearance is prepossessing, her manner pleasing, and her voice, as first heard in the "Echo" song, fresh and well managed. The aid of such well-tried vocalists as Miss Poole, the attendant spirit, and Mr. Henri Drayton and Mr. Wilbye Cooper as the first and second bacchanals, secures the most effective rendering of the familiar solos. "Haste thee, nymph" was very spiritedly given, and, with some other songs, invited a demand for repetition.

The archæological researches and artistic services of Mr. E. W. Keene have secured the completeness of the decorative accessories, and the masque, which has been produced with unusual care, obtained by the brilliancy of its appointments and the charms of its music a loudly expressed verdict of public approval, whilst the curtain fell on the refulgent glories of the final tableau in which the triumph of virtue is now so brilliantly recorded.

HAYMARKET.

When the admirable acting of Mr. Sothorn in "The Woman in Mauve" continues to be a sufficient attraction to the theatre, no prudent manager like Mr. Buckstone would of course think of disturbing the programme. Accordingly the Easter audience had the gratification of seeing this ludicrous exposition of the extravagances of the "sensation" school provided as their entertainment, and the extent of their enjoyment, if measured by the laughter provoked both by Mr. Sothorn and Mr. Buckstone, must have reached the extreme point of their most sanguine expectations. Mr. Sothorn further contributed to the merriment proper to the occasion by ap-

pearing as the illustrious *Dundreary* in the whimsical production called "Lord Dundreary Married and Done for." Mr. Charles Matthews's clever adaptation from the French of "My Wife's Mother," originally produced here in 1833, and not acted for seventeen years, was revived with effect in the earlier part of the evening.

ADELPHI.

The new burlesque extravaganza of "Pan, or the Loves of Echo and Narcissus," appears to be none the less enjoyed for the greater smoothness attained by repetition. What John Keats would have thought of Mr. Toole's notions of the satyr-king "bethinking how melancholy loath thou wast to lose fair Syrinx," it would be hard to conjecture, but certainly his exquisite "Hymn to Pan," where the poet refers to "thinking such as dodge conception to the very bourn of Heaven," must have been a foreshadowing of the bewildering puns which Mr. Byron has perpetrated on the same subject. What the audience thought of Mr. Toole was tolerably well expressed in the laughter and applause which alternately attended his performance; and the extravaganza, preceded by the comedy of "The Love Chase," in which Mr. Webster's *Wildrake* is such a treat to the lovers of good acting, and followed by the new farce of "The Steeple-chase," gave the utmost gratification to a very good attendance.

LYCEUM.

A brilliant audience on Monday night assembled to welcome Mr. Fechter back to the elegant theatre which he has succeeded in bringing into fashionable repute. He has chosen for his *rentrée* a piece the popularity of which has again and again been proved. The title of the play in question has been altered, but the "Mountebank" proves to be nothing but "Belphegor," under a new name. Of the English impersonators of the mountebank hero, Mr. Webster and Mr. Dillon were the most successful; and it is the version made for the latter gentleman by Mr. Charles Webb that, with a few modifications, has been adopted by Mr. Fechter. Not content with vindicating single-handed the histrionic reputation of the country of his education—to cite Gibbon's expression—Mr. Fechter has strengthened his company by the engagement of Mademoiselle Beatrice, who assumed the part of *Belphegor's* wife, and, to cite himself, has "added to the attraction of the 'Mountebank' by introducing for the first time on any stage his son, to impersonate the character of the mountebank's child." Rarely have more strikingly dramatic situations been devised than those which mark the various epochs of the mountebank's motley career, and not often has an actor made better use of his opportunities than Mr. Fechter.

In the congenial part of *Belphegor's* son, Master Fechter evinced such genuine feeling for his early adopted art as should soon ripen into great histrionic capability. The part of the poor conjuror's high-born wife admits of no very varied expression, but the natural grace and unobtrusive earnestness of Madlle. Beatrice lent constant interest to a somewhat monotonous character. Mr. H. Widdicomb absolutely revelled in the practical fun in which *Farfayou*, the mountebank's merryman delights, and kept the audience in a roar of laughter whenever he was on the stage. The scenery and appointments were as picturesque and tasteful as they always are at this house.

ST. JAMES'S.

"Ulysses"—The many-counselled, much-enduring hero, the Scotchman of the Archipelago—is one of the few pre-historic figures that have been permanently interesting. That impartial author, Mr. F. C. Burnand, has always been fond of Odysseus, and it is now for the second time that he traces the story, with a patient pen,

of "Patient Penelope." The travestic produced at the St. James's Theatre was hilariously incongruous. Most of Mr. Burnand's jokes seem to come largely and lustily from the lungs; there is something contagious in his merriment; it is the fun of animal spirits—the humour of a good digestion.

The whole story of "Ulysses" is neatly compressed into half a dozen scenes. Beginning with the beginning, we find ourselves in full Olympus, and there is a roar of recognition as Miss Charlotte—*Jupiter*—Saunders steps forth, marvellously made up into a bewildering amalgam of Jove, Julius Cæsar, and Napoleon III. An active young *Mercury*, in the shape of Mr. H. J. Montague, who delivers his lines with an attention to their point, rhythm, and meaning, which some other comedians would do well to emulate, is ready to run all imaginable errands for the Thunderer. The part of *Minerva* enables Mr. Felix Rogers to look funny like his lamented namesake; and *Cupid* is represented in a most sprightly fashion by Miss Weber. As the scene-shifters whistle sounds, Olympus changes to Ithaca, and *Ulysses* is discovered. That new young face, which yet seems so strangely familiar—that quaint little form, which recalls a hundred pleasant recollections—to whom do they belong? Puzzled for a moment, the audience soon breaks out into hearty recognition. The *Ulysses* of the night is young Mr. Frederick Robson, the son of the great actor who gave to burlesque an importance and significance which it had never possessed before. Debtor to his father's fame for a reception than which none more hearty ever saluted a young aspirant to dramatic honours, Mr. Robson quickly gave proofs that he had inherited no small portion of his father's talent. Active and agile, a capital dancer, and by no means a bad singer, he soon established himself as a popular favourite, and proved that, even without the perilous inheritance of a great name, he would have been able to make his way upon the stage. The honours, however, of the night were not confined to the most conspicuous debutant. Miss Saunders, elated by her success as Napoleon the Third, adroitly disguised herself as Napoleon the First; and it were difficult to say which of the two historical caricatures was the most unfair or the most diverting.

The author has been as happy as usual in his adaptations of popular music to the purposes of extravaganza; he has displayed his accustomed talent in wedding words, syllables, even letters to well-known tunes; and he has provided a sufficiency of puns, some of which elicit groans, whilst others are really worthy of a smile.

OLYMPIC.

The drama of "Settling Day," rendered so much more effective in its compressed form of three acts, was considered at this theatre quite sufficient to attract a fair share of the holiday-making public, and the result justified the anticipation. The new comedietta of "Always Intended" preceded the play, and the evening's entertainments were concluded by a revival of the old farce of "High Life Below Stairs," freshened up with some improvised allusions to the threatened withdrawal of servants' percentages, and well supported by Mr. H. Wigan, Mr. R. Soutar, Mr. Coghlan, Mr. H. Cooper, Mrs. Leigh Murray, Miss Sheridan, and the other members of the company.

PRINCESS'S.

The admirably-constructed and cleverly-written drama of "Arrah-na-Pogue" again asserted its sway on Monday night over the sympathies of a very numerous auditory. The characters are filled with singular completeness, and the arrangements of the entire drama, which is enriched with a series of most effectively-painted scenes, are more perfect than have been known in the annals of most managements.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and family continue at Windsor. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales are at Sandringham. The King of the Belgians proceeded on Tuesday to the Continent. His Majesty looked in good health and appeared to have recovered from the indisposition with which he was attacked during his residence at Windsor.

HOME NEWS.—The health of the country underwent a sensible improvement last week, if we may judge from the Registrar General's report on the ten selected towns, as the average mortality in them fell from 30 in the 1000, which it was in the previous week, to 27. London represents the average, and so does Edinburgh, but Dublin was one lower; Liverpool seven, and Glasgow five higher. The deaths altogether were 2927, of which London furnished 1533, or an excess of 121 over the average of the corresponding week during the last ten years. The births altogether were 3810, of which London furnished 1973. —Sir Rutherford Alcock is gazetted English Minister at Pekin, and Sir Henry Parkes English Minister in Japan. Mr. Winchester succeeds Sir H. Parkes as Her Majesty's Consul at Shanghai. —An *Extraordinary Gazette*, contains the official dispatches of General Cameron and Brigadier Waddy, respecting the late engagements in New Zealand. The documents contain no more than—hardly so much as—the details already given in the newspapers, but the officers who distinguished themselves are prominently brought under the notice of the War Office.—The Court of Lieutenancy of the City of London has started a proposal for a review of militia and volunteers in Hyde Park. It is suggested that the review shall take place on the 20th of May, and the Duke of Cambridge is to be asked to be the reviewing officer.—Income tax payers will rejoice to hear, on what we suppose we may accept as semi-official authority, that to-morrow week Mr. Gladstone will be able to announce that he has a surplus of £3,592,000 to dispose of. If this prove to be the case, a further reduction of the income tax may be regarded as a certainty. After striking off a penny in the pound, Mr. Gladstone would still have over two millions for the relief of other interests; and, as the House of Commons has this session formally recorded its opinion upon the question, it is probable that the fire insurance duty will rank among the taxes to be recommended for remission or reduction.—Easter Monday was generally observed as a holiday among the working classes. The principal thoroughfares were thronged with family groups on their way to various places of recreation and amusement, and the railways, steamers, and other appliances for escaping from the smoke and dust of London, were greatly crowded; while the museums, picture galleries, and other exhibitions in town, had their fair share of visitors. The morning opened fine, but the sky soon became overcast, and rain fell occasionally, not in heavy showers, though enough to damp a little the enjoyment of the holiday-makers. The great attraction was, of course, the Brighton Downs, where the Volunteer Review was to take place, and where upwards of 20,000 men mustered under arms, gathered from the southern and north-eastern counties, but of whom the greater proportion came from London. The trains began to run from the metropolitan stations soon after five o'clock, and were dispatched with a quietness and a facility which reflected equal credit on the discipline of the Volunteers and the administrative power of the railway authorities. There was an immense crowd of spectators assembled on the Downs to witness the manoeuvres. The force was under the command of Sir Robert Walpole, and the movements of the day were intended to represent the incidents of a doubtful and hotly contested battle. There were a few showers in the course of the day, but

they were scarcely felt in the excitement of the proceedings. —It was decided at a meeting held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday, to erect a statue of the late Mr. Cobden. The meeting was presided over by the Mayor, and among the speakers were Mr. Henry Ashworth, Mr. Oliver Heywood, Mr. E. W. Watkin, M.P., and Mr. T. B. Potter, M.P. A committee was appointed, and subscriptions amounting to £661 were promised during the day. —Dr. Simon, the medical officer of the Privy Council has reported on the alleged epidemic in Russia and North Germany. The disease in Russia, he says, is simply relapsing, and typhus fever arising from poor and insufficient food and want of sanitary precautions. It is not now in this country, and need, therefore, cause no alarm. The disease in Northern Germany, he says, is new to this country, although for twenty-eight years it has prevailed extensively in successive small epidemics both in Europe and America throughout the entire breadth of the north temperate zone. It is a febrile nervous affection of a very painful and very dangerous kind, but Dr. Simon's inquiries lead him to the conclusion that it is not communicable from one individual to another. Dr. Simon sees no reason for placing ships arriving from the Baltic in quarantine, but he urges that great care should be exercised by the authorities at the ports to detect any cases of fever which may occur on board vessels from Russia or German ports. The Customs collectors throughout the United Kingdom have received instructions to report the arrival "from any port in the Baltic of a vessel in which there is any case of cholera, smallpox, typhus or typhoid fever, or in which any disease whatever is extensively prevalent," to the local authorities, "in order that they may take such measures as they see fit for the protection of the public health within their jurisdiction." The collectors are, however, directed to use the greatest discretion in conveying the information, so that unnecessary alarm may be avoided. —The difficulty between the masters and iron-workers in the Wolverhampton district has been got over. On Saturday the masters met a deputation from the men, and a resolution was agreed to that some system of arbitration for the prevention of strikes and lock-out should, as early as possible, be prepared. —At the Central Criminal Court the Italian, Pelizzioni, who had been found guilty of the murder of Harrington, was again put on his trial for stabbing the potman of the public-house, Rebbeck. The trial which commenced on the Wednesday of last week was not brought to a conclusion until Saturday, when a verdict of not guilty was returned. On Monday Pelizzioni received a free pardon from the Home Office, as regarded the former conviction, and was set at liberty. —Easter Term opened on Wednesday. The Lord Chancellor dispensed with the usual breakfast to the judges, &c., a fact which gave rise to a good deal of gossip. No cases of any importance were tried. —A heavy sentence was passed upon a Mr. William Stoaite, of Alleford, at the Tiverton petty sessions on Tuesday. Mr. Stoaite is a barrister, not practising, but engaged partly in farming. To a farm of his in Devonshire he had sent a flock of sheep some months ago. He provided no food for the animals, and a great number of them died literally of starvation. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals heard of the case and took it up. The defendant, who is said to be eccentric in character, defended himself, but had really no answer to the charge. The magistrates sentenced him to six weeks' imprisonment, and to pay the costs of the proceedings. —A very painful case was investigated by Dr. Lankester and a coroner's jury, on Wednesday. A woman named Mary Green, living near Highgate Archway, had died from rupture of the womb. According to the evidence, the services of a Dr. Gardiner had been bespoken

for Mary Green's confinement. On Thursday midnight she was taken ill, and Dr. Gardiner's successor, Mr. Butler, was sent for. He promptly attended, but on being told that there would be some difficulty as to payment, he went away, saying the husband was to go to the workhouse for assistance. Mr. Butler states that at that time there was no prospect of immediate birth. John Green went to the Islington workhouse and stated what he wanted. The porter told him he must bring his marriage certificate before assistance would be given to him. Meantime the poor wife was suffering from the effects of delayed delivery, and when medical aid was obtained it was too late. She died soon after. The jury in their verdict censured those who by their neglect had caused her death—Messrs. Terry and Burgh, secretary and manager of the late Unity Bank, were placed on their trial at the Central Criminal Court on Monday. Owing to some technical objection taken to the indictment they refused to plead; but this availed them nothing, for they were held to plead Not Guilty to the charge of conspiring to defraud, and the trial went on. Mr. Howell, the accountant, was examined as to the state of the accounts. The case was continued on Tuesday and Wednesday. Alderman Mechi and some other directors were examined, and all declared they had no idea that in making out the balance-sheet the prisoners had included forged and over-due bills among the assets. The surviving auditor was also examined, and he stated that there was no attempt on the part of the prisoners to conceal anything from the auditors. On Thursday the defence was entered into, and the prisoners immediately acquitted—the Judge having, as early as Tuesday, stated there was no case against them.—Thomas Lund, late secretary of the Blackburn Co-operative Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, was committed for trial at Blackburn, on Wednesday, on several charges of forgery and embezzlement. His frauds upon the Company are said to amount to from £2,000 or £3,000.—An accident took place on the Bristol and Exeter Railway on Tuesday night to the night express train from London to Plymouth, which was brought to a stand at the Weston Junction. The danger signal was exhibited, but the night was foggy; and a short train from Bristol ran into the stationary train, drove a first-class carriage against the girders of the station, and brought down the roof. Several passengers were seriously hurt, but no lives were lost.—Four men were suffocated at a colliery at Church, near Accrington, on Tuesday week. There must have been an explosion of gas in the pit, but no report was heard, and the bodies of the deceased showed no marks of burning.—The fire and explosion which took place in the Borough the other day has unfortunately led to a fatal result in the case of one of the persons injured. Mrs. Tilleard, the wife of the proprietor of the shop, expired at six o'clock on Tuesday evening. An inquest was held on Wednesday on the body of Mrs. Tilleard. The husband of the deceased woman and other witnesses were examined, and, as the inquiry was considered an important one, it was adjourned for further evidence.—An unfortunate accident happened near the Seven Sisters-road, Holloway, on Saturday evening. Two men were at work in a sewer which is being made there, when suddenly a part of it fell in. One of the men was buried alive, and all efforts to extricate him failed.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Legislative Body's customary address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was presented on Sunday to the Emperor Napoleon, in which he said that France was grateful for their labours, and added:—Under the present régime its life is being developed. It sees administrative obstacles disappear, progress is ensured, and security guaranteed. By the electoral movement, and the voice of the tri-

bune and the press, it feels that it is free. Thus, far from wishing to cut down the tree which has borne good fruit, the mass of the labouring classes, the classes who possess, the men who remember and those who hear and read, fear the abuse of liberty even more than the abuse of power." Speculation is rife in the French capital, now that the supporters of the Federal cause consider the conquest of the South a *fait accompli*, as to the probability of France being drawn into a war with America on the question of the new Mexican Empire. Having gone so far it is certain the French Emperor cannot recede with honour to himself, or withdraw his troops from Mexico in the meantime, whatever attitude may be assumed by the Government of the United States. A rumour is current, that a proposal has been submitted to our Cabinet for "joint action" in the event of Yankee proclivities pointing either North or South—to Canada or to Mexico. Any diplomatic remonstrances necessary to be forwarded are to be, so it is said, backed up by a second iron-clad squadron, which is shortly to be formed in the Channel. It is positively asserted by several of the French journals that the Emperor Napoleon will leave Paris for Algeria on the 25th inst. and that he will spend about three weeks in his African dominions.—It would seem that the Pope, dismayed by the number of Italian bishoprics which are gradually becoming vacant, is at length prepared to recognise in some measure the kingdom of Italy, and to resume relations of some kind with the king who has despoiled the Church of the best part of its territories. It is at all events asserted that Pius IX., has addressed to King Victor Emanuel a letter proposing that the king shall nominate bishops to the vacant dioceses in the old Sardinian kingdom, and declaring that the Pope, though reserving his full right to appoint all bishops within the old Pontifical provinces, is willing to come to an arrangement as to the patronage of the sees in Naples, Tuscany, Parma, and Modena.—Contrary to general expectation the Marquis da Sa Bandiera has succeeded in forming a Cabinet, and the Portuguese Ministerial crisis may be considered at an end. It is stated that the Austrian North Sea squadron is ordered to prepare for sea, and then to take up its station in the harbour of Kiel. Austria, it is added, requires the reduction of the troops occupying the Duchies and the convocation of the Schleswig Holstein estates. A crisis has for some days prevailed in the Danish Ministry. It was caused by some of the Ministers having had the intention of submitting to the Rigsdag the Ministerial scheme of a modification of the Constitution which had previously been rejected by the Rigsraad, or supreme national council. It is now arranged that the Ministers are all to remain in office, and the sittings of the Rigsdag have been prorogued. The crisis is over.—According to a letter from Warsaw, a violent struggle is now going on in the high official regions between the military party represented by Count de Berg and the Russian Radical section, which advocates the complete incorporation of Poland in Russia. Representatives of the two parties have gone to St. Petersburg to plead their respective causes. The principal argument of the military party is that the policy of their opponents must necessarily lead to an insurrection of the peasantry in the end. Some fanatical Egyptian gendarmes, supported by an equally fanatical rabble, lately attacked the labourers on the Suez Canal works, seriously wounding several of them.—The supporters of the British Charitable Fund in Paris gave their annual ball in aid of the funds on Tuesday evening, and judging from the large attendance on the occasion, it may be concluded that a considerable accession to the means at the disposal of the managing committee was secured. A report reaches us from Berlin, *via* Paris, of an arrangement in pro-

gress for the settlement of another Princess of our own Royal Family in the state of matrimony. The Princess Helena, so the rumour has it, is to be wedded to the Prince Royal of Hanover; further it is said the matter will be finally settled in the month of August, during her Majesty's visit to Germany.—The Czarewiteh, son of the Emperor of Russia, and heir to the throne, now lying ill at Nice, is considered to be in a dangerous state. The Emperor's physician has arrived at St. Petersburg. The Emperor himself is on his way to the sick bed of his son; and the Queen of Denmark, with her daughter, the Princess Dagmar, betrothed to the Russian Prince, have been summoned to the bedside. The malady is an affection of the spine and brain.

AMERICA.—The *Australasian* arrived on Saturday, bringing intelligence from New York to the 5th April. As was to be expected from the position of the contending armies, the news by the mail was of a momentous character. Richmond and Petersburg had been evacuated by Lee, and occupied by Federal troops. Grant was in pursuit of Lee—the retreat of the Confederate General having commenced on the evening of Sunday, the 2nd inst., after a general engagement along the whole line, which took place in the morning of the same day. The rams and forts on the James River were blown up by the Confederates, and both Petersburg and Richmond set on fire, although it is stated that no great amount of destruction of property has been caused, through the flames having been speedily extinguished. President Lincoln, who was at City Point, has already visited Petersburg. The losses of General Lee are estimated by Federal authorities at 15,000 killed and wounded, 25,000 prisoners, and between 100 and 200 guns. The Northern States were in ecstasies of joy. By the arrival of the *America* we have intelligence from New York to the 8th instant. The pursuit of Lee by Sheridan and Meade had been continued, and a number of men, waggons, and guns, and flags captured. At Burkeville General Lee made a stand, when Sheridan attacked him with two divisions. The result, as reported by Sheridan, was the complete rout of the Confederates, with the loss of several thousand prisoners—amongst whom were six Confederate generals—guns, caissons, and waggons. Sheridan believed that Lee would surrender. The naval attack on Mobile has commenced; siege guns were arriving capable of shelling the suburbs of the city. Twenty thousand inhabitants, one half negroes, were found in Richmond. The lady of Gen. Lee is said also to be still there. All the tobacco, to the value of a million dollars, had been destroyed. Sir Frederick Bruce was on his way from New York to Washington. Mr. Seward has been thrown from his carriage, and sustained a fracture of one arm and his jaw. The United States Government have adopted a highly conciliatory attitude in relation to the St. Alban's raiders. Satisfied as they are with the Canadian authorities, they will abstain from all further demand for the extradition of the offenders; while the Canadians, on their part, will prosecute the raiders for a violation of the neutrality laws.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G.W.—An adverse ballot for a candidate cannot be set aside by a non-confirmation of the minutes. Politics ought not to be allowed to bias the votes of Masons in their selection of candidates, but we do not see how it is possible to prevent their doing so. If, however, men are so prejudicial as to refuse to admit amongst them, others who differ from them in politics should think that the excluded have a right to rejoice at not being called to take a place amongst the noodles, whether it be in a lodge or elsewhere.

LIBRAIRE shall be attended to.

X. Y. Z. asks whether it is true that the contract for the refreshment at the approaching opening of the Boys' School has been given to a non-Mason; and if so, why?

B.—We have more than once stated there is no such publication recognised.

P.M.; P.Z.; P.P.G.W.; and P.M. No. 21.—Your communications shall appear in our next issue.