

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1866.

ON THE PROBABLE ORIGIN OF FREEMASONRY.

*By Bro. the REV. SALEM TOWN, of New York.**(Continued from page 24.)*

Profane history supports the opinion that, without the shadow of doubt, Freemasonry, in its primitive state, consisted chiefly of a working association, and the same fact appears from sacred history. Symbolical representations were introduced with a view to impress the human mind with the religious importance and essence of the things shown to the eye, and grave and earnest considerations of eternity were constantly produced before the mind. By a natural and easy transition Freemasonry became invested with a speculative instead of a working character, as profane history teaches us. It is certain that the working principles were coeval with the material world at the time of its creation, and that the origin of the moral principles of Masonry are also coeval with those of true religion. It is, therefore, highly improbable that Society could have existed in a state of organisation previous to the erection of the Temple during the reign of Solomon, King of Israel. The character of the Masonic signs and symbols imparted to brethren on receiving their respective degrees, convinces us that Society, in the ordinary meaning of the term, must have derived its origin from that epoch, as otherwise such signs and symbols would be utterly absurd and devoid of meaning. It is likewise evident, as will be shown presently, that the constituent principles of Freemasonry were known from time immemorial by the ancient sages and patriarchs, as they kept them sacred, and transmitted them to the faithful and the wise, during the centuries preceding the age of Solomon; we are, therefore, fully justified in establishing the date of the first foundation of Freemasonry as a regular institution in the reign of Solomon; and this opinion is corroborated by the concurrence of numerous contingent circumstances. The epoch alluded to is about 1,012 years previous to the birth of Christ. Solomon, being imbued with divine inspiration, deemed it indispensable, with a view to fully carry out the enterprise he had designed, that all the workmen engaged in the building of the sacred edifice should form a corporation regularly organised, so that each individual part of the construction might be executed without the least con-

fusion, and with the utmost speed. Nothing could be more conducive to the encouragement and stimulation of the overseers, as well as the sobriety, prudence, and honour of those they employed. The total number of operatives engaged in the construction of the Temple, without counting the officials holding high appointments, amounted to 113,600; of these 80,000 were stone masons and sculptors, all of them ingenious and experienced craftsmen; 30,000 were employed in the cedar forests of the Lebanon, alternately 10,000 each month; 3,300 being well-experienced master masons, were appointed as superintendents and inspectors of the works; 300 directors or masters for the general supervision of the works, and three head officials conducting the entire formation and perfection of the edifice.

In this manner the whole of the materials were prepared with the utmost speed, all parts of the Temple completed with the greatest ability, harmony, and fraternal love prevailing throughout all the classes of workmen.

It is evident that at the time of the completion of the edifice the workmen must have been eminently skilful in their art; and it appears that, previously to parting, they endeavoured to establish ties of friendship by means of engagements and obligations that might bind them for ever, and introduced a kind of language unknown to the world at large, by the aid of which they might recognise each other, and that subsequently they adopted certain regulations with a view to found a useful, honourable, and lasting association.

As soon as the Temple was finished and consecrated, the workmen who had been engaged in building it commenced travelling not only amongst the various tribes of Israel, but also in such of the adjoining countries as afforded them a fair prospect of a proper remuneration for their handicraft. Those who had given sufficient proofs of their ability, whose faith and honour had acquired them distinctions, whose intelligence had been improved, and whose mind had been imbued with the wholesome principles of morals and virtue, were probably entrusted with the organisation of new bodies of skilled Masons corresponding to our present lodges in speculative Freemasonry and the formation of disseminating associations in those parts to which they had resorted.

This supposition is well founded upon the fact that mutual affection and friendship necessarily existed amongst those workmen who had co-

operated in building the Temple. In this manner we can easily explain the rapid and effectual diffusion of ancient Freemasonry amongst various nations; thus, some nations which during many centuries have had no kind of intercourse with the remainder of the world, possess all the regular Masonic secrets, hold regular lodges, and adhere to ceremonies similar to, and, in many essential points coinciding entirely with those adopted by Masonic bodies in the remainder of the world; and we find that Hiram, who was King of Tyre, a country adjacent to Judæa, not only concluded a treaty with Solomon, but he was his constant and devoted friend. Hiram's father was a Tyrian, and his mother was a Jewess. Many Tyrians assisted actively at Solomon's works, in preparing the materials requisite for the erection of the Temple. For many years the two countries entertained friendly relationship, founded on a kind of reciprocity treaty. Masonry must, therefore, have existed and flourished among the Tyrians almost to the same extent as it did among the Jews. The fact of the Tyrian language being derived from the Hebrew must have greatly facilitated and promoted the amicable intercourse between the two peoples.

One hundred and sixty-four years after the inauguration of the Temple of King Solomon, the Tyrians founded in Northern Africa a colony, the inhabitants of which were subsequently called Carthaginians. The commercial activity of the latter soon raised them to a most important and opulent position amongst the nations of that period. Between Tyrians and Carthaginians mercantile and friendly relations continued in such a manner and on such terms that we are inclined to believe that, if Masonry existed amongst the former, it must evidently have been cultivated also by the latter. The Tyrians planted colonies not alone in Africa, but also in Europe. At a very remote epoch they founded the city of Gades (Cadix), which became the chief emporium for the trade of Spain. The Carthaginians, following in the same path, took possession of the greater part of Spain as well as of many important islands in the Mediterranean, and all these settlements subsequently fell into the hands of the Romans.

During Solomon's reign, as well as before and after, very intimate relations existed between the Jews and Egyptians. Proofs of this we find in the fact that one of Solomon's wives was a daughter of the King of Egypt, that a flourish-

ing commerce was carried on between the two countries, and the Court of the wisest of all kings was repeatedly visited by Egyptian noblemen.

From all this we may properly infer that ancient Freemasonry was introduced among the Egyptians. But, however this may be, we are informed by various historians of Antiquity that Masonry flourished in Egypt a short time subsequent to the said period. By the unanimity of ancient authors it is averred that the priests of Egypt were possessed of many valuable secrets, and highly instructed in all arts and sciences of the period. We cannot determine with certainty whether they did or did not possess the Masonic secrets; yet many reasons founded on various circumstances militate in favour of such an assumption. It was in Egypt that Pythagoras was initiated in his mysteries and instructed in his arts in Egypt sculpture, architecture, and all arts and sciences of that time were brought to great perfection, and there is an opinion prevalent amongst palæologists that Masonry was highly appreciated in that country. There are also various Egyptian obelisks conveyed to Rome during Augustus' reign, on which many curious hieroglyphics and Masonic emblems are engraved. The ancient philosophers considered Egypt as the cradle and classical ground of science. It is certain that Homer, Lycurgus, Solon, Pythagoras, Plato, Thales, and many other poets, lawgivers and philosophers of Antiquity frequently visited Egypt, where many of them, according to profane history, were initiated by the Egyptian priests in their mysteries.

The Egyptian Cecrops was the original founder of Athens. It naturally follows that friendly relations were entered upon and kept up for a very considerable space of time between the two countries, and though these communications may not have served as a medium for the transmission of the Egyptian mysteries, still the philosophers who were in the habit of visiting Egypt from time to time certainly conveyed to their native land whatever they deemed conducive to the welfare of their fellow-countrymen. There are many circumstances incidental to the history of the States of Hellas that militate strongly in favour of the assumption that Masonry existed amongst these people, though we have certainly no positive proofs. Two points, out of many, we may adduce as evidence. At the time when the pest was raging and decimating the population of the City of Athens, Hippocrates,

a native of the Island of Cos and prominent on account of his attainments in medical science, was called in to remedy the ravages of the epidemic. He at once complied with the request, and was of incalculable service to the afflicted city. The gratitude of the Athenians was such that they decreed his initiation in the mysteries of the nation.

When Alexander the Great, during his campaigns in Persia, approached the City of Jerusalem, the high priest, clad in his pontifical garments, went out to meet and salute him. When the conqueror descried at a distance the venerable patriarch wearing the insignia of his office, he ordered his soldiers to halt, advanced towards the high priest, bowed and saluted him respectfully, conferred with him, and then withdrew. This singular occurrence took place in the year 333 A.C.

The Romans who succeeded the Grecians in the empire of the Universe, derived from the Grecians, the Carthagenians, and even the Jews, the knowledge of the mysteries known to those nations.

He who reads with a critical eye and with the acumen that the knowledge of the institutions of Freemasonry alone can give him, the history of the Romans, will meet with many striking facts by which the existence of Freemasonry may be demonstrated.

In general we are justified in believing that most Roman Generals were not only Masons, but also great promoters of the mystic art amongst their fellow-citizens and the inhabitants of ancient Britain. Albeit the Bretons were all but unknown to the Romans previous to the invasion of Julius Cæsar, there are substantial proofs to show that long before that time this barbarian people had some knowledge of Freemasonry.*

It is assumed that the Druids, who were the priests of ancient Britain and Gaul, received their governing principles, rites, and ceremonies from Pythagoras. As instructors of the people they enjoyed the most unbounded respect and veneration. According to ancient history it is an averred fact that they were, to a certain extent, acquainted

with geometry and natural history, and believed in the immortality of man's soul. In each nation there was an arch-druid who exercised sufficient authority to enjoy a great ascendancy and cause his counsel to prevail whenever the public welfare was at stake. It was a uniform practice amongst them, whenever they were intrusted with the tuition of young men, to retire to some remote place and there to reveal to them their mysteries. This leads us to infer that certain mysteries unknown to the generality of the people, constituted a part of their ceremonies.

Pythagoras is considered the founder of the Institution of the Druids, and as it is assumed that he was a Mason, we take it for granted that his disciples, the Druids, must also have been acquainted with Masoury. We find that Masonry existed among the ancient Britons and Gauls, previously to their conquest by the Romans. But be that as it may, there is no country in which it has flourished to a greater extent, none which has bestowed greater boons on mankind than Great Britain. By reason of the protracted struggles between Picts, Scots, Britons, Saxons, and Danes, Masonry does not seem to have been cultivated extensively in that island until the year 550 of the Christian Era. At that epoch St. Augustine fled with several brethren from Italy to England, where he devoted his time and talents exclusively to the interests of Christianity and Masonry. St. Augustine superintended personally the laying of the foundation-stone for various edifices.

(To be continued).

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As, to be hated, needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

—POPE.

How painful is it to recal the incidents of a life misspent, to weigh the actions of such an one as has "hid his talent," instead of usefully employing it, and then to contemplate his position when he must again meet his Lord, and give an account of himself. There are undoubtedly myriads who make but a very partial use of the faculties and opportunities with which they have been endowed by the Great Architect of the Universe, but very few who stand forth in such appalling salience of inutility as one who has but lately passed away.

* It is obvious that Bro. Town's opinions must not be taken *au pied de la lettre*, but with a grain of salt; in reproducing Bro. Town's paper we do not wish to be understood as endorsing his views *in toto*, but only to give the reader an idea of the subject as judged from the author's standpoint, which is shared by the adherents of the Supreme Grand Council for the South of the United States. The aborigines of this island may have been acquainted with *Masonry*, but *Freemasonry* was, we believe, utterly known to them.—ED. F.M.

"Nil nisi bonum de mortuis" is a good maxim as a general rule; but it is our duty in some instances to hold up the mirror where naught but evil can be reflected to show an example for the benefit of mankind generally.

In our present remarks we can injure no one's fame. Can any one darken the name of Windham more than the weak creature who lately bore it?—a wasted youth—a brief life of reckless debauchery—an obscure and miserable death. In these few words is his biography summarised. Let others lament the wasted fortunes, and speculate upon their inheritors, whilst we take occasion to comment upon the waste of life.

Lusisti satis, edisti satis, atque bibisti,
Tempus abire tibi est * * *

might have been fit enough for *his* dying words, but who was there to hear them? No one. Where were all his friends? This is a difficult question. We may, perhaps, come nearest the truth by saying he had none, for it is almost absurd to term any of that foul crew of parasitic debauchees *friend* to any man; they but urged him on in his headlong course to destruction. He is gone, blasted in the very bud of manhood; but those who cheered him on wait not to weep over the wreck they have helped to make. Their time is precious; they must find other victims.

There can scarcely be a doubt that Windham, although sane, was of weak intellect; in fact, his brief career is ample proof that such was the case, but, nevertheless, had he been properly guided, his life might yet have been long and useful.

* * * Say not man's imperfect, Heaven in fault;
Say rather, man's as perfect as he ought;
His knowledge measured to his state and place;
His time, a moment, and a point his space.

Properly applied in the path of duty in aid of progress, and in the support of rectitude the abilities now lost might have given their possessor, supported as he was by ample means, no mean position in the social circle, and gained for him the respect of his fellow men; as it is, he can but be viewed with abhorrence by all whose minds are well regulated, and the only view which arises from reflecting on his feebleness of intellect, bears rather upon his companions than himself, and shows with startling vividness the hideous traits of character present among those who, blessed with powers superior to Windham's, yet encouraged, aye and joined him too, in scenes and acts which even were they fit to be described, would defy every attempt at delineation. What account will

they give of themselves; they can scarcely hope to share alike at the eleventh hour with those who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and perhaps the chance of repentance even then may be denied to some of them.

It is useless, perhaps, to expect that even so fearful an example as that which now calls forth our remarks, should take effect on men who have weathered the dangers of dissipation themselves and been accustomed to see those who were yesterday their boon companions and their "friends," to-day drop off; the bloom of Spring suddenly changed to the sear and yellow leaf of Autumn. It may for a short space affect the young who are but just hesitating on the brink of the social precipice, which overhangs the chaotic gulf of hopeless debauchery, but even then there is the ever present danger of excitement, supported by a feeling of false shame, the farmer hurrying them forward, the latter insidiously resisting their retreat.

If we analyse the false shame of fleeing from evil, there will be found the first germs which in maturity overgrow the healthy plant and become its destruction. The men who are the habitues of the world of moral depravity, who, in fact, live upon the hapless victims who appear in it and pass away, are unfortunately but too attractive to the young and inexperienced, often most gentlemanly in appearance and address, invariably plausible and kind, ever watching to see where conceit may be tickled or vanity flattered; they are, in fact, morally "whited sepulchres," the tombs which engulph many souls.

It behoves us to ascertain how the evil results of a life lost in dissolution may be avoided; there is but one way, and that is, by crushing the evil at its birth; let no one trust to his own powers of resistance, but ever pray "deliver us from evil."

If the seed of dissipation be but sown, its growth is almost certain, for he who has once tasted of the cup of frivolity, or worse, immorality, will but too often return to it as the "sow to her wallowing in the mire."

The natural instinct is certainly averse to the foul depravity of such a life as Windham's, but the observation of such life does not have its due effect upon the reasoning faculties, because, under the circumstances which usually surround the inexperienced when "seeing life," their mental powers are injured by present excitement, and they do not see things as they really are.

The conclusion at which we arrive is, that it is the duty of those who have any influence over the young to exert that influence to prevent their seeing evil; but further, we would especially point out that the heaviest responsibilities rest with such as are commencing life, endowed with faculties which they are morally bound to employ for the benefit of themselves and their fellow men; let them therefore eschew the most (apparently) trivial contact with the atmosphere of immoral life.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

EXISTENCE OF GOD.—PROOF THEREOF IN FREEMASONRY.

I have just received a letter from a brother at Bath respecting my communication to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, vol. xiii. p. 111, entitled, "Proof of the existence of God adopted in Freemasonry." A few words will, I trust, afford the explanation which my

correspondent seeks. The existence of God is necessarily admitted by all Freemasons; it follows that there is proof of the existence of God which is received by all Freemasons. The only proof of this description is the proof which Man's Reason, unaided by Revelation, discovers by reflection upon the universe. This is the proof adduced in my communication.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

MASONIC IMPOSTERS AND MASONIC RELIEF.

There is a story of a French imposter and loafer, waiting on an American W.M. on the plea of universal brotherhood, or universal dipping into other people's pockets. The 'cute W.M. soon saw his customer. "As you are an old Mason, you are aware that our institution is one for the promotion of labour." "Oui, mon Venerable, Masonry is one of the most glorious institutions of the world, and it is the duty of all to work for it." "And it is my duty to find work for the brethren?" "Oui, mon Venerable!" "Therefore you can set to work to split this pile of logs, for which I deliver to you this Masonic tool," giving him an axe. In a very short time the loafer absconded, though with a longing look at the axe.—P.M.

THE PEN-AND-INK SKETCHES OF ONE FANG.

(Continued from page 23.)

No. 11.



THE INSCRUTABLE FLOWER, THE PRECIOUS WHEEL.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

ZETLAND SCHOLARSHIP.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The nomination and, it is to be presumed by us at a distance, the re-election of the M.W.G.M. appears to be an occasion for a commemoration worthy of the M.W. Brother and useful to the Craft.

It has been to many a matter of regret that the Craft has done nothing directly for the promotion of learning, for we cannot class as such our admirable schools.

A small beginning might be made by a commemoration scholarship, in honour of our G.M., to be called the Zetland Scholarship.

If each lodge and chapter contributed on an average one pound only, this would make a respectable sum.

This might be devoted every two years to the son of a Master, matriculated in some university or university college (as those of the University of London and of Ireland) a medical college, or the Inns of Court.

If this system were once begun, it might, as in other instances, become an example, leading to the institution of other scholarships, and thereby conferring a boon on the sons of some of our ill-endowed brethren.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours faithfully,

HYDE CLARKE,

D. D.G.M. Turkey.

CHARITY STEWARDS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am quite delighted to find such avidity for information with reference to our Charitable Institutions, and especially in connection with the Anniversary Festivals and the Stewardships, as that evinced in the letter of a "Country P.M." in your last number, and I lose no time in replying thereto in the hope that I may be able to afford a satisfactory solution of some of the difficulties with which it appears so many of our country brethren have to contend—to dispel their doubts as to the beneficial application of the money they are invited to contribute,—and to enlighten them generally, so far as my poor powers will permit, on the important subjects in which, happily, they feel so strong an interest. I have often heard it urged that if the various charities which abound in this country would abolish the eating and drinking attached to the respective festivals, how large a sum of money, now spent in mere convivial enjoyment, would be applicable for the higher purpose of charity. As a distinguished nobleman, unhappily now no more, once said to me on this point—"How is it, Bro. Binckes, that these charities cannot be supported without a body of gentlemen being brought together for the purpose of drinking a quantity of bad wine, and eating an unwholesome dinner?" My reply was, that I could not venture to account for what was most undoubtedly a fact, that whenever the experiment had been tried, it had been attended with failure, but that I presumed such was the natural love of the English people for social enjoy-

ment, that no celebration, religious, political, or charitable, was considered complete—certainly never was successful—without a banquet, begging his Grace would give his brethren in Freemasonry credit for taking care that their dinners should be good, and the wines pure. His Grace good-humouredly concurred, and I believe that ninety-nine out of every hundred people who have considered the subject concur in this view also. The necessity of a banquet being conceded, the question is, how shall it be best made to serve the purpose with which it is associated? The large majority of our Charitable Institutions hold their annual festive gatherings under the auspices of a board of Stewards, whose individual liability is limited to one guinea, which is the price of the dinner ticket. Suppose 250 gentlemen sit down to dinner, and a handsome subscription list is announced; in that amount is included the sums paid for the dinner tickets, and out of the gross proceeds the Charity pays the tavern bill. The Annual Festivals of our Masonic Institutions, I am happy to say, are differently worked. They, as in the cases just mentioned, are held under the auspices of Boards of Stewards, but not one shilling of the sums collected is allowed to be expended for anything in connection with the festival, the expenses of which are defrayed out of a special fund, created by a deposit payable by each Steward. I served the Stewardship of the Boys' School and Girls' School some nine years since, when the deposit required was £6 or £8, and previous to that I have understood it had been £10 or £15, the number of stewards, be it remembered, averaging then from twenty to thirty, whereas now we fortunately gather round us 70 to 100, or, as I hope to see our ensuing Festival supported by, 120, and £4 from each Steward is proved to be an amount sufficient to meet the expenditure. Now comes the question—How is this large fund employed? From it is defrayed *every expense* incident to a large festival meeting. First, there are the costs of printing, stationery, postages—no inconsiderable item—and temporary assistance in office labours (into which I should like to afford "A Country P.M." an insight). Then there are the little æsthetics in the shape of a few honorary decorations, *valued* by most, and despised only by the cynic or stern utilitarian, with no eye for ornament, no love of art, no appreciation of the elegant or the beautiful; but this outlay is trifling. Then there is liberal provision made for the gratification and enjoyment of 150 ladies, whose presence gives refinement to the assembly, and sheds an indescribable charm over the scene. There are also a certain number of complimentary dinner tickets presented, for which in each case there is good and sufficient reason and justification. Next there is substantial provision made for the children, who always attend on these occasions, who are the chief ornaments to the entertainment, and, as the especial objects of the benevolent efforts of the congregated brethren, constitute the most important feature of the evening's proceedings. Each Steward receives a dinner ticket—one guinea—the tickets of the ladies' gallery being equal to 8s. 6d. each; and as each Steward has two of these, there is £1 18s. out of the—say—£4, leaving £2 2s. towards the other expenses. When everything is paid, there is generally a surplus, larger or smaller,

according to circumstances, the great portion of which is voted to the funds of the Institution. As my only anxiety is for a thorough ventilation of this subject, in order that it may be perfectly understood, and the duties and responsibilities of Stewards accurately ascertained, I subjoin a copy of the "receipts and disbursements" in connection with a Festival of the Boys' School, on which I leave "A Country P.M." to comment, if he thinks fit to do so.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
80 Stewards' deposit at £5	400	0	0
155 dinner tickets at 21s.	162	15	0

£562 15 0

DISBURSEMENTS.

Freemasons' Tavern Co. (Limited) ...	344	7	6*
Music	26	5	0
Printing	34	16	11
Advertising	11	11	0
Stewards' rosettes	17	17	0
Extra gallery accommodation for ladies	15	10	0
Hon. Sec.'s disbursements, including assistance, postages, &c.	12	5	1
Eau de Cologne for ladies	3	0	0

465 12 6

Surplus 97 2 6

562 15 0

Of the surplus £63 was voted to the "Building Fund" of the Institution, the balance being apportioned as the Stewards present at the final meeting of the Board in their discretion thought fit to determine—nothing, be it observed, however, was expended in refreshment.

But I must not forget, in my desire to lay these matters fully and openly before those who most legitimately seek for information, to answer the direct questions put by your correspondent.

The deposit which each Steward is called upon to pay towards the "Festival Fund" is expected to be paid by him "out of his own pocket," and has nothing whatever to do with any other duty or labour he may undertake—or with any donations he may contribute or collect—and in this I do not think there is any "injustice towards the Stewards individually," or that it is in any way "likely to operate most injuriously to the best interests of the Charity."

It must be borne in mind that each Steward who at the time of his stewardship contributes not less than ten guineas, receives an additional vote in virtue of his deposit, so that justice is done to the Steward, inasmuch as he really receives for two guineas what he would otherwise have to acquire at an outlay of five guineas. The inequality between metropolitan and provincial brethren is just one of those accidents for which I hardly see a remedy until we succeed in annihilating distance, and in bringing all together on one spot. I am bound to say that I have never heard this plea put forth by provincial brethren as a reason for declining the office of Steward, and I do not think a "Country P.M." himself would urge it.

Whether or not I have succeeded in this letter in

* Including complimentary dinner-tickets, ladies' collation, boys' dinners and teas, police, &c.

removing scruples, solving doubts, and in offering satisfactory explanations, is a question for others to determine. From a not inconsiderable experience of the system under which our Festivals are conducted, I feel sure there is but small ground for cavil or objection. That under that system the office of Steward is a popular one, is proved by the annually increasing number of those who volunteer to accept the office, it being the fact that in some lodges there is actually severe competition for the honour. That, on the other hand, there may be a much larger number who would accept the office if it was attended solely with honour, and not accompanied with responsibilities, I am not prepared to deny. Deeply desirous as I am to see our Charities more widely and more extensively supported—believing that every properly qualified Mason is able to do something towards their maintenance, I yet do not wish to see the proceedings in connection with these ornaments of our Order reduced to a level with those of mere benefit societies, in which category Masonry never was, and, I hope, never will be, included.

The effect of my reply to your former correspondent "Beta" has been to open communications between the excellent brother writing under that signature and myself, with consequences, I trust, satisfactory to him, and, as I have substantial reasons for knowing, highly favourable to the interests of this Institution. I hope the same result will attend this reply to a "Country P.M.," who is evidently actuated by a kindly and generous feeling, with the wish and desire to aid in the good and glorious work of Masonic charity. I thank him for his communication, and cannot but feel grateful to you for placing so much of your valuable space at the disposal of those ministering in behalf of the members of "the household of faith," who, from adversity of whatever kind, require help and encouragement at the hands of their more prosperous brethren.

In these letters I must be understood as speaking solely for myself, not wishing to bind others to sentiments or opinions of which—for all I know to the contrary—they may wholly disapprove.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES,

Secretary Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

London, February 12th, 1866.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I had already prepared a letter to you on the subject of our Masonic Charities, when I have been somewhat anticipated by the letter of "A Country P.M." in your last issue. This, I doubt not, will call forth a reply from Bro. Binckes, but in endorsing most fully your correspondent's letter I should like to ask a few questions and add my testimony to his, how much I consider the Charities suffer from the present arrangement. Having seen several brethren wearing the Charity jewel, I would ask how that is obtained? what services a brother is supposed to have given to the Craft? and whether it is necessary he should have served as Steward to all the Charities?

I am anxious to do my duty as a Mason, and to become in turn a life governor of them all; but like, I have no doubt, many other brethren, my heart is

larger than my purse, and though I could do it, as it were, by instalments, and should wish to be a Steward of all the Charities, I cannot, in justice to myself and family, give at once the sum demanded. I use the word advisedly, under the present *régime*. In the first place I would suggest that the privileges accorded to subscribers should be the same in each Charity, and as that of the Boys' School seems to be the more preferable of the three, I would assimilate them all to that; but as some of your readers may not know the precise terms of subscription to each, may I encroach still more on your space by copying them from the "Masonic Pocket-book":—

Gs.	Boys' V.P.	Votes.	Girls' V.P.	Votes.	R. Ben. V.P.	Votes.
50	10	.....	5	.....	20
10	L. Gov. 2	.....	L. Gov. 1	.....	4
5	L. Sub. 1	.....	No vote	.....	L. Gov. 2
1 ann.	Ann. sub. 1	.....	Ann. sub. 1	.....	4

In the Boys' and also Girls' Schools the 50 guineas may be paid in one or more payments of 5 guineas each, but within what time is not specified in the Royal Benevolent Institution (all classes of votes being pounds not guineas) the 50 pounds must be paid within five years.

In the Boys' the 10 guineas must be paid in one sum; in the Girls' in two sums within twelve months.

I have hitherto understood a Steward has been expected to give 10 guineas to the Charity he represents, and pay 5 guineas more towards the cost of the Festival, and if he resides at a distance, his personal expenses, adding 5 to 10 guineas more, the total cost to him will range from £20 to £25. One lodge to which I belong numbers some fifty or sixty members, and should send one or two Stewards each year; but I have heard it said repeatedly, "I do not so much mind the £10 10s. as the additional £5 thrown away in eating, and therefore lost to the Charity." Many are also deterred from becoming a Steward fearing lest his list might be smaller than his neighbours; but I am confident that the gain to the Charity would be very considerable in the greatly-increased number of the Stewards, if the cost to each individually were less.

To sum up. A brother should be allowed, if he is already a life subscriber, to pay the additional amount necessary to constitute himself either a life governor or vice-president at any period of his lifetime in sums of not less than £5 5s.; the Charities to be on the same footing as to votes; and the expenses to each Steward to be greatly diminished.

I am, dear Sir and Brother

Yours faithfully and fraternally,
"ANOTHER COUNTRY P.M."

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Since addressing to you the letter on this subject, which appeared in your impression of the 10th inst., I have seen one of the circulars just distributed amongst the lodges by Bro. Patten, on behalf of the approaching Festival of the Girls' School.

This document has, to some extent, answered one object which I had in view in communicating with you; it fully explains the amount of liability which a brother must expect to incur in accepting the office of a Charity Steward, and in which respect Bro. Binckes's letter was deficient.

This explanation, I presume, is now given for the first time, and I hail it as a move in the right direc-

tion. As the information given by Bro. Patten will prove as new and interesting to many others of your readers as it was to myself, you will, perhaps, find space for it. It is not my object to enter more fully into the question at present than to inquire if, as I suppose to be the case, nearly the whole of the contributions are collected by the Stewards prior to and independent of the banquet at the Festival; might not the money thus expended be much better employed on behalf of the several Charities?

I am, dear Sir and brother, yours fraternally,

A COUNTRY P.M.

February 14th, 1866.

[COPY.]

"The total amount collected at the Festivals of this Institution is *exclusively* devoted to the *Funds of the Charity*. Such being the case, the Stewards (irrespective of their individual donations to the school) are called upon for certain expenses incidental to the Festival. The purposes for which this amount is required are—an elegant repast provided for the ladies who grace the occasion with their presence; the musical arrangements for the entertainment of the guests; presentation tickets to those having claims on the Institution for services rendered; also for postages, printing, stationery, rosettes, &c.

"In previous years, the amount deposited has been five pounds, which sum was sufficient to meet every requirement, and included the Steward's dinner ticket, as well as two ladies' ticket of admission to the gallery."

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I feel it due to the committee over which I have the honour to preside, to notice a letter bearing the signature of "Scrutator" in your last impression.

With the opinion of "Scrutator," either as regards the buildings or the Building Committee, I do not propose to interfere; he has a right to his opinions, and may express them with good taste, or otherwise, as he thinks proper. I deal only with his statement of facts. Asking whether it is politic to require so high a rent for the use of rooms at Freemasons' Hall as to drive the brethren to seek a place of meeting elsewhere, he goes on to say that he "knows that one lodge has already been turned away by the terms asked for the use of those rooms they have assisted to build."

Permit me to say that this statement is (doubtless unintentionally, but not less) entirely without foundation, and I contradict it because it might do serious mischief by preventing lodges from applying for the use of the new rooms.

During the progress of the building, and whilst our tenants are deprived of the use of many of their old rooms, all lodges heretofore meeting in the Tavern have had the gratuitous use of the new rooms in Freemasons' Hall; no rents have ever been asked and no terms have ever been offered to, or refused by, any of them, and consequently no lodge can have left for the reason stated by "Scrutator."*

* Whilst we are glad to receive this authoritative statement, we think it is but justice to "Scrutator" to state that his is not the only letter we have received upon the same subject and to the same tenour and effect.—Ed. F. M.

I am glad to say that other lodges not heretofore meeting at the Tavern have recently come to the new rooms in the Hall; in these cases we have consented to their occupying the rooms upon their agreeing to pay such rent for the use of them as shall hereafter be fixed to be paid by all other lodges, and in each instance this has been cheerfully and courteously agreed to.

The private lodge-rooms, as well as the other parts of the new "Freemasons' Hall," having been built with the money of the Craft generally, it is alike reasonable and just that the lodges which derive especial benefit from the use of them, should pay, in the form of rent, such a sum as will, to a certain extent, remunerate the general Craft for the outlay of its money.

The justice of this will be apparent to all; the real extra expense to each lodge will be very small indeed, and it is an expense which I am satisfied the great majority will willingly submit to. The committee have not, as yet, fixed the rents to be paid, but I feel convinced that I am not forestalling their decision when I say that the maximum sum they expect to derive from the lodges now meeting at the Hall is below the minimum suggested by your somewhat ill-natured critic.

I take this opportunity to make an earnest and brotherly request to all lodges occupying our new rooms, that they will, both by influence and example, do their best to prevent our new Hall from being used for any but strictly Masonic purposes. I mean that they should help us to carry out the rules laid down, and discountenance all eating, drinking, and smoking in the lodge-rooms; it should be borne in mind that members attending lodge have to pass by their banqueting-rooms on their way to lodge, and there can be no hardship, to those who must drink before lodge, in requiring them to take their refreshment in the proper room.†

On this subject I cannot help referring to the example of the Grand Master: it has always been the custom of the Grand Officers' Club to supply tea and coffee to the Grand Master in his lordship's private room; that room being dismantled and the Grand Master's new room not being yet finished, his lordship is obliged to make use of one of the committee-rooms for his private use when attending Grand Lodge, and in it he has forborne to have any refreshment served.

We are about to possess a grand and noble building, one, I hope, which will be in every way worthy of us; for the honour and dignity of Masonry I ask that we unite in keeping it strictly to its purposes.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
London, Feb. 13, 1866. JOHN HAYERS.

[We must add that we entirely concur in Bro. Hayers's views, and although many complain of the refusal of the committee to allow even "the usual glass of sherry" to be brought up into the ante-room may entail for a time the disagreeables incident to the introduction of the new rule, yet it is, on the whole, an important move in the right direction, with which, we believe, every zealous and right-thinking Mason will agree, considering on the one hand the Masonic principle involved in the committee's objections, and on the other, the proximity of the new lodge-rooms to the Tavern portion of the premises.—ED. F. M.]

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

* * * All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MASONIC MEMS.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, TREDEGAR.—The plans in connection with this seion of the Isca Lodge have so nearly approached maturity that it is hoped the final arrangements will be completed in time to enable its being opened on the second Thursday in March. The undermentioned brethren have, we understand, been determined upon as the first principal officers:—Bro. James Middleton, I.P.M. of the Isca Lodge (No. 688), to be the W.M.; Bro. Robert Bond, W.M. of the Isca Lodge, to be the S.W.; and Bro. B. S. Fisher, also of the Isca Lodge, to be the J.W. The regular lodge night of the St. George brethren will be the second Thursday in each month. The opening of this lodge will be a great convenience to the Tredegar brethren, as they have now to travel a distance of 46 miles (*i.e.*, 23 miles in each direction) to attend the Isca Lodge. The brethren at Blaina, Rhymney, Ebbw Vale, and other places within a radius of three or four miles of Tredegar, will also hail with delight the opportunity which will thus be afforded to them of visiting a lodge within such an easy distance of their respective residences.

On Friday, 2nd February, the Boys' School presented to the Secretary, Bro. F. Binckes, an oak inkstand and gothic oak book holder, accompanied with the warmest expression of appreciation of exertion used on their behalf, particularly for the amusement, instruction, and comfort during the Christmas holidays, the address to Bro. Binckes being exceedingly well delivered by Mr. Edward Wintle, Pupil Teacher on behalf of the Boys. This is the second presentation, the Boys having last year presented a very neat set of letter weights and scales, and is an evidence of the appreciation of the Boys for the persevering efforts of Bro. Binckes to fully carry out his arduous and trying duties.

Bro. John Thomas whose sudden decease is deeply regretted, was buried on Thursday last, 15th inst. at four p.m. The brethren of the Boscawen Lodge (No. 699), and in the neighbourhood assembled at half-past three and attended the funeral.

We are glad to learn that the M.W. the Grand Master, who is also the Prov. G.M. for North and East Yorkshire, has been pleased, by patent dated the 27th ult., to appoint Bro. John Pearson Bell, *M.D.*, of Waverly House, Hall, to the office of D. Prov. Grand Master for the Province of North and East Yorkshire, vacant by the resignation of Bro. Geo. Marwood, who has for many years, with advantage to the Craft and high credit to himself, filled that distinguished and honourable position, Bro. Marwood having gone to reside out of the province. Bro. Dr. Bell, the newly appointed D. Prov. G.M., is a P.M. of the Humber Lodge, has acted for several years as Prov. G. Sec., and, by his unwearied zeal for the Craft, his great knowledge of the principles, history, and working of Freemasonry, and his urbane and gentlemanly demeanour, is eminently fitted for the high position to which he has been raised, and we heartily congratulate him on his winning this well-deserved honour. The Prov. Grand Secretaryship, vacant by the elevation of Dr. Bell, has been conferred upon Bro. M. C. Peck, P.M. of the Sykes Lodge, at Driffield, and a member of the Minerva Lodge, Hull, who is well adapted for this important office.

METROPOLITAN.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 33).—The regular meeting of this old and flourishing lodge was held on the 9th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern, the following officers being present:—Bros. H. Grissell, W.M.; R. Galloway, S.W.; J. Strapp, J.W.; L. Crombie, Treas.; J. Glegg, S.D.; J. Glaisher and A. G. Church, Stewards. Bro. T. A. Chubb, the Secretary, being prevented attending through illness, his duties were performed by Bro. T. Hedley. The visitors present were—Bros. Thorp, P.M. 709; Greenhill, P.M. 709; Sterne, Empire City, New York, 206; W. Pulteney Scott, P.S.G.D. and P.M. Antiquity (No. 2); Crassweller, Royal York (No. 7); Kingsford, P.M. Old Union (No. 46); Brutton, Gundolph Lodge (No. 1050); L. Tomkins, P.M. Antiquity (No. 2); Col. Western, P.M. Antiquity (No. 2); Adams, Edw. H. Daviss, Perry, London Lodge (No. 125); Middleton, P.M. 91. The work of the evening was pretty heavy, there being one initiation, three passings, and two raisings. Mr. J. M. Norman was the initiate, Bros. Ferguson, England, and Snow being passed to the F.C. degree, and Bros. Sparks and Russell were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The business of the lodge being finished, the brethren adjourned to banquet, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having, after the removal of the cloth, being given and duly honoured, the brethren adjourned at a seasonable hour.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 172).—The annual ball of this lodge took place at the Queen's Concert Rooms, Hanover-square, on Wednesday, the 7th inst., which, as usual, was attended by a numerous and elegant company. Dancing commenced soon after nine o'clock to the enlivening strains of Bro. Marriott's band. When the supper rooms were thrown open more than three hundred ladies and gentlemen partook of very excellent supper, which was well served by Messrs. Englefield, and the wines supplied by Bro. Nicholson were highly praised. Bro. Dixon, W.M., president, proposed "The Health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen," which met with a loyal and hearty response. Bro. Emmens, P.M., Hon. Sec., then rose to address the company, and said he did not intend trespassing on their valuable time only for a few moments, his first duty being to thank them most cordially for the kind patronage and liberal support again bestowed on their annual ball, trusting the arrangements had met with their approval. Highly gratified must the stewards feel on seeing themselves again surrounded by so numerous and elegant an assemblage as he had then the honour of addressing, particularly when such an assemblage was amicably brought together without any public announcement whatsoever. This (he said) was their 28th anniversary, and during that time he had much pleasure in saying some hundreds of pounds had been given in Masonic charity. He felt quite sure the pleasures of the evening would be increased on knowing that by the continued support rendered to their Masonic ball they were assisting to maintain the "young" in their Masonic schools, or lending a helping hand to the aged or infirm in their asylum. Bro. Emmens was greatly applauded, and concluded by calling on the gentlemen to charge their glasses bumpers, and join with him in drinking to the health of their very excellent President, Bro. Dixon, who very eloquently returned thanks, and proposed "The Ladies." Bro. Waters, P.M., responded to the toast in a very humorous and excellent speech, after which the company returned to the ball room, and resumed dancing with much spirit until the programme was exhausted. Bro. Tripp gave great satisfaction as M.C., while the Board of Stewards, consisting of Bros. Waters, Jackson, and Nicholson, P.M.'s; Sallust and King, S.D.'s; Masterman, I.G., Dir. of Cers.; Walker, Botting, Lawson, and Brooks, with Bro. Dixon, W.M., as President, and Bro. Emmens, P.M., as Hon. Sec., carried out all the arrangements to perfection. Bro. Marriott's band was greatly admired. As usual, the proceeds of this very excellent ball will be devoted to Masonic charity, and we make no doubt the surplus will again be considerable.

MERCHANT NAVY LODGE (No. 781).—On Thursday, the 8th inst., the brethren assembled at the Jamaica Hotel, West India Docks. Present—Bros. Lars With, W.M.; Killick, S.W.; Davis, J.W.; Bracebridge, S.D.; Helps, J.D.; P. Gibbs, I.G.; E. T. Read, Hon. Sec.; Wright, P.M., Treas.; with Bros. Blickfeldt, Daniell, Potts, and many other brethren visitors, amongst whom were Bros. Hamilton, P.M. Yarborough Lodge; Harris, P.M. British Oak Lodge; Barlow, P.M. Sincerity Lodge; Johnson, St. George's Lodge, 146. The minutes of the last regular lodge having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken

and declared unanimous in favour of the following candidates for initiation:—J. Myerscough, W. P. Davis, W. J. Medland, J. W. Recoes, and F. Vincent, all of whom being present, were regularly initiated into ancient Freemasonry. Bro. Howard being a candidate for the second degree, and having satisfactorily answered the usual questions and being entrusted, was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. Bros. Barral and Jolly being candidates for the third degree, after answering the usual questions, and being entrusted, were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons by Bro. Wright, P.M., in a very impressive manner, which elicited the warm eulogiums from the brethren present. The lodge being resumed to the first degree, the brethren proceeded to the election by ballot of W.M., Treasurer, Tyler, and Auditors for the ensuing year. Bro. Killick, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M.; Bro. Wright was re-elected as Treasurer; Bro. Hoare, Tyler; and the following brethren as Auditors:—Bros. Levy, Helps, and Bradbury. Bros. Killick and Wright, in returning thanks to the brethren for their election as W.M. and Treasurer, expressed their gratitude for the honours conferred upon them, and their intention to perform the duties of the respective offices to the utmost of their ability. Mr. Francis Leary was then proposed for initiation at the next regular lodge, and Bro. Jolly, of Lodge Arakan (No. 616), East Indies, as a joining member. The Secretary then read a letter of resignation from Bro. C. Wilson, which was duly accepted, and the lodge was closed, when the brethren adjourned to banquet. After the cloth was drawn, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been given, the health of the newly elected W.M. was drank and duly responded to. Bro. Wright, P.M., then gave "The Health of Bro. Potts, P.M.," and, in very feeling terms, expressed the satisfaction that he and the brethren felt at seeing him amongst them. He was sure that those brethren who were in office, and those who had passed the chair, were indebted to Bro. Potts for the instruction that they had received, and he could assure the brethren that with Bro. Potts it was a labour of love to instruct those who required his assistance, &c. Bro. Potts duly responded. "The Health of the Newly Initiated Brethren, Officers, and Visitors" having been drank and duly responded to, the Tyler's toast brought the evening to a close. The enjoyment of the evening was considerably enhanced by some excellent songs from the brethren and recitations from Bro. Johnson, the Secretary of the well known Pickwick Histrionic Club.

PROVINCIAL.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

CONSECRATION OF THE BEAUDESERT LODGE, (No. 1017.)

The quiet little market-town of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, was on Monday, February 12th, the scene of high festivities, both in the Masonic world and also with those who do not belong to the Craft. The opening of the first Masonic lodge in this town necessarily excited a large proportion of interest and curiosity. The warrant for this new lodge was received towards the close of last year, but for various reasons the consecration was deferred till the day above-named. Soon after one o'clock p.m. the brethren began to assemble at the lodge room, Corn-Exchange, in order to walk together to the old parish church of Leighton Buzzard, where the proceedings of the day were to be inaugurated by divine service. The courteous vicar, the Rev. Thos. Richards, kindly lent his church to the Rev. Bro. R. J. Simpson, Prov., G. Chap. Berks and Bucks, who preached an excellent and most appropriate sermon for the occasion, taking for his text, Matt. xviii. 21, 22. The Rev. Bro. made some preliminary remarks for the information of that portion of his audience who were not Masons, explanatory of the principles which the Craft profess, and dwelling with great stress on the chief of them, viz.: Charity.

At the collection which was made in aid of the sick poor of the town, a goodly sum was added to its funds. At half-past three the brethren all assembled in the handsome and spacious lodge-room. The chair of K.S. was assumed by Bro. Eneas J. McIntyre, G. Reg. of England, with Bro. J. M. Shugar, P. Prov. S.G.W., Herts, as S.W., and Bro. T. M. Riley, P.M. of the Stuart Lodge, Bedford, as J.W.

Amongst about thirty-seven brethren present, we noticed Bros. Fred. Gotto, W.M. nominate, Walter Lean, S.W. nominate, Arthur Whyley, J.W. nominate, James Pettit, H. Pettit, Charles Reeve, E. Lawford, John White, all of whom were

petitioners for the warrant. Amongst the brethren from neighbouring lodges, were Bros. James Fisher, W.M., Riley, P.M., Sargeant, S.W., C. Johnson, S.D., Cookson, all of 540; G. Freeman, 948, H. J. Thompson, Pro. S.G.W. Herts, and P.M. 869; B. T. Fountaine, Turner, Turney, Hadley, and Parkes, of 948; Lovell, 98, and last, though not least, Wm. Watson, P.M., 25, who kindly came down to assist Bro. McIntyre in the arduous duties of the day.

The lodge was consecrated and dedicated according to ancient custom by the Grand Registrar himself, after which he resigned the chair in favour of Bro. Watson, for the purpose of installing Bro. F. Gotto as the first Worshipful Master of the lodge, which beautiful ceremony he performed in his usual faultless manner.

The W. Master then appointed and invested his officers, viz. :—

Bro. Walter Lean	W.M.
„ Arthur Whyley	J.W.
„ James Pettit	Sec.
„ Meux Smith	S.D.
„ George Freeman	J.D.
„ B. T. Fountaine	I.G.

Three candidates were proposed for initiation, and about seven brethren joined the new lodge, so that now the Beaudesert Lodge may be considered in full working order.

A sumptuous banquet was held in the Town Hall, supplied by Mrs. Bushell, of the Swan Hotel, after which the whole of the toasts usually honoured at Masonic banquets were given.

Bro. McIntyre gave the "Health of the Worshipful Master" in a very appropriate speech, and it was replied to in suitable terms.

The W. Master gave "The Consecrating Master," which was well replied to by the Grand Registrar.

Bro. the Rev. R. G. SIMMONS took the opportunity, after thanking the brethren for drinking his health, to offer some very suitable words of admonition on the subject of the introduction of candidates, &c.

Bro. WALTER LEAN, S.W., gave the toast of "The Adjoining Lodge of St. Barnabas (No. 948)," whose members had largely contributed to the expense of the new lodge. The toast was replied to by Bro. Shugar, P.M. and father of that lodge.

The toast of "The Stuart Lodge, Bedford," many of whose officers were present, was acknowledged by the W. Master, Bro. Fisher.

The officers of the Beaudesert Lodge returned thanks through the S.W. and J.W.

The Tylers' toast brought to a close this truly happy meeting, and each brother seemed to unite in the belief that a bright future awaits the Beaudesert Lodge, No. 1087.

CESHIRE.

CREWE.—*Lodge of Four Cardinal Virtues* (No. 979).—The usual monthly meeting took place on Wednesday the 7th of February, at the Crewe Arms Hotel. The W.M. Bro. Bullock, was ably assisted by Bros. G. Lord, S.W.; Whale, J.W. *pro tem.*; Reade, P.M. and Treas.; Moody, Sec.; Ratcliffe, S.D.; Davies, J.D.; Gibson, Org.; Price, I.G., and a full muster of the members. The business was a passing and raising, which was efficiently worked, especially the raising. The candidate Bro. J. Phillips was again complimented by the W.M. for his intelligent and correct replies, and he will prove a valuable addition to the lodge as a working Mason. Before the Master Mason's Lodge was closed, Bro. Bullock in most feeling terms alluded to the dangerous illness of their first beloved W.M., Bro. Mould, whom he thought would never be among them again. We, as Masons, payed especial respect to the dead, but he hoped that every brother present would respect the living, though sick brother, by uniting then in open lodge, in sending a special prayer to the Most High for his speedy recovery. The brethren acceded to this request, and for a few minutes there was a stillness, but every brother was praying for the life of him they all loved. The lodge was then closed down. The receipt from Bro. Farnfield for £5 to the Royal Benovolent Institution, which was given through Bro. Cope, G.S.B., was ordered to be entered in the minute book. Bro. Bullock then made an earnest appeal to the brethren on behalf of the Boys' School, for which he was a Steward. He wished them to be just before they were generous, and he hoped the lodge vote would be increased by a subscription among the members. It was resolved that the Treasurer examine his accounts, and report by next lodge, so that the largest amount, commensurate with justice, may be

voted to Bro. Bullock's list, and also that a subscription be made among the brethren. A brother having proposed a candidate, the lodge was closed, and the brethren partook of a plain substantial supper, served by Bro. E. Halsey, in a manner as if he had been catering for a prince.

CORNWALL.

TRURO.—*Lodge of Fortitude* (No. 131).—The brethren of this lodge (one of the oldest and the largest in the county), assembled on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at seven p.m. at the Masonic Rooms, Quay-street, Truro. Present: Bros. Holloway, W.M.; W. Colwell Oke, S.W.; William Lake, J.W.; R. S. Hilehins, Sec.; Thomas Chirgwin, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W.; Treas.; W. J. Johns, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.B.; J. McLean, P. Prov. S.G.D.; several of the officers and members of the lodge and Bro. W. J. Hughan Sec. 331 as a visitor. The lodge was duly opened, the minutes read and approved, and the business proceeded with according to the summons read. The W.M. initiated a candidate in a very impressive manner, assisted by Bro. T. Chirgwin, P.M., who gave the charge peculiar to the first degree. Two brethren were also passed according to ancient custom, Bro. Chirgwin occupying the chair, and by his request, Bro. W. J. Hughan delivered the lecture on the tracing board. Three propositions were received, and a prosperous year undoubtedly is before the W.M. Bro. S. Holloway who, together with his officers, cannot be too highly praised for the efficient manner in which they performed the various duties of the lodge. The members then voted two sums of money to assist a brother of the Falmouth Lodge, and towards the South Devon and Cornwall Hospitals, and all expressed their hearty wishes that the candidate for the Boys' School (Francis Treleash) whose father was a member of the lodge, may be successful.

LEICESTERSHIRE

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 279).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday the 7th inst., when, in the absence of the W.M., from illness, and of the S. and J. Wardens, owing to absence from home, the chairs were occupied respectively by the D. Prov. G.M. (Bro. Kelly), and by P.M.'s Tibbits and Pettifer. After the lodge had been opened in the first degree, the Rev. Bro. Packer was called to the pedestal and examined as to his proficiency as an E.A., after which, he having retired, a Fellow Craft's Lodge was opened, and he was duly passed thereto. Bros. Burkhill-Jacques, E. Gosling, and A. O. Davies were then examined as F.C.'s, and the lodge having been opened in the third degree, they were severally raised as M.M.'s. Herr Platak presided at the organ during the ceremonies. Two or three visiting brethren were present, including Bro. Klein, P.M. (21), and P.G.S. The lodge having been lowered to the first degree, and some routine business transacted, was finally closed in harmony, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

NORFOLK.

KING'S LYNN.—*Philanthropic Lodge* (No. 107).—The meeting for the installation of the W.M. of this lodge for the ensuing year was held at the Globe Hotel, Lynn, on Monday, the 5th inst., and was well attended, there being, besides a good muster of the members, nearly twenty visiting brethren from other lodges in the provinces of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, and more distant places. The lodge was opened at five o'clock by Bro. Webster, W.M., and after the usual preparatory ceremonies, the W.M. elect, Bro. R. H. Household, was duly installed in the chair, the installation being very ably performed by Bro. Jas. Dawborn, P.M. 213 (Norwich), assisted by Bro. F. Colsey, P.M. 213, in a full Board of Past Masters. The W.M. having been proclaimed by the Installing Master, and saluted by the brethren in the three degrees, appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bro. C. T. Ives, S.W.; G. G. Sadler, J.W.; J. T. Banks, S.D.; W. J. Pole, J.D.; Mills, I.G.; Jas. Green, Sec.; R. Cruso, Treas.; and Woolsey, Tyler (the last two having been elected at a previous lodge meeting). The J.W. then called the brethren to refreshment, and at six o'clock a sumptuous banquet was served in the best style by Bro. Marshall, to which about forty sat down. The W.M. occupied the chair, and was supported by Bros. Dawborn, P.M.; Webster, I.P.M.; Jones, P.M. 82 (Cheltenham); H. J. Wigmore, P.M. 809 (Wisbech), and Prov. J.G.W. Cambridgeshire;

Kennedy, P.M.; Rev. George Thompson, P. Prov. G.C., Cambridgeshire; T. M. Kendall, P.M., 103, and Prov. J.G.W. Norfolk; F. Colsey, P.M.; T. Patrick, W.M. 802, and Prov. G. Reg., Cambridgeshire; E. F. Cole, W.M. 985 (Long Sutton); and E. Barwell, W.M. 296 (Dereham). The visitors included also Bros. Ladbrooke, P.M.; C. G. Brett (809), W. Groom (809), H. Sharpe (S.W. 809), T. E. Cole, (J.W. 985), J. Tonge (985), F. J. Smith (J.W. 996), Thos. Parke (996), Burgess Allen, (373, Huntingdon), Robt. Parsons, (442, Peterboro'), and T. G. Hessey (838, Boston). Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from Bros. Whitwell and Cumming, P.M.'s, 107. After dinner the following loyal and Masonic toasts were given by the W.M.: "The Queen and the Craft;" "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family;" "The Most Worshipful Grand Master of England—Earl Zetland, the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Earl De Grey and Ripon, and the other Officers of Grand Lodge;" "The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master—Bro. B. Bond Cabbell, the Very Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Leedes Fox, and the Provincial Grand Officers." For the last toast, Bro. Kendall, Prov. J.G.W., responded; and for "The Prov. G. Masters and Officers of neighbouring provinces" the Rev. Geo. Thompson returned thanks. The health of the W.M. was proposed by the I.P.M., and drunk with Masonic honours; and the W.M. having responded, proposed "The Health of the Installing Master, Bro. Dawbarn," who, in responding, was pleased to bestow a high compliment on the working of the lodge so far as it had come under his cognizance. The W.M. then proposed "The Health of the Immediate Past Master and the Past Masters generally," which was duly acknowledged, and followed by that of "The Visiting Brethren," for which Bros. Patrick, Ladbrooke, Cole, Barwell, and Hessey severally responded. For "The Officers of the Lodge," Bro. Ives, S.W., returned thanks. The I.P.M. next gave "The Masonic Charities," and a collection was made in aid of the Fund of Benevolence attached to the lodge. The "Entered Apprentices" were represented by Bros. Chadwick and Brett, and the Tyler's toast brought the list to a close. Some musical brethren favoured the meeting with a few songs in the intervals of the speaking; and altogether the proceedings passed off most satisfactorily to all present.

SOUTH WALES (WESTERN DIVISION).

ABERYSTWYTH.—*Aberystwith Lodge* (No. 1072).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Belle Vue Royal Hotel on Thursday evening, 8th inst. The lodge was duly opened by the W.M., Bro. J. D. Perrot (also W.M. 651) P.G.S. of W., assisted by his Wardens Bros. John Jones S.W., and G. J. Smith, J.W., when the following brethren were present: Bros. J. Davies, Treas.; Stanley, J. Balcombe, Hon. Sec.; J. Baker, S.D. *pro tem.*; J. Vaughan, I.G.; F. R. Roberts, T. Paul, R. Northey, N. Bray, J. Pell, J. W. Szlumper, G. Clark, E. L. Cole, T. S. Stooke, G. Jones, J. Williams, W. P. Hughes, J. Garland, and O. Rowe; also visiting Bros. J. B. Newall, P.M. (S.W. 25); Scott, P.M., Tyler 651, Witt and Morris Jones, Charles Keilly, Tyler. Minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. raised Bros. Balcombe and Keilly to the sublime degree of M.M., in a most able and impressive manner, and afterwards proceeded to initiate Messrs. George Bentinck Cumberland; Richard Jenkin Jones, and Richard Selby. The lodge was closed in regular manner at ten p.m., when the brethren adjourned for refreshment. A lodge of emergency was held the next (Friday) morning, when the following brethren were present: Bros. J. D. Perrot, W.M. 651 and 1072; G. T. Smith, J.W.; John Davies, Treas.; S. J. Balcombe, Hon. Sec.; J. Baker, S.D. *pro tem.*; J. Vaughan, I.G., &c.; Charles Keilly, Tyler. The W.M. passed the following brethren to the degree of a Fellow Craft in his usual efficient manner, viz., Bros. F. R. Roberts, F. S. Stooke, Theodore Paul, Lewis Ellis, Gowan Clark, John Williams, James Garland, George Jones, and O. Rowe. The following gentlemen were initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, viz., Messrs. John R. Jones, J. Bennetts, Evan Rowland and P. Garland. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. J. B. Newall, P.M. (S.W. 25), for his able assistance in the working of the lodge. Too much praise cannot be given to the able W.M. of lodges 651 and 1072, for the energetic manner in which he performs his responsible duties; we need only remark that 102 miles separate the two lodges, and it is no sinecure to hold the exalted position he so ably fills, the duties of which he discharges with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the brethren.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

EASTWOOD.—*Lodge of Prince George* (No. 308).—The anniversary and installation meeting of this lodge was held on the 27th ult. at the lodge rooms, Station House, Bros. Clegg Greenwood, W.M.; Stead, S.W.; Thomas Hodgson, J.W. The lodge having been opened in form and the minutes read and confirmed, the W.M. called the brethren from labour to refreshment, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet. When ample justice had been done to the viands, the brethren returned to the lodge room, and the W.M. having resumed the lodge, Bro. Gaukroger, W.M. elect, was presented in the usual manner, when Bro. Greenwood, the retiring W.M., installed his successor. The brethren below the chair having been admitted and saluted, the W.M. appointed his officers, viz.:—Bros. Hodgson, S.W.; J. Piggland, J.W.; T. Crossley, S.D.; A. Wilde, J.D.; Luke Isherwood, I.G.; John Hodgson, P.M., Treas.; Joseph Hodgson, Tyler. The following P.M.'s and visiting brethren were present: John Hodgson, P.M. and Treas. 308; John Greenwood, P.M. and Treas. 308; Joseph Hodgson, P.M. 308; Thomas Hodgson, sen., 308; William Roberts, P.M., 298, P. Prov. G.P.E.L.; S. Simpson, I.P. Master, 308; J. Halliwell, P.M. 219; R. Ingram, W.M. 219; John Marshall, J.W. 219; S. Barnes, S.D.; Edward Hartley, Sec. 219; William Pilling, P.M. 288; Mitchell Helliwell, W.M. elect 288; Thomas Scholfield, J.W. 288; J. Nash, 288; James Stott, P.M. 298; J. Deardon, 952; J. Lord, 150, United States; J. Ashworth, W. Sutcliffe, J. Houldsworth. Joseph Greenwood, P.M. 308; W. Greenwood, P.M. 308; Business being ended, the I.P.M., Samuel Simpson, presented Bro. William Pilling with a P.M.'s jewel, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. William Pilling, P.M. (No. 288), by the Lodge of Prince George (No. 308), as a recognition of his services rendered to the above-named lodge." Bro. Pilling acknowledged the present in a neat and pithy speech, hoping that it might be an heir-loom in the family for generations to come. The lodge was then closed in form and with prayer. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren retired having spent a cheerful evening.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

IRELAND.

The illustrious college of Philosophical [Masons, Grand Elected Knights, K.H., held its usual quarterly convocation on the 8th inst., at the Grand East of the Order situate in the Valley of Dublin, at five p.m. There were present the Sublime President of the College, the Illustrious Bro. Henry de Burgh, 31°, on the throne; William S. Sandes, 31° (President elect) S.W.; E. Hornsby as J.W.; also the Lt. Grand Commander of the Irish Supreme Grand Council of the 38°, John Fitzhenry Townsend, L.L.D., Q.C.; Thomas Mostyn, 33°, G. Sec., H.E.; the Rev. Henry H. J. Westby, 33°, Grand Prelate, H.E.; Sir Edward Burrough, Bart., 32°; Lt. Colonel Francis Burdett, 32°; Major H. W. Massy, 31°; Henry Westropp, 31°; Lucius H. Deering, 31°, Registrar of the College; William Featherstone, 30°; William Allen, 30°; Ralph Cusack, 30°; and some other members of the College. Bros. W. E. Gumbleton and Lieut. H. J. Healy, members of the English College of Knights, K.H., 30°, were present as visitors on this occasion. The first business before the convocation was to take a ballot for the admission of new members to the Order who had been duly proposed and seconded at a previous meeting of the College, on the conclusion of which the following seven Princes Grand Rose Croix of the 18° were declared duly elected as members of the College, to come up for exaltation at the next quarterly convocation. Bros. Captain John C. C. Townsend, P.M., W.S. of No. 1 Chapter of Prince Masons at Cork; Arthur Bushe, S.G.D. of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; Maxwell, Charles Close, and Major-General Francis P. Duane, of the original chapter Dublin; George Johnson and Theophilus E. St. George, of No. 2 Chapter, Dublin; and James Vokes Mackey, P.M., W.S., of No. 5 Chapter Dublin. The next business before the meeting was the installation of the President elect into the chair of the College, which was conducted according to ancient form, by the Past Presidents and members of the Supreme Council present. The convocation was then adjourned and closed till the second Thursday in May next, then to assemble for the despatch of such business as may then come before it.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

PANMURE CHAPTER (720).—A convocation of this chapter was held at the Loughborough Hotel, Brixton, on Monday last, under the presidency of the following three principals:—Comps. Read, Z.; Stevens, H.; and Nunn, J. After the confirmation of minutes, and other routine business, the following brethren were exalted to the R.A. degree, viz.:—Bros. Gates and Taylor, of Lodge 720, and Bros. Poynter, Baster, and Harvey, of Lodge 902. This being the night for the election of officers for the ensuing year, the following was declared in each case to be the unanimous result:—Comps. Stevens, Z.; Nunn, H.; Thomas, J.; Hodges, Principal Soj.; Shaw, Scribe E.; Worthington, Scribe N.; Bradley, Janitor. Several propositions for exaltation in May were received, and the companions subsequently adjourned to the banqueting table, when the usual Royal Arch toasts were proposed, and a very agreeable evening spent.

BERKS AND BUCKS.

LINSLADE.—*St. Barnabas Chapter* (No. 948).—The second meeting of this chapter took place on the 8th inst. under the presidency of Comps. J. M. Shugur, M.E.Z.; Horwood, H.; and Dr. Lovell, J. Also present, Comps. Walter Leam, Scribe E.; Fred. Gotto, Scribe N.; Henry Pettit, Treas.; Arthur Whyley and A. Parkes, A.S.; and G. B. Ritchies. The business consisted in the exaltation of Bro. James Pettit, of the St. Barnabas Lodge, the ceremony being performed by the M.E.Z. The duties of P.S. were undertaken by Comp. Wm. Watson, P.Z. 25, who kindly come from town to assist. It is needless to say they were performed in a faultless manner. Four candidates were proposed for exaltation at the next meeting, a fact which augurs well for the prosperity of this chapter, Comp. Thomas, of Berkampstead, acted as Janitor, the chapter being at present without a serving companion of its own, though a dispensation has been granted to a brother for this purpose. After the closing of the chapter the companions sat down to banquet, and separated at ten o'clock, after spending a happy meeting.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*Chapter of Fortitude* (No. 279).—This chapter, which is formally attached to St. John's Lodge, Leicester, but in which the members of both the local lodges unite in working "with that love and harmony which should ever characterise Freemasons," held its quarterly meeting at the Freemason's Hall on Thursday, the 8th inst. There were present Comps. Brewin, M.E.Z.; Goodyer, H.; H. Helly (P.G.H. and Tr.), as J.; Pettifer, P.Z., as P.S.; Spencer, E.; Ride, as N.; Rev. J. Spittal, W. Boulton, C. Stretton, H. P. Green. Visitors—Comps. Klein, P.Z. 21, and Page, 47. The chapter having been opened in solemn form, and the minutes of the last quarterly convocation having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bros. David Challis and Luke Turner, of the John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 523), who were duly elected, and then exalted in admirable style by the M.E.Z., together with the Rev. Bro. Woodcock, W.M. of St. John's Lodge, who had been elected at the last meeting. The duties of P.S. were, in the absence of Comp. H. J. Davies, most efficiently discharged by Comp. Pettifer, P.Z. The historical and mystical lectures were delivered by the M.E.Z., and the symbolical lecture by Comp. Kelly. This being the period for the election of officers, Comp. Kelly, after warmly eulogising the very efficient and admirable manner in which Comp. Brewin had performed his onerous duties as M.E.Z., suggested that he should be requested to retain office for the ensuing year. The ballot having resulted in the unanimous re-election of the M.E.Z., Comp. Brewin, after thanking the chapter for the compliment paid to him, agreed to undertake the office. Comp. Goodyer was re-elected as H., and Comp. Weare as J. Comp. Kelly was re-elected as Treas., and the other offices were filled as follows:—Comps. Green, Scribe E.; Rev. J. Spittal, Scribe N.; Davis, P.S. (re-elected); Pettifer, P.Z., Dir. of Cers.; Bembridge, Janitor. The nomination of the two Assistant Sojourners, in the absence of the P.S. owing to ill-health, was postponed until the next meeting. Comp. Kelly reported the state of the Treasurer's accounts, which showed a good balance in hand, and stated that the £10 10s. voted to him at the last chapter, as Steward for the Freemasons' Boys' School, had been paid to the

banking account opened on behalf of the charity, and he reminded the companions that all promised subscriptions should be paid by the end of the present month, as the festival of the Charity would take place on the 14th of the ensuing month. Bro. Joseph Barrett Jacques, of the Middle Temple, was proposed as a candidate for R.A. Masonry. The chapter was then closed in ancient form and with solemn prayer, after which the companions adjourned to refreshment, in which, to their regret, the M.E.Z. could not join, as throughout the evening he was evidently suffering from severe indisposition.

MARK MASONRY.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Minerva Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 12).—At the regular meeting of this lodge on the 5th inst., pursuant to summons, there were present—Bros. Thos. Walton (G. Insp. of W. England), W.M.; J. N. Scherling, as S.W.; M. C. Peck, J.W.; Walter Reynolds, Sec.; W. Sawson, jun., as M.O.; F. Jackson, as S.O.; J. Brook, as J.O.; J. Linwood, S.D.; W. H. Brown, as J.D.; G. Hardy, I.G.; B. Jacobs, P.M.; M. Kemp, J. Hump, R. T. Vivian, H. M. Straker; J. Faulker, and W. Johnson, Tylers. Visitor—Bro. J. Brennan, Britannia Lodge, Sheffield. The lodge having been opened in ancient form, the minutes of the last regular and subsequent lodge on emergency were read and confirmed. The ballot box was then prepared for Bros. A. Rasmussen, C. F. Smithson, G. Gribble, S. R. Hensen, C. A. Dwyer, and C. Pool, all of whom were unanimously accepted. These brethren and Bro. Heitman being in attendance, were then admitted, and advanced to this honourable degree by the W.M., assisted by Bro. R. Jacobs, P.M., and Bro. Peck, the W.M. elect. Bro. R. Jacobs, P.M., then presented the W.M. elect, Bro. M. C. Peck, for installation, when the brethren below the chair retired, and he was regularly installed by the retiring W.M., Bro. Thomas Walton, in his usual impressive manner. The brethren were then re-admitted, and saluted the W.M. in ancient form. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. J. N. Scherling, S.W.; George Hardy, J.W.; J. F. Holden (elected), Treas.; Walter Reynolds, Sec.; John Linwood, M.O.; Francis Jackson, S.O.; W. W. Stork, J.O.; J. G. W. Willows, Reg.; Geo. Leggott, S.D.; W. K. Brown, J.D.; A. Herschull, Dir. of Cers.; F. S. Jackson, Org.; W. W. Batty, Steward; R. T. Vivian, I.G.; J. Faulkner and W. Johnson, Tylers. The W.M. then proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Thos. Walter, P.M., for his services during the past year, and for his kindness in installing him, which was seconded by the S.W. and carried by acclamation. Bro. Hump then inquired if the W.M. could find it convenient to hold a lodge earlier in the day, as there were several brethren from Grimsby who were desirous of taking the degree, but would like to return home the same evening; whereupon the W.M. fixed Monday, Feb. 12, at four p.m., when Bros. F. P. Cupiss, P.M.; Thos. Rippen, W.M.; W. B. Louth, and A. Bates, all of the Pelham Pillar Craft Lodge, Grimsby, were proposed by Bro. Hump, and seconded by the S.W. Also as a joining member, Bro. M. C. Peck, sen., Humber Craft Lodge, Hull, originally advanced in this lodge. Proposed by Bro. Thos. Walton, seconded by the W.M. Hearty good wishes having been expressed, the lodge was closed in ancient form with solemn prayer. The usual banquet followed. The special lodge previously mentioned was held on Monday, February 12th, at four p.m., pursuant to summons. Present:—Bros. M. C. Peck, W.M.; J. M. Scherling, S.W.; George Hardy, J.W.; W. Reynolds, Sec.; J. Linwood, M.O.; W. Rawson, J. as J.O.; C. P. Gibson, as J.D.; W. R. Brown, J.D.; R. J. Vivian, J.G.; J. Faullem and W. Johnson, Tylers; Thomas Walton, P.M.; H. Heitman, G. Wilkinson, J. Hump, C. Gribble, H. Haigh, C. Rasmussen, S. R. Hensen. Visitor—Bro. Scott, 153, Dublin. The lodge having been opened in ancient form, the ballot box was prepared for Bros. F. P. Cupiss, W. B. Louth, Thomas Rippen, A. Bates, and M. C. Peck, jun., all of whom were unanimously accepted. The four first-mentioned brethren and Bro. Whalley being present, were then admitted and advanced to this honourable degree by the W.M., the J.W. giving the working tools and charge. One brother was then proposed for ballot at the next meeting, and hearty good wishes having been expressed, the lodge was closed in ancient form with solemn prayer. This lodge is now in a very prosperous condition. Founded in 1782, before there was any Grand Lodge of the Order, it from time to

time conferred this degree under the authority received from its founder until the year 1861, when it was proposed to unite with the present Mark Grand Lodge which was effected, and on the 13th April, 1862, the first meeting was held under the present constitution, since when it has gone on flourishing and now numbers nearly 100 members, 35 of whom have been advanced during the last twelve months.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

WARWICKSHIRE.

HANDSWORTH MASONIC BALL.

The annual reunion in aid of the funds of the Masonic Charities, under the auspices of St. James's Lodge (No. 482), took place at the New Inns, Handsworth, on Thursday night, the 1st inst.

The ball and supper rooms were tastefully decorated for the occasion by Messrs. Holliday and Lewis, of New-street, and the ball itself was of the most perfect and harmonious character.

There were 250 persons present, amongst whom were:—

Bros. Dr. Bell Fletcher, P.D. Prov. G.M. Warwick; E. Hooper, Prov. J.G.W.; W. Hopkins, P. Prov. J.G.W.; E. L. Bullock, P. Prov. J.G.W.; C. Yarwood, P. Prov. S.G.D.; John Goode, P. Prov. S.G.D.; J. J. Turner, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Hutton, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Thos. Bragg, Prov. S.G.D.; G. C. Richards, W.M. St. James's Lodge; M. H. Simpson, S.W.; E. A. South, J.W.; H. A. Davis, S.D.; F. Meyer, I.G.; M. E. Simmons, P.M.; T. W. W. Bullock, F. Cotton, J. Vose Solomon, N. Sarony, Captain Briggs, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., &c.

The dance programme, which was well selected, was as follows:—

Quadrille, "La Fête des Fleurs;" polka, "Garrison Ball," lancers, "Garibaldi;" waltz, "Soldatenlieder;" mazurka, "Apollo;" caledonians, "Le galant Clarionette;" galop, "Chinese;" quadrille, "Les amours de Satan;" polka, "Brauner Offizier;" lancers, "Cure;" quadrille, "Trumpet;" waltz and galop, "The Guards and Jockey." (Interval.) Polka, "Vereinsball;" lancers, "Les beaux lanciers;" galop, "Glorioso;" quadrille, "Paul-y-toole-y-technic;" waltz, "La Duchesse de Brabant;" Caledonians, "United Service;" waltz, "Mabel;" Schottisch, "Miss Anna;" lancers, "New;" galop, "Night bell;" quadrille, "Orphée;" waltz and galop, "Hilda and Croquet."

The music was most effectively rendered by Bro. Davis's band.

Too much credit cannot be bestowed on the Honorary Secretary, Bro. H. A. Davis and the Stewards, who have rendered such efficient services to make the ball so brilliant a success.

Bro. Gillmer, as M.C., discharged his functions to the entire satisfaction of his brethren.

The supper was supplied in a liberal manner by the host, Bro. Sudbury.

REVIEWS.

The Pestilence: why inflicted, its duration, and desolating character. By JAMES BIDEN. Gosport: J. P. Legg. 1866.

The task of the conscientious critic is always laborious and oftentimes painful. Before he feels in a position fairly to review a work submitted to him, he must peruse it from beginning to end, and to those who wish to appreciate such a trial we would recommend the pamphlet now before us. It is almost impossible to give a systematic notice of a compilation so disjointed as Mr. Biden's attempt at accounting for the Pestilence. Page 16, he writes, "The thirteenth chapter (of Ezekiel) condemns the teaching of the prophets of Israel, who 'speak vanity and see lies,' who seduce the people, crying, 'peace, and there was no peace.' And at page 5 Mr. Biden says, 'By what authority do I declare these things? why do I assume that I am the appointed watchman?' Then giving his own replies, writes, 'The answers are, I have been conscious of being dealt with in a manner not ordinary. My mind has been influenced many times in its work, and a power given to it which it

naturally does not possess." It is a pity our author has not more closely considered the first quotation before presuming to answer the question as to his authority for accumulating extracts from Holy Writ, and giving to them such meanings as could only originate (we hope) from his own mind, and *that*, we can quite believe, has been, as he says, "influenced many times in its work." We can hardly suppose that it has had "a power given to it which naturally it does not possess," but we should rather feel inclined to suspect that it had been deprived of what little it might originally have been adorned with, otherwise Mr. Biden would scarcely have had the presumption to commence his work, as he does, with the sentence, "The Pestilence announced in 1860 as coming is now amongst us; it will intensify, and greatly desolate."

It is satisfactory to find that our author possesses that humility so essential to the characters of those professing to expound the Scriptures. Speaking of his former writings, he refers to "The Only Sacrifice" as "a marvellous little book;" but then, he tells us, it was presented to him in a dream; so, we should imagine, was the pamphlet now before us. Mr. Biden fills much paper with explanations that Zion is used in a spiritual, not temporal sense in Holy Writ, which, we believe, was sufficiently understood already, but we must give him the credit of placing in some of his parentheses interpretations of Scriptural passages quite original. We are presumed to accept his dictum without requiring arguments, possibly because, if we may judge from the following quotation, he has even less ability for logic than for prophesy. On the first page, he writes, "There is, however, another field of view above and beyond the natural—the supernatural or spiritual—though the supernatural, when fully understood, may perhaps be but a part of Nature's operations." * * *

We cannot understand, ourselves, how "Nature's operations" can be "supernatural;" the English of the sentence it is needless to comment upon. Elegance of composition is conspicuous by its absence.

Page 14, Mr. Biden says, "I could fill volumes with comments on the prophecies, and show that all the predictions culminate in our day;" but we sincerely hope, in the interests of religion and common sense, that he will abstain from doing so, at least until he has awakened from the "dream" from which he has derived those inspirations from which his books have hitherto arisen.

Geschichte der Freimaurerei von der Zeit ihres Entstehens bis auf die Gegenwart. Von J. G. FINDEL. Zweite Auflage. Leipzig: Förster und Findel. 1866.

History of Freemasonry; from its Rise down to the Present day. By J. G. FINDEL, Editor of the "Bauhütte," &c. Translated from the second German Edition, under the Author's personal superintendence. With a preface by Dr. C. Van Dalen, Representative from the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the Grand Lodge of Prussia, "Royal York zur Freundschaft," &c. London: Asher and Co. 1866.

If we remember rightly, it was Fichte who said that the most instructive and popular part of the study of philosophy, consisted in the history of philosophy. To a certain extent the same remark applies to all sciences and arts, and to none more than to the *Royal* art of Freemasonry. But no branch of Masonic Literature has, till within the last thirty or forty years, been more neglected and unproductive than the history of Freemasonry; indeed, the labours of Masonic historiographers of former ages have been either too abstruse or too bulky and voluminous to be within the reach of the *commun des mortels*; they have never been accessible but to the privileged few who could afford the time and the pecuniary means for indulging in the luxury of studying the works of Bros. Anderson, Fessler, Oliver, &c. Bro. Findel has undertaken and accomplished a highly meritorious task, in condensing within the limits

of an octavo volume the whole of Masonic history, so far as it can be gathered from *prima facie* evidence. Bro. Findel's name is, doubtless, well known to all our readers; he is one of the heads of the most advanced "fraction" of our German liberal brethren, the organ of which (the "Bauhütte") he has founded and ably conducted for the last eight years, and altogether he is a man of mark amongst the German Masonic writers of the present day. In writing the history of Freemasonry Bro. Findel has certainly chosen a field eminently adapted for his activity, and acted up to the excellent advice that Horace tenders to rising authors:—

Sumite materiam vestris qui scribitis aquam
Viribus—

In his own country, the author's work has fully met with the success it deserved. The first edition appeared in 1861, and at the end of last year a second edition became necessary. Bro. Findel, finding during a journey to England which he undertook in 1864, in search of the "York Document," that "the ignorance of the English brethren concerning Masonic history was such as to make one's hair stand on end (*haarsträubend*)," as he expressed it in a letter to the editor, took care, on his return to Germany, to have an English translation of his work prepared forthwith, and this translation has been published simultaneously with the second German edition.

Doubtless the writing of a comprehensive and yet concise and compendious history of Freemasonry is one of the most arduous tasks that may be submitted to any pen. The author who attempts to write the history of a certain nation, province, city, or parish, will always have the whole of his materials confined within distinct limits; he will have *une position donnée* from which he need not emerge, though he may trace the subject *ab ovo*, as did the author of "Knickerbocker's History of New York" jocularly in commencing his account from the creation of the world. When Arago wrote the "History of the Steam Engine," he was at loss whether to start his monograph from Hero or from Papin, and his was decidedly a *material* topic. But the historian who treats the rise and progress of a mere *ideal* subject, labours under a still greater disadvantage as compared to the former. Though he may know where to end, he will never know where to begin.

The greatest perplexity and confusion exists with reference to the origin of Freemasonry:—

Grammatici certant, et adhuc sub iudice lis est.

The compiler of a Masonic history has to contend with an infinity of conflicting theories, each of which is laid down as "indubitable and infallible." Some ideologists, like Anderson, Preston, Olliver, will go as far back as the creation of the world, and contend that "the Great Architect of the Universe" must necessarily have been the Originator of the Masonic art. Some will confer this honour on Tubal Cain, "an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron," while others consider Bezaleel, the designer of the tabernacle of Moses, as the father of Freemasonry. From a paper written by Bro. Fown, and reproduced in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, our readers will learn that the first lodge of instruction was held in the building sheds inhabited by the workmen engaged in the erection of Solomon's Temple. Other writers, on the contrary, assert that the existence of Freemasonry can be reckoned only from the period when it assumed its modern character, and thus, as Pallas sprang clad and armed out of the very head of Jupiter, or, to use a more modern simile, as the science of political economy was created by Adam Smith, thus Freemasonry must have been originated by the heads of the English school, Anderson, Desaguliers, and others. Bro. Findel strikes the balance between all these conflicting theories, and adheres to the view first propounded by Abbé Grandidier, of Strasburg, in 1782,*

* See FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE of June, 1859.

according to which Freemasonry took its origin in the *Bauhütten* or building sheds of the Middle Ages, and that the modern Masonic rituals are identical with, or analogous to the ceremonies that were usual amongst the working Masons who were engaged in the erection of the various mediæval cathedrals in Germany, England, and Scotland. Thus, the naves of the metropolitan churches of Magdeburg, York, and Kilwinning are considered as the cradle of the Royal Art in each of the three countries. No theory is supported by stronger proofs, none by *prima facie*, contemporaneous evidence, like that endorsed by the author; and some *pièces justificatives* appended to his volume, if genuine, which we are not in a position to verify, do certainly tend to strengthen the belief that the spiritual character of the German *Bauhütte* of the Middle Ages coincides, to a certain extent, with that of modern Freemasonry. But in two very material points we must take exception to the views propounded by Bro. Findel; first, as regards the secret sciences of the Ancients; second, with reference to the specifically *spiritual* character of mediæval Masonry.

Bro. Findel rejects all the circumstantial evidence tending to connect the ancient mysteries with those of the Craft, and admits only such facts as can be demonstrated in black and white, or by stone and mortar. Doubtless we have no precise knowledge of the character of the secrets that the sages of yore used to hide from the glance of the multitude, which was kept aloof by the formula, *Odi profanum vulgus et arceo*,* but history and psychology concur in teaching us that an elective affinity has at all times existed, and will continue to exist amongst men of an educated and cultivated mind, and that certain signs, symbols, and watchwords are necessary as criteria, to distinguish the wheat from the chaff, the initiated from the profane. These symbols were, at the various periods of history, borrowed from various professions and callings; instead of the symbols taken from architecture now-a-days, the ancient Hellenes used those from agriculture—*Mysteria, id est Cereris Sacra arcana*—as Justinus has it; the spade and harrow were to them what the plummet and trowel are to us. It is historically averred that the profound and admirable mysteries drawn from the worship of Ceres did not only exist in Attica, but that it was a capital crime to divulge them, and an indictable offence to perform the ceremonies in any but the buildings specially consecrated for that purpose. Alcibiades had to escape by immediate flight the wrath of the people called forth by his having held a private lodge in his own house.† The Eleusinia and Thesmophoria of the Athenians, though drawn from different sources, were akin to and partook of the character of our own mysteries; in their essence and objects they coincided with them. And who would deny at least the affinity that exists between the doctrine of Pythagoras, as laid down in the "golden precepts," as well as St. John the Baptist's teachings and preachings in the desert, and the fundamental axioms and "platforms" of modern Freemasonry? And if there should be any uncertainty on this point, why not grant us the benefit of the doubt? He who expunges the mysteries of Eleusis and the names of the great philosopher and the precursor of Christianity from the history of Freemasonry, eradicates and destroys the whole of the spiritual element that has always surrounded the bare demonstrated facts with an ideal and poetical hue, without which our Institution is divested of most of its charms and attrac-

* Horace, Carmin. III., i. 1.

† Καὶ τὰ μυστήρια ἅμα ὡς ποιεῖται ἐν οἴκῳ ἐφ' ὅβρει, ὡν καὶ τὸν Ἀλκιβιάδην ἐπιγινώσκοντο.—(Thucyd. de bell. Pelop., vi., 28.) Aspergebatur etiam infamiâ, quod in domo sua facere mysteria dicebatur.—(Corn. Nep. Alcib. 3.) See also Commentary to the "Life of Alcibiades," by Cornelius Nepos, in the second volume of the Valpy edition of this author, and Poppo in Thucyd., passim.

tions. How could Bro. Findel, the strenuous advocate of the "spiritualisation" of Freemasonry, go so far in his matter-of-fact tendencies as to forget the sublime words of Schiller:—

Was den grossen Ring bewohnet,
Huldiget der Phantasie —.

Does he mean to commence Grecian history from the Persian wars, and Roman history from the invasion of Brennus? and deny that Mythology which at all times has delighted and fascinated the young and the old, forms an integral part of history?

Still we might endorse Bro. Findel's view as to the age of Masonry, *cum beneficio inventarii*, were his theory otherwise incontrovertible. But this is by no means the case. Imagination must be stretched to a great extent indeed, to allow us to assume that the constitution of the building corporations of the middle ages was endowed with a more spiritual character than that of other similar bodies. It must be borne in mind that at the time of the erection of those great mediæval edifices, all artizans' companies were imbued, to a greater or less extent, with a religious and spiritual element. Let any one of our readers glance at the account given by Abbé Ouin-Lacroix of the industrial corporations of Rouen,* and he will find that a religious fraternity (*confrérie*) was attached to every one of fifty-four corporations, and, strange to say, though we meet the "tilers" amongst them, the Masons themselves "shine by their absence." We only find it related that, in 1398, Jehan Salvart was appointed builder of the Rouen cathedral, and that upon this occasion the Dean of the Chapter addressed him thus:—"Thou shalt make thy workmen work well and faithfully, and thou shalt do all other things which a good and faithful Mason ought to do, in such a manner as to set aside favour, fear, love, and hatred in all that concerns the said office."

No magnifying glass enables us to find in the constitutions of the Masonic corporations of the Middle Ages traces of a more symbolical character than in other similar covenants. Withal, we do not mean to impugn in substance Bro. Findel's assumption that modern Freemasonry has derived its origin from mediæval working Masonry; but considering that the direct evidence he adduces does not enable him to fully make out his case, and that his theory must needs rest on conjecture like all others, we object to the complete exclusion of the poetical and *quasi* mythological element, without which the attempted "spiritualisation" of our Institution becomes a bare impossibility.

This much for the premises from which the author starts. As regards the body of Bro. Findel's work itself, it is divided into four divisions, viz., the introductory part, containing the early history of Freemasonry; and then the history of Freemasonry itself, consisting of three periods, respectively from 1707 to 1783, 1784 to 1813, and 1814 to the present day.

In the introductory portion we find the original text and explanation of the "legend of the Craft," an account of the German *Steinmetzen* or stonemasons, and the English building corporations during the Middle Ages, and a statement of the landmarks through which we may trace the rise of Freemasonry during the same period of history.

In the three divisions of the history itself, the author treats of the rise and progress of Freemasonry in each country of the Old and New world. In a kind of cyclo-rara we see, first, the component parts of the United Kingdom, then France, Germany, Scandinavia, the United States, the countries touching the North Pole, and those adjoining the tropics pass before our eye. The periodical division of the work may be thought somewhat arbitrary; the opinions on the expediency of

dividing and subdividing the total space of time in one manner or another may diverge, but still we must acknowledge that, with reference to the systematical arrangement of the matter, Bro. Findel's work is unimpeachable, and the author deserves great credit for the "lucid order" which pervades it.

We could not possibly attempt, within the narrow limits of a literary notice, to give an epitome of the work before us—doing so would be equivalent to giving a succinct history of Freemasonry; in fact, we should be obliged to condense the work, which in itself forms the quintessence and condensation of all the facts and figures hitherto published on the subject: so we must confine ourselves to the expression of our opinion as to the worth of the book in general and in its details. In doing so, we must make a very close distinction between the doctrinal and theoretical views set forth by our painstaking *confrère*, and the substantial facts stated by him.

Bro. Findel, as we have said before, is one of the chief promoters and supports of that party, rather numerous at present both in Germany and France, which proposes to cultivate chiefly the spiritual and ideal side of Freemasonry, and considers symbols, forms, and rituals, only as secondary, contingent parts of our Institution. We do not mean to discuss the merits or demerits of these views here; suffice it to say that our own do not coincide with those of the continental reformers. Bro. Findel himself is forbearing enough to confine himself mainly to the statement of historical facts; but in the rare instances in which theoretical explanations are given, they are tainted with such a tinge of thorough-going radicalism as to call forth a decided demurrer on the part of all adherents of the traditional forms. To quote only one example, the author disposes of the high degrees in the following manner:—

Besides the three original degrees, in accordance with the spirit of Freemasonry, there exist in some branches of the Craft the so-called high grades, which are conferred in the Scotch or St. Andrew's Lodges, also in the Chapters, but which are foreign to the real spirit of Freemasonry, and an innovation which crept in at the time of Masonic degeneracy.

Has the author never read Bro. Goethe's lines on the "learned gentlemen" who reject all they cannot understand:—

Was ihr nicht fasst, das fehlt euch ganz und gar,
Was ihr nicht rechnet, glaubt ihr, sei nicht wahr.

Is he so fully acquainted with the intricacies and metaphysics of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and the other higher branches of the Order, as to be considered a competent judge in passing sentence on them in this summary manner? Bro. Findel sets forth this trenchant opinion without substantiating it; but is he prepared to adduce such evidence as could counterbalance the powerful testimony in favour of the antiquity of the high grades? It is, to say the least, puerile and imprudent to make an assertion "without having the proofs for it in your pocket," as Herr von Vincke expresses it. Views similar to the above are set forth in various parts of the work; they are in glaring opposition to those generally adhered to by the most distinguished of our Order hailing from the English, Scottish, and Irish Grand Lodges. It is our duty to openly impugn and brand them as subversive of the very groundwork on which our Institution has rested ever since its foundation.

As to the translation of the present work into English, Bro. Van Dalen tells us in the preface:—

By a happy coincidence this translation was made by a descendant of two dignitaries of the Grand Lodge of England, now residing in Berlin, who has brought to the task an inherited interest in the subject treated of, and who, with a sufficient knowledge of the German language, has combined that fluency of style without which even the richest contents could not attract a reader of cultivated taste.

We are not quite of the same opinion. Whatever the

* Histoire des anciennes corporations d'arts et métiers et des Confréries religieuses de la capitale de la Normandie.—Par Ch. Ouin-Lacroix. Rouen, 1850.

Masonic qualifications of the translator may be, we think he has somewhat too strictly adhered to the original German text. We should like to see a little more "fluency" in the diction, and strongly advise the author to take care that the second edition of his work should be prepared by one who might be more qualified by his perfect knowledge of the English language, than by his Masonic extraction.

We have enumerated at length the defects and shortcomings of the work under notice, and tried by a fair and unprejudiced criticism to dispose of the errors committed by the author. But just as the slightest spots and taints will be most conspicuous in the brightest objects, so Bro. Findel's mistakes, though otherwise insignificant, become more apparent and glaring in proportion, by reason of the otherwise excellent character of his work. We have adverted to its demerits, but we cannot speak too highly of its merits. As regards more especially the compilation and arrangement of the facts themselves, which form the subject of the volume before us, the skill and "many-sidedness" with which they have been treated are highly creditable to the author. Indeed, the subject is fully exhausted in it; the student will find here a Masonic library condensed in one volume.

In this respect, we believe no work published heretofore can come up to that by Bro. Findel. We can conscientiously recommend not merely the perusal, but the study of this work to every one of our readers. A new world is produced before his eye. The origin, nay, the very existence, of Masonic life on the Continent of Europe has been to him all but a *terra incognita* hitherto; but now he will learn that Masonry, though originally transmitted from England to foreign countries, has, during the last four ages, developed itself independently, enjoyed an independent life, and possesses a history of its own. He will become more convinced of the universality and the catholic power and activity of our Institution, and throughout the vicissitudes and changes through which it has had to pass, he will trace the "purple thread" of philanthropy, charity, and fraternal love which pervades it.

In conclusion, we may be allowed to say that we consider Bro. Findel's work as a corner-stone in the edifice of Masonic literature. At present, it is somewhat too roughly hewn; it requires some more chipping and polishing; but these operations once performed, the excellent substance of which it consists will qualify it as a standard work for study and reference on Freemasonry.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

The approaching season requires a change even when success is unabated; and Mr. German Reed, after running the "Peculiar Family" for a year, and still finding the public taste unsatiated, is compelled to resort to novelty. A new entertainment, by Mr. F. C. Burnand, the popular writer, is, we hear, in active preparation, and Mr. John Parry leaves the best of his numerous domestic scenes to describe the incidents of "A Wedding Breakfast." Mrs. Roseleaf's "Little Evening Party" will therefore be given for only a few nights more.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 24th, 1866.

Tuesday, February 20. INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.

Wednesday, February 21. GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, at 8.

Wednesday, February 21. SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—"On Modern Legislation, in regard to the Construction and Equipment of Steamships." By Thomas Gray, Esq

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Prince of Wales, attended by Major Teesdale, hunted with his harriers near Langley, on the 8th inst. The Prince and Princess of Wales, with the Countess of Macclesfield and Major Teesdale in waiting, attended Divine service at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on Sunday last. The Communion Service was read by the Rev. J. V. Poval, and the Rev. Dr. Vaughan. The christening of the infant prince, the son and heir of his Serene Highness the Prince and her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess of Leiningen, took place at Osborne on Sunday last, which was the anniversary of her Majesty's marriage, in the presence of her Majesty the Queen, their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold; the Prince and Princess, and Princess Alberta of Leiningen, Princess Hohenlohe, and Prince and Princess Hermann of Hohenlohe. The sponsors were—Princess Hohenlohe, the Grand Duke of Baden, represented by Prince Hermann of Hohenlohe; and Prince Edward of Leiningen, represented by the Prince of Leiningen. The infant received the names of Emich Edward Charles. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. G. Prothero, the rector of Whippingham. The Ladies and Gentlemen of the Household, Mrs. Prothero, and some of the officers of the Royal yacht, had the honour of being present. In consequence of the very unfavourable weather, her Majesty and the Royal family were prevented attending Divine service on Sunday last. Lord Proby, Comptroller of the Household, had an audience of her Majesty on Monday morning to present the Address of the House of Commons in answer to the Speech from the Throne on the opening of Parliament.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS, on Thursday, the 8th inst., the proceedings were unimportant. Earl Russell said he would receive a deputation from the Royal Agricultural Society, in reference to the cattle plague, on Monday next. Lord St. Leonards drew attention to the law as to bidding at sales by auction of estates, and the House adjourned at half-past five.—On Friday, the 9th inst., two subjects were discussed—the Cattle Plague and the Abyssinian captives. Lord Chelmsford asked a question as to the latter, and was informed by Lord Clarendon that the proceedings in Parliament and the discussion of the matter in the press had impeded the action of the Government. He also praised Mr. Rassam. As to the cattle plague, several questions were asked of the Government, but the result was not of much interest. Their lordships adjourned at ten minutes to eight o'clock.—On Monday, Earl Russell stated in reply to a question that the Government was not at that time prepared with an Act to carry out the recommendations of the select committee of 1864 on railway companies' borrowing powers. After this followed a discussion on the British Museum, in the course of which Earl Russell said the Government did not intend to introduce at present a bill to alter the management of the museum. Their lordships rose at ten minutes before six o'clock.—On Tuesday the Earl of Winchelsea asked whether the Government were prepared to recommend to Parliament any grant to persons who had been compelled to slaughter cattle not offered for sale by order of the inspectors. The Duke of Marlborough observed that the order for the indiscriminate slaughter of infected cattle, without accompanying regulations, had been attended with serious consequences; for when cattle had been attacked the owners had concealed the fact, and sent them to market, thus still further spreading the disease. The Lord Chancellor said it was doubtful whether there was power to enforce the order without a liberal construction of the act

of 1848. It was necessary, however, to act decisively on the moment, and the order had therefore been issued on the assumption that power was given to carry it out. The Earl of Derby said the act simply declared it to be an offence to expose diseased cattle in the public market. The order issued by the Privy Council was altogether contrary to the spirit of the act. Persons deprived of their property under the order had a fair claim to compensation from the Government. He suggested that instead of proceeding with a complicated bill, Ministers should give effect to their intentions by means of resolutions to be introduced simultaneously in both Houses of Parliament. Earl Russell thought that the order of the Privy Council came within the scope of the Act of 1848, which was passed to prevent the spread of disease. He thought it would be inexpedient to proceed by resolution, and that it would be better to divide the Government measure into two Bills. Some further conversation ensued, but led to no result; and their lordships adjourned at half-past six o'clock.

—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on the 8th inst. the O'Donoghue opened with a declaration of dissent from what was said in the speech about Ireland. He insisted that inquiry into the state of that country was essential, and he moved an amendment to the addresses declaring that whilst great causes of dissatisfaction existed in the country it was the duty of the Government to examine into and remove them. Mr. Blake seconded the amendment, and was replied to by the Attorney-General for Ireland. After him came a host of Irish members, and eventually the amendment was negatived.—On Friday, the 9th inst. Mr. Watkin gave notice of a question in reference to Fenianism in America. The chief topics of debate afterwards were Jamaica and the Reform Bill.—Sir G. Grey, in answer to questions, said he did not know when the information on which the Reform Bill was to be based would be ready. Later, in reply to Sir John Pakington, he explained that no time would be lost in laying the information and the bill before the House.—Then commenced a series of speeches, most of which were obviously intended to impede the action of the Government. Of this kind were the sayings of Mr. Marsh, Mr. Bouverie, and Sir Henry Hoare.—Mr. Taylor spoke up manfully for honesty in dealing with the question.—On the question of Jamaica, Sir John Pakington brought down upon himself a splendid rebuke from Mr. Bright. Sir John censured the observations which Mr. Bright had made on the massacre in some speeches during the recess. To this Mr. Bright replied, repeating the remarks which had been censured, and declaring that every Englishman ought to feel profound horror for the atrocities which had been committed. Mr. Cardwell said a few words in vindication of the course taken by the Government, and after disposing of some other matters the House adjourned at ten minutes to seven o'clock.—On Monday, the disputed King's County election was the subject of a brief debate. Mr. Ayrton brought it forward, and said that owing to a mistake in casting up the poll-books, Sir P. O'Brien was returned in the place of Mr. Hennessey. He moved that the return should be corrected. Sir P. O'Brien pledged his word of honour that he believed himself in a majority at the election. The Attorney-General thought the course taken irregular, and suggested that the motion should be withdrawn, which course Mr. Ayrton took.—Sir George Grey then explained the Cattle Plague Bill which he sought leave to introduce, and after a discussion leave was given to bring in the bill.—On Tuesday the Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying to a question of Mr. Samuelson, said that the prospects of public business rendered it more than doubtful whether it would be in the power of the Government to make any proposal for the

amendment of the Bank Charter Act of 1844 in the present session. The right hon. gentleman added that the Government were not disposed to ask Parliament, either in this or any future session, to enable the Bank of England to resume the discretionary power with regard to the increase of its issues against securities which it possessed before the passing of that Act. The Attorney-General stated, in answer to M. Howes, that in accordance with the recommendations of the select committee which sat in the last session criminal informations were filed last Michaelmas term against P. R. Welch and the Hon. R. Bethell, for corrupt practices in obtaining a judicial appointment, and they now stood for trial in the present term. Mr. Hardcastle obtained leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of church rates. On the motion of Sir J. Pakington, it was agreed to appoint a select committee to inquire into the constitution of the Committee of Council on Education, and the system under which the business of the office is conducted.—In committee of the whole house Sir G. Grey moved that the Chairman be directed to ask leave to bring in a bill for the amendment of the acts relating to the oaths taken by the members of that House. Having observed that the time had come when, by almost universal consent, the Oath of Abjuration and Supremacy taken by the Protestants might be dispensed with, and when in the case of Roman Catholics the abjuration of the claims of the Pretender was useless, and the words relating to the Established Church constituted no additional security for the Church, the right hon. gentleman said he proposed, by means of a short bill, to repeal the present oaths, and enact a simple uniform Oath of Allegiance to be taken by all the members of the House of Commons. Mr. Newdegate objected to disturb the settlement which was arrived at eight years ago, after a struggle of eleven years. Leave was given to bring in the bill, and the House adjourned at half-past five.—On Wednesday the House was occupied during the whole of its sitting with the discussion of the rival cattle plague bills of the Government and Mr. Hunt. That gentleman, of course, advocated his own plan. In the course of his speech he remarked on the changes that had taken place in the Ministry, and referred to a rumour that Sir George Grey was about to resign.—Mr. Bright criticised the two bills, and pointed out how utterly wrong in principle was the system of compensation proposed.—Mr. Lowe made a reply, after which Mr. John Stuart Mill, in a short convincing "maiden" speech, supported the position which Mr. Bright had taken, and demonstrated how utterly unjust to the community it would be to tax them by rate to make good the losses of some farmers. Eventually both bills were read a second time.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The bills of mortality still continue to present favourable returns. The deaths registered in the principal towns of the kingdom last week amounted to 3,165, which is at the average rate of 27 per thousand. For the first time since these computations began to be made Edinburgh stands lowest on the list, showing a death-rate of 21 in the thousand: London and Hull follow with 22; the highest, Liverpool of course, is 37. Of the total number, 1,316 occurred in the metropolis, which is nearly 200 below the London average. The total number of births was 4,642, of which 2,315 belonged to London, which is about 120 above the week's average.—Earl Russell received two deputations on the 8th inst., on the subject of Reform. The first was from the National Reform Union; the second from Leeds. The deputation from the National Reform Union comprised a large number of members of Parliament and other gentlemen. At a preliminary meeting Mr. Bright made a speech, in the course of which he urged that the great point was to insist upon a

rental and not a rating franchise: At the interview with Earl Russell this was the tone of all the speeches. Earl Russell said in reply that he could give no intimation of what would be the character of the Government bill. The Government would do what they believed for the best, and by that they would stand or fall.—A conference of the members of agricultural societies was held on Thursday, the 18th inst., at the St. James's Hall, to take steps in reference to the cattle plague. Several resolutions were proposed and agreed to, the purport of which was to prohibit entirely all movements of live stock in the country, to order that all infected animals and those in contact with them should be killed, to provide remuneration for owners of animals affected by these measures, and to do all these things by Act of Parliament.—The case of "Edmunds v. Lord Brougham" came on again on Thursday, the 8th inst., in Vice Chancellor Stuart's court. Mr. Edmunds had filed a bill to recover £5,000 lent to Lord Brougham in 1811, and which his lordship offered to pay. He coupled certain conditions with the payment, to which Mr. Edmunds could not agree, and the bill was filed. To this bill Lord Brougham made a reply, in the course of which he said he had been obliged to turn Mr. Edmunds out of his house. Mr. Edmunds applied that the paragraph containing this charge should be removed from the reply. After hearing arguments, the Vice-Chancellor ordered its removal.—In the court of Queen's Bench on the 8th inst., Mr. Desmone Ryan, musical critic for a contemporary, sued the proprietors of the *Orchestra* for damages, for a libel on him printed in that paper. He had been charged with levying black mail on professional singers, by inducing them, under fear of hostile criticism, to sing without fee at concerts given by him. Mr. Sims Reeves, Madame Sainton-Dolby, and other *artistes* were called as witnesses for Mr. Ryan, and they said they sung for him as a matter of friendship. The jury found for the plaintiff with £250 damages.—At the Bow-street Police-court on Thursday, the 8th inst., the six sailors charged with piracy on board the *Scotland* were again examined before Sir Thomas Henry. Further evidence as to the mutiny having been given, the whole of the prisoners were committed for trial.—The inquest on the remains of a man found in the bed of the Thames near Waterloo Bridge some time ago, was resumed on the 8th inst. Some interest attached to the proceedings in consequence of a lady named Clephan making a statement to the court. She stated that her husband left one day in 1851, and she had never seen him since. She described his person and some of the articles he possessed, but though there was some likeness between these and the remains found in the river, there was not sufficient proof to amount to identification. The jury returned an open verdict.—Charlotte Winsor has been again respited. It seems that the indefatigable solicitors who have taken her case in hand have called the attention of the Attorney-General to the fact that the recent decision in the Court of Queen's Bench, in reference to the discharge of the first jury without giving a verdict, is directly opposed to a ruling of the Irish judges a few years ago in a similar case. The Attorney-General has therefore issued his fiat for a writ of error in the case to be argued in the Exchequer Chamber before all the judges. The arguments will probably be heard in Easter term.—A mistake which is likely to have fatal results was made at Sydenham on Saturday morning last. Mr. Joseph Ferguson, a pianist, was going home from a party at which he had been engaged, and at half-past two o'clock passed the Crystal Palace, against which a policeman in plain clothes, named Maddock, was standing. Mr. Ferguson was carrying a bag, and Maddock thinking this suspicious, followed him. Mr. Ferguson quickened his pace, and so did Maddock. Then Mr. Ferguson, who thought he was being

pursued by a garotter, ran, and Maddock ran likewise, and being by far the quicker runner of the two, soon came up with Mr. Ferguson. Then began a struggle, in the course of which Maddock was stabbed in three places. He shouted for help, and two policemen came up, when Mr. Ferguson willingly surrendered. Maddock was taken to Guy's Hospital; and on Saturday afternoon the Greenwich police magistrate went there and took his deposition. Mr. Ferguson was brought up at the police-court and remanded.—In the Court of Queen's Bench on Saturday last, an action, *Campbell v. Lord Wenlock*, was tried. The action was to recover the rent of a furnished house in Eaton-place, which had been let to his lordship by a house-agent named Douglas. His lordship and his family went to the house, but only remained there a very short time, leaving it for the alleged reason that it swarmed with bugs. For the plaintiff it was sought to be shown that the cause of leaving was to be found in the fact that Lord Wenlock's butler had had no commission paid to him, and that therefore he reported against the house. It was denied that there were any bugs in the house. The case was not concluded when the court rose.—A lamentable railway accident took place near Leamington, on Saturday morning last. Owing to a goods train having run off the line on Friday night only a single line of rails was worked on Saturday. Three platelayers were ignorant of this fact, and the result was that an up train from Wolverhampton dashed upon them. Two were killed, but the third was fortunate enough to escape.—An accident which might have been attended with serious consequences occurred a short time since. While some labouring men were engaged in a cutting the earth fell in, exposing all to most imminent peril, and completely burying one of them. A courageous volunteer—a member of the first Middlesex engineering corps—was lowered down the aperture; and after five hours' grubbing with the hands, assisted only by a trowel, he fortunately succeeded in effecting the poor fellow's release.—A man was killed on Friday night the 9th inst. in Dublin. His name was Clarke, and it seems that while on the south bank of the Royal Canal, near Margaret-place, he was set upon by three men, who knocked him down and then shot him. A policeman named Curran heard the shot and went to the place. He also was fired at, but fortunately the assassins missed their aim. Clarke died on Saturday night. It is believed that he was a Fenian, and that he was murdered by other members of the brotherhood who thought that he had given information to the police.—A telegram from Plymouth tells of the loss of the *Wanato*, one of the Black Ball line. She came into collision in the Bay of Biscay with the *Queen of Beauty* and sank. Her crew and passengers were saved.—Fifteen men engaged in casting pewter articles in Aldersgate-street were severely wounded on Monday evening by the bursting of a pot of molten metal.—A deputation of those anxious for a revision of the Prayer Book, with Lord Ebury at their head, waited on the Archbishop of Canterbury on Tuesday, in order to urge their peculiar views on his Grace. The Archbishop received them with all courtesy, but expressed his entire dissent from their views, and reminded them that if the question were once opened other parties would press for alterations in a sense widely opposed to theirs, and the result would be that the Church, which now embraced various schools of thought in her bosom, would be rent in twain.—The action which has been brought by Mr. Gore against the Right Hon. Mr. Walpole, for acts done by him ministerially when Home Secretary, was concluded on Tuesday. The plaintiff occupied the Court the whole day with his own statements and the depositions of his witnesses to facts, which the Court

told him over and over again could not be received as evidence, for they had nothing to do with the case. The trial was at last brought to a close, and the Lord Chief Justice, in summing up, characterised this as the most vexatious action which had ever occurred in his experience. The jury found for the defendant, but, with a view to prevent another trial in case the plaintiff should move the superior Court on a reserved point of law, they assessed the damages due to him, if that point were given in his favour, at one farthing.—The inquiry into the loss of the *London* was brought to a close on Wednesday. The only feature of interest in the evidence given was that Mr. Wilson, a shipbuilder, expressed his conviction that the *London* was faulty in construction and overladen. The report of the Court will not of course be made for some days to come.—Exell, the man who stabbed George Cox in Eldon-street, Finsbury, a few days ago, was brought up at the Guildhall Police-court on Wednesday. The medical evidence showed that Cox's wounds are of a most dangerous kind, and that he is yet in a perilous state. The prisoner was again remanded.—A woman, named Alice Dobb, is in custody at Barnstaple, charged with attempting to poison her son-in-law, Mr. Ridge, farmer at Tawstock, and his family. The prisoner prepared some potatoes for the breakfast of the family on Sunday morning, and was seen by one of the children to rub something on them. She made an excuse and left the house while the family were breakfasting. Directly afterwards they were all taken ill with symptoms of arsenical poisoning. The prisoner says she believed the potatoes were cooked in a saucepan in which sheepwash had been boiled. She was remanded. The family have recovered.—Some curious disclosures were made by a convict in the Court of Queen's Bench on Wednesday. Mr. Walker, the jeweller, of Cornhill, brought an action against Mr. Milner, the manufacturer of safes, for supplying him with a safe not burglar-proof, though guaranteed to withstand all attacks. Thomas Caseley, one of the men convicted of the robbery on Mr. Walker's premises, was examined, and gave a full account of how the entrance was effected into the premises. His narrative of the opening of the safe and the manner in which the robbery was planned, was most interesting. Verdict for the defendant.—Mr. Montague Williams applied on Wednesday at the Marylebone police court for a warrant for the apprehension of Robert Cooper, publisher of the *Spiritual Times*, charged with libelling Mr. Sothorn, the actor. In the *Spiritual Times* an article has appeared making most infamous charges against Mr. Sothorn. The warrant was granted.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The letter written by the Spanish Admiral Pareja contains a frank admission of the frightful error of judgment he committed in counselling his Government to declare war against Chili. He seeks to expiate the crime by committing another. It is hoped that Spain will follow his dying advice, and embrace the first moment to make peace with Chili.—The Marquis de Boissy amused the French Senate on Friday with his usual denunciation of Perfidious Albion. The Colonel Sibthorp of France was simply amusing. Still, on Saturday M. Rouher, on the part of the Government, thought it necessary to protest against what the Marquis had said.—In the French Senate on Saturday, Marshal Forey made a statement in reference to Mexico which will arouse suspicion. He said that the return of French troops would not take place as soon as the country appeared to desire. Indeed he advised that reinforcements should be sent out. M. Rouher came forward on behalf of the Government again, and declared that those opinions were those of the Marshal himself, and that the views of the Government were embodied in the Address.—In the Prussian Parliament Count von Bismarck and the Ministers of the Interior and Justice have been lecturing the Deputies in the matter of the decision of the Supreme Court in reference to a speech of Herr Twisten. These Ministers told the Deputies that they opposed the independence of the courts of justice in order that they might be free to give vent to expressions of insult and calumny. How

nearly the Count and his fellow ministers stood alone in this opinion may be judged by the fact that the resolution condemning the decision of the Supreme Court was carried by 263 to 35 votes.—In a speech delivered at the English college the Pope lamented that England had forgotten her title of the "Holy Island," and trusted that she would yet serve the cause of "the true faith."—After an interesting but quiet discussion the French Senate have adopted the paragraph in the Address relating to the September convention between the Italian and Papal Governments. Some of the senators having expressed distrust of the Italian Government, M. Rouher maintained the good faith of Italy, and said that France would continue her efforts to bring about a reconciliation between the Pope with Italy. In consequence of the conduct of the French Government towards the *Presse* most of the independent papers have resolved on taking no notice of any proceedings of a political character in the Chamber.—The Paris evening papers of Wednesday have a story that something like an insurrection has taken place in Turkey. The people oppose the conscription and troops are being sent out. The European provinces were quiet, but the pachas had been ordered to expedite the collection of taxes and even to obtain them in advance.

AMERICA.—The *Asia* has arrived, bringing news from New York to the evening of February 1st. The President declined to send to the Senate the correspondence in reference to affairs on the Rio Grande. In that quarter General Sheridan was taking active measures to prevent any further Bagdad affairs. The House of Representatives by an overwhelming majority have adopted the resolution of the reconstruction committee for a constitutional amendment in respect to the suffrage. A resolution has been reported authorising the sale of bonds, at not more than five per cent. interest, in foreign countries—the principal and interest to be paid in the currency of the country where the bonds are made payable. A most important report has been laid before Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury. It includes a bill to continue the reciprocity treaty for another year from March next, provided that Canada repeals the duties on certain enumerated articles, raises the internal taxes on some others, and discontinues her free ports on Lakes Huron and Superior. There appears to be some alarm yet in Canada in reference to Fenianism. Mr. Seward had returned to Washington. Gold was quoted on the 1st at 140½. By the steamer *City of Boston* we have intelligence from New York to the 3rd inst. Nothing of any importance had transpired in the House of Representatives. The Senate had adopted the bill declaring all natives of the United States to be citizens, without distinction of colour. Mr. Sumner has given notice of a resolution as a substitute for the Constitutional amendment concerning representation adopted and sent up by the House. The resolution states that in the states lately in rebellion there shall be no class invested with peculiar privileges, and no denial of civil or political rights to anyone on account of colour or race. During the month of January the Federal debt had increased by seventeen million dollars, the total debt being now 2,842 million dollars. Bagdad had been abandoned by the Liberals, and was again in possession of the Imperialists.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

J.D.—1. We endeavour to meet the wishes and expectations of all, but our space would not allow of the insertion at the time you mention. 2. The reply appeared in our issue of the 6th ult.

T.—Yes; he takes the precedence.

W.E.W. and others.—Thanks. Reports and communications have been received with thanks, and will be inserted.

G. K. (Doncaster).—Enclosure received, with thanks, and shall be used. In the announcements to which you refer, we read one, as the United District Lodge, Free and Accepted Mason; and the F. and A.M., which follows the other lodges. FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.—You will notice that the U.D. occurs only in one instance which is defined as the United District.

REV. J. M.—Letter and paper received. Will avail ourselves of your suggestions.

BRO. N. (Ceylon).—Glad to recognise your name. The paper is received, and report will be given with pleasure.