

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1866.

FREEMASONRY IN GERMANY.

The *Freimaurer Zeitung*, which, from the beginning of the present year, has become the property of its editor, Bro. Moritz Zille, has published a retrospective review of Masonic events in 1865, in which the condemnation of Masonry by the Pope, the Masonic Jubilee of the King of Prussia, and the meeting of three German Grand Lodges are treated separately, as the three distinctive features of Masonic life in Germany during the past year. In his criticism of the Papal excommunication the author concurs with our own views already so fully and exhaustively expressed in these columns, and sums up in the following words:—“How was the allocution of the Pope received in the various countries? In Italy it has met with raillery, in France with indignation, in England with contempt, in Germany with regret. The most energetic and telling answer has been given to the Pope’s anathema, on German soil, by the foundation of two new lodges a few days subsequent to its issue, viz., that of Pforzheim, on the 15th of October, and of Constance, on the 22nd of the same month.”

With reference to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the initiation of King William I., the author tells us:—“Since the time of Frederick the Great, all kings of Prussia, with the sole exception of Frederick William IV., have been Freemasons. They have derived an immense benefit from their participation in the labours of our Order; as members of the Craft, they have joined and assimilated themselves to their people, though only in a limited compass. For such abnegation and acknowledgment of those rights and duties of man, that are common to all, the highest title to glory, the love of the people, is due to them. The present king joined our confederation in 1840, while his father, King Frederick William III., was still alive. On the 18th of May, 1840, the Grand Master, Bro. Count Henkel von Donnersmark, informed the meeting of the Association of Grand Masters ‘that Prince William of Prussia, the son of his Majesty King Frederick William III., had devoted his attention to Freemasonry, and that the Confederation had secured his Royal Highness’s sympathies, opportunities having been afforded to him, through communication with some brothers of high standing, of receiving a general knowledge of its objects; and that he had

been pleased to submit to the examination and decision of his Royal father, his intention of entering into a closer connection with the Order, and that his Majesty had approved of this intention. His Royal Highness wished to become a member, not of any individual lodge, but of all the three lodges of the Prussian kingdom, irrespective of their rites, to assume the joint protectorate over all of them.’ The reporter then moved ‘that a joint address be forwarded to the Royal Prince by the lodges of the kingdom.’ The motion having been carried unanimously, Prince William was solemnly initiated in the Masonic brotherhood, on the 22nd of May, 1840, at a special meeting of the three Prussian Grand Lodges and the fifteen W.M.’s of the Berlin lodges, by Bro. Henkel von Donnersmark, supported by Bros. Oetzel and Link. He then became a member of the Craft and devoted himself to that art which is called royal, because it considers as its fundamental law the royal precept of love. Prince William’s chief merit was his conduct with respect to Dr. Hengstenberg’s doings. At the time when this enemy of Freemasonry declared that it was incompatible with the duties of a minister of the Gospel to take any part in the labours of lodges, Prince William showed that he had not assumed the dignity of protector in vain; he repeatedly attended lodge meetings in various parts of the Prussian monarchy, and on the 2th of November, 1853, he introduced his son, Prince Frederick William, into the Craft. In remembrance therefore of the benefits that the Order derived from the participation of this illustrious brother, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the initiation of King William was celebrated with great éclat in all the lodges of the kingdom.”

Last not least, the various steps that have been taken towards the foundation of a Masonic “central authority” form a chief feature of German Masonic life during 1865. The Darmstadt Grand Lodge Zur Eintracht has addressed a formal proposal to this effect to its sister Grand Lodges. Bro. Zille is of opinion that the diversity of the systems will form the great stumbling block in the carrying out of this proposal. Thus, the “Grand Land Lodge” of Germany is working after the so-called Swedish system, and besides, the three Grand Lodges of Prussia form a kind of compact mass opposed to all further progress. He thinks that all aspirations towards a greater uniformity should come from below, not from above, and con-

cludes thus : " We should abstain from all endeavours to centralise our institutions, and be careful not to operate any unity without liberty. Liberty should be our first object, unity is but contingent. A direct representation of the individual lodges at their respective Grand Lodges should be aimed at, and this to be followed by a meeting of deputies from the various Grand Lodges. What we want is, first to secure free and healthy life within the precincts of the individual lodges, and after this a union of all German Grand Lodges to an association (*Grosslogenverein*). If we expect the realisation of those improvements which are most urgent, from the totality of German Grand Lodges, this will be identical with putting them off *ad Calendas Graecas*. Let every Grand Lodge commence the work of development on its own ground, and then we shall be able, in the long run, to determine all, even the most backward and reluctant of the Grand Lodges, to adhere to further progress ; it is not by preaching, but by practising that we must attain this result, and then the foundation of an Association of German Grand Lodges may take place under more favourable auspices than at present."

We think the opinions set forth by Bro. Zille are sound and practical. Our Institution is greatly flourishing in Germany at the present moment, and its welfare could certainly be but enhanced and advanced by a closer union amongst its various branches ; we do not see what good can arise from carrying the principle of local self-government to such an extent as is done in Germany. Why should principalities of such microscopic size as Reuss-Schleitz, Saxe-Altenburg, &c., have Grand Lodges of their own ? The foundation of a Masonic central authority, whatever its name and privileges may be, will be hailed with delight far beyond the boundaries of " Fatherland," and nowhere more than in this mother country of modern Freemasonry.

THE MARUQIS AND THE MASON'S WIDOW.

All was bustle at Donnington.

The quiet of the little inn was disturbed by arrivals, and its narrow courtyard invaded by carriages of various builds and pretensions. Some were aristocratic, some plebeian. But their owners seemed actuated by one common impulse, and pressed one common inquiry.

" Had the Earl arrived at the park ? When would he leave it ? Could he be spoken with ?"

There was anxiety on many countenances. Hurried and eager exclamations issued from many a lip. Many hopes and many fears were expressed. Will anyone explain the spectacle ? The single word—Patronage.

The object of many inquiries and many surmises was busily engaged sorting papers, destroying letters, and signing certain lengthy parchments, prior to a long absence from England.

Lord Moira was on the eve of starting for the seat of government in India. Thousands of miles were soon to interpose between him and the seat of his ancestors. Was he ever to return to its shades a free, unembarrassed, independent man ?

He sat in that noble library stored with no common-place or heterogeneous array of authors. The glorious products of intellect and industry were piled around. Nor were the triumphs of art wanting. Gazing down upon him in all her beauty was the lovely but too celebrated Nell Gwynne—a priceless portrait. Its owner might well have refused to part with it to Russia for a sum almost fabulous in amount. Near him was a Jewish rabbi, by Rembrandt ; while over the fireplace hung the full-length portrait of a King* whom Donnington had sheltered when an exile, and soothed with the most acceptable hospitality, the credulous and misled Charles the Tenth.

Those who were with him on that well-remembered day did not scruple, in after years, to relate that the Earl once and again intermitted his employment, planted himself at the window, and gazed long and wistfully on the home landscape before him, remarking, with deep feeling, as he resumed his task : " After all, it is exile : the chains may be gilded ; but it is undoubtedly and unmistakably exile."

While so employed, there was a clamour, a hubbub, the mingling of many voices ; and above them all rose a woman's shrill accents. The tone seemed that of a frantic entreaty. A bell was rung. The servant in waiting appeared, and, in reply to Lord Moira's inquiries, remarked :—

" A woman, my Lord, has, unperceived, got admittance into the inner hall, and we cannot prevail upon her to quit it. She is determined to see your Lordship."

" Her business ?"

* Then Comte d'Artois.

"Military business, my Lord: so she says."

"I cannot see her, be her errand what it may."

"I told her so, my Lord, but she will take no denial."

"Remove her gently—understand me—gently; let no force be used—but remove her."

"No force, my Lord, did you say?"

"None, none," returned the Noble, decisively.

"I must tell your Lordship, then, that she says she will never leave the hall till she's carried; and—and, my Lord, I believe she means to keep her word."

A scuffle, more hubbub, and then a faint shriek in the outer apartment, seemed to confirm the man's assertion.

"The shortest way to end this business," said Lord Moira, kindly, "will be for me to see this poor creature at once. Let her enter."

It was with a bow, respectful but reluctant, that the servant disappeared to obey his lord's orders. An order, "Eject her at all risks," would have been evidently more agreeable.

A pale, haggard, wild-looking woman—no longer young, but who must in early life have been singularly handsome—staggered in, and after a lowly reverence to all present, at once singled out Lord Moira, and advancing towards him, said, in a plaintive, winning voice:

"Forgive me, my Lord, for being so bold, so very bold; 'tis distress that makes me so; but to whom should those who are in deep trouble flee but to such as your Lordship? Yes! such as your Lordship, who have the power with one word to right them!"

"What may you want from me?" said the Earl, coldly.

"Your good word—nothing else—your good word—that will be all sufficient. I'm a widow, left with four sons; the eldest is an idiot; the two youngest can't earn their own bread; but the second, as steady and good a lad as ever lived, who has kept a home over our heads, and wrought day and night for us, is drawn for a soldier—for a soldier—and his leaving us will be our ruin."

"I cannot help you," was the Earl's rejoinder; "if your son has been regularly balloted for and drawn in the militia, he must serve."

The poor mother listened eagerly to the Noble's answer, and wrung her hands piteously at its close.

"One word," said she, hoarsely; "one word

from a great man like you would get him off. He's not fit for a soldier. He'd work and toil for ever for his poor mother, but as for soldiering—"

"Whether fitted or unfitted for military life, if regularly drawn, he must serve," said his Lordship, decisively.

"Serve!" exclaimed the poor woman, bitterly and vehemently, as if her grief was getting the better of both reason and prudence. "Yes that's the word—'serve.' My three brothers did so, and fell on the field of battle. My father did so, and his bones lie in the sands of Egypt. My husband did so, and fell in action at Corunna. Woe! woe! that a soldier's orphan and a soldier's widow can't get a living soul to help her in deep distress."

"A soldier's widow, eh?" said his Lordship, musingly, "What was your husband's name?"

"Isaac Wardroper."

"Did he ever serve in the 63rd?"

"He did, and volunteered out of it for foreign service."

"The 63rd! I should know something about that regiment!" returned his Lordship, quickly. "I had a company in it!" Then, in more measured tones—"I think I recollect your husband—what was his rank?"

"Pay corporal," was the reply.

"Right," said his Lordship, "I remember him, a steady, well-conducted man." Then, turning to a party who sat near him, a pinched, screwy-looking body, with not an atom of feeling in his harsh, wiry countenance (the veriest tyro in physiognomy would have pronounced him a full-blown attorney), he said, in a low tone: "What would a substitute cost—ten, fifteen, or twenty pounds?"

Old Capias vouchsafed no reply, but motioned with emphatic gesture to the parchment lying before him, and then fixed his gray, distrustful eyes intently on Lord Moira's frank and manly countenance. That look carried with it its own solution. It seemed to say: "How can you, with such a heavy mortgage as this you are about to execute, think, for one passing instant, of incurring the cost of a substitute?" The Earl understood it, for he coloured and looked away—away from his prudent monitor, and away from his anxious visitant.

"I cannot interfere," said he at last, in a husky, hesitating tone; "the law is peremptory, and must be obeyed."

"In other words," said the woman, desparingly, "there's the cold shelter of the workhouse

for me, and the still colder bed of the battle-field for my boy."

"Get a substitute—get a substitute," cried Old Capias, testily; "they are to be had—get one."

"Whence should I?" returned the woman, fiercely, fronting the speaker. "Whence should I? 'Out of the barn floor, or out of the wine press?'"

"Better dismiss her, my Lord," said the attorney, quickly, and very indignantly, "her expressions are highly disrespectful, and border on abuse."

"They are at all events scriptural," interposed his Lordship, with increasing gravity.

The tone, perhaps, of the Earl's voice, rebuking one whom she felt to be an antagonist, might have heartened her, or the energy of despair might have suggested the movement, and again advancing to his Lordship, she said, faintly: "About a week before he went into action for the fifth time, my poor fellow gave these into my hands, and told me that, should he fall, and I be ever able to reach England, they might, perhaps, be useful to me."

She handed to his Lordship, as she spoke, a certificate, drawn up on vellum, and certain insignia—of which a more detailed description would be objectionable—and waited, in bent and hopeless attitude, the result.

He to whom Masonry was so dear, whose devotion to its interests never varied, who held so high a place in the Order, and in the affections of the Craft, extended his hand, and examined narrowly and deliberately the various insignia; the parchment, its tenor, its signatures. The scrutiny, it would seem, left no suspicions behind it; for the Earl, with a smile, said, firmly and cheerfully:—

"Your husband, it appears, was a Mason. Of that I am satisfied. He belonged, unquestionably, to a military lodge. There are such in the army, not many, nor perhaps much countenanced by the authorities; but they do exist. For you it is well. Go, and with a light heart. Stephen! is that your son's name? Stephen so good a son had best remain where he is. He will not be torn from you. I require no thanks. Go, I can listen to nothing further; go, and have no fears about the future."

A substitute for Stephen Wardroper was procured.

Who provided him? who sought him? who paid for him? and who, before the week's end, sent a £10 note by post to the Mason's widow? The poor woman accurately conjectured, and so, methinks, will the reader.

But those, and such there are, who delight to represent Masonry as "a hollow mockery," "a shadow," "a phantom," "an after-dinner bond, broken the moment the party separates;" who contend that "it involves no moral tie," and is "productive of no holy fruits," would do well to muse over the moral pointed by this characteristic incident in the life of that generous and noble-minded being, Francis, the first Marquis of Hastings.

"EASE THE ORPHAN'S MOURNING CRY."

One of our Scottish Lodges has in its labours of the past year afforded a pleasant illustration of the strength of the Masonic tie. Bro. Allan M'Lean, of Lodge St. John, Ingersoll, on 27th Dec., 1864, wrote to the W.M. of Navigation, Troon, as follows:—"The late Bro. Alexander Maxwell (made in No. 86) was captain of the barque *Prince George*, sailing from Glasgow to Moulmein, East Indies. In February, 1854, he died on his passage home: in the following month his wife also died—leaving three children, two girls and one boy. On arrival of the vessel at Greenock, the owners acknowledged to the children that the sum of £60 was due to their father at the time of his death, and promised £20 more; but the money has never been paid. The girls are now both of age." Bro. M'Lean then requested our Master to try whether he could in any way recover this money. Steps were immediately taken by him, when he found that the firm named as owners was no longer in existence, but that a house in Greenock had had an interest in the ship. After considerable correspondence they honourably promised to pay the amount with interest. Bro. Imrie then sent to Canada and got a power of attorney, when, after more correspondence and formalities, the money was paid; and on 13th Sept., 1865, Bro. Imrie remitted the family £118 10s. Comment on the care for a brother's orphan's thus so signally manifested by the Master of Navigation, Troon, is quite unnecessary—neutrals and the initiated alike can appreciate the act.

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRIVILEGES OF OUR ORDER.

The following is the substance of the speech by Bro. Townsend, LL.D., Q.C., Dep. G.M. of Ireland (and referred to in another page), on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes to the children of the Masonic Orphan School, Dublin:—“The principles of the Order were such that no man, whatever might be his rank, need be ashamed of professing. They were such that no man, whatever might be his purity of life, need be ashamed of advocating. Their principles were but little known. They were but little known, not merely to the world at large, but even in the Order itself. A man might enter the society, and might live and die in it, and yet know nothing of its principles. It was not a mere club. Those who joined it as such would find that it did not confer any greater advantages, perhaps, than any other club. Those who joined it out of mere curiosity would be disappointed. They were not to suppose that the Freemasons were in possession of any great secret, any method of becoming wise, or learned, or good without any exertion on their part. No such thing. He could tell them that they found it a most difficult thing to free themselves from the bonds of ignorance, of sensuality, and of superstition. The object of their society was to make men good, wise, industrious, virtuous, and happy, always beginning with self-reformation. The principles of the society inculcated upon its members, as a primary duty, the virtues of silence, of reticence, and of forbearance. They considered that man could commit no greater offence against the Almighty than to persecute his fellowman for a difference in speculative opinions. They freely granted to others the same freedom of thought that they asked for themselves. He did not think they had been guilty of any persecution. They had been accused of astounding crimes—crimes at which Europe should stand aghast—but he was not aware that they had ever carried terror to the peasant’s hut, wrapped his house in flames, or left his bleeding body on the threshold of his dwelling. No man was permitted to preside over a lodge who had not pledged his loyalty to the State. They were not conspiritors against it. So far from being anti-Christian or irreligious associations, no man could be a member of the society who did not acknowledge the Great Architect of the Universe—God the Father, the Governor of the world. These were not irreligious principles.

These were the principles that they were asked to support, and that formed the basis of their society. As for their privileges, they were not those merely of harmless enjoyments, and of pleasant friendships. These were some of their privileges, no doubt; but they had also another great privilege, that of extending their liberality to the destitute members of the families of those connected with the Order.”

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MONKS AND FREEMASONRY IN FRANCE IN THE LAST CENTURY.

An esteemed brother, writing on this subject, will find the communication to which he alludes in vol. viii., p. 268, of the FREEMASONS’ MAGAZINE. See also the errata, ibid., p. 360. The communication is entitled “Monks Members of the old French Lodges.” Should our brother desire any confirmation of what is there related, he should consult the same valuable publication, vol. iii., p. 102. On the authority of a statement in the *Monde Maçonnique* it is said that “previous to the revolution of 1789 monks used to be rather numerous in the French lodges, and that the Lodge *La Triple Unité*, of Fécamp, and various other lodges, were founded by Benedictines.”—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

METAPHYSICAL PROOFS OF THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.

The letter signed “An Oxford Freemason” has been duly handed to me. My correspondent is right in supposing that the “other proofs” of the existence of God referred to in my communication to the FREEMASONS’ MAGAZINE, vol. xiii., p. iii., are the metaphysical proofs. He cites some Latin lines sent to him by a German student, with whom he has a controversy respecting certain difficult points of natural theology. He is apparently ignorant that such lines are a literal translation of a passage in the “Pensées” of Pascal—“Les preuves de Dieu métaphysiques sont si éloignées du raisonnement des hommes, et si impliquées, qu’elles frappent peu; et quand cela servirait à quelques uns, ce ne serait que pendant l’instant qu’ils voient cette démonstration; mais une heure après ils craignent de s’être trompés.” The way in which the metaphysical proofs are dealt with by Kant in his “Kritik der reinen Vernunft,” and by Mr. Mansel in his famous “Bampton Lectures,” is not unknown to me. The information on this matter, which our brother has diligently put together, will notwithstanding have its use, and I beg him to accept this expression of my warm thanks.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

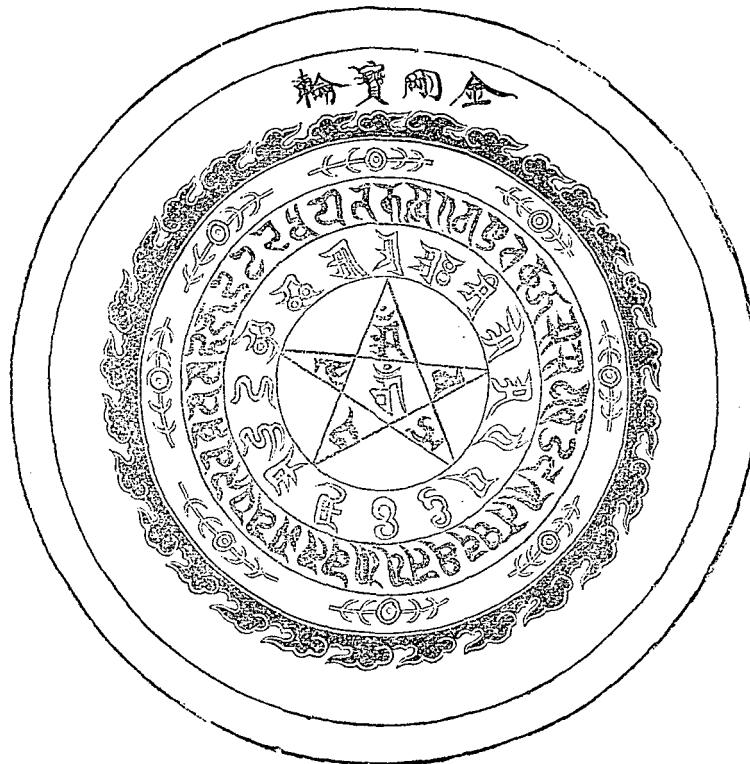
T. HARPER.

I have lately seen an old and curious R.A. jewel, apparently made before the Union. It bears the name of Thomas Harper, jeweller and goldsmith, 207, Fleet-street, London. It is evident Harper was a Masonic jeweller, and, as we have no notes on this department, I should like to know who Harper was, and when he lived in Fleet-street. This can easily be found in an old P. O. Directory in the British Museum.—A PROVINCIAL MASTER.

THE PEN-AND-INK SKETCHES OF ONE FANG.

(Continued from page 125.)

No. 12.



THE PRECIOUS WHEEL OF THE GOLDEN GOD (KIN KANG).

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

OUR CHARITIES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am glad to see that in many ways great efforts are being made to raise funds for the Masonic Charities, and not without good results. In your last number I find two letters on the subject, one from the W.M. of a Lodge at Crewe, the other from Bro. Binckes, the indefatigable Secretary of the Boys' School. I have long been convinced that there are many brethren who, having only moderate pecuniary means, are thereby prevented from offering large contributions, but who nevertheless may aid the cause by their labour. Under this impression, I some years ago published a pamphlet on Masonry, which produced ten guineas for the Girls' School; in the same way, other publications have since produced considerable sums for Masonic purposes, and I lately collected five guineas for the Boys' School. The W.M. of No. 979 mentioned a case in which "an energetic brother had collected 1,000 shillings for the Boys' School." I congratulate him on his success, and on having so large a circle of liberal friends, more especially as I have found great difficulty in effecting the same object, even when I offered an equivalent for the shilling. One brother, whose co-operation I endeavoured to secure, wrote thus: "Your markers are very pretty, but I have not succeeded in selling any. I find Masons are very much like other people when it is a question touching the pocket, and will hear, quite unmoved, the statement that the money is to be appropriated to charity." This is not the only such reply I have received. Allow me farther to test the matter by informing the brethren, through your columns, that I have made several hundred artistic book markers, no two of which are exactly alike. The centre space of each card is occupied on both sides by quotations from various writers on Freemasonry, of which I have selected about 200; by prayers appropriate on entering and leaving church; and by short prayers on rising and retiring to bed. The ends are adorned with Masonic emblems, four on each card, of which I have about 150 varieties, with ribbon, &c.

Any brethren willing to make a purchase, the whole of the profit being devoted to the Masonic Charities, may address "P.M., St. Aubin's Lodge of Freemasons, Jersey," and, on receipt of post-office order, any number that may be required will be sent by book post. Price one shilling each, or twelve for ten shillings, or twenty-five for twenty shillings.

Should this plan of raising money succeed, I shall be happy to continue to work with my fingers in the production of more, so long as there is any demand.

Yours faithfully and fraternally, P.M.
Jersey, Feb. 26th, 1866.

P.S. I have promised Bro. Binckes that the first £5 I can raise in this way shall go to the Boys' School.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am obliged to Bro. Binckes for so promptly answering my letter, but I fear, from the tone of his reply, he is somewhat

annoyed; if so, I am very sorry he should be at anything I may have said. I upheld the Boys' School above the other Masonic Charities, and all I have written has been dictated by a true brotherly feeling, and a hope that my remarks might assist those whom unforeseen circumstances have reduced to poverty or distress. Bro. Binckes has forgotten that in quoting the terms of subscription, I gave as my authority the "Masonic Pocket Book," which states, firstly, as to the Girls' School, "A donation of ten guineas, made in one or more payments, within twelve months," &c.; in the Boys', "A donation of ten guineas constitutes," &c.; no time being mentioned, so that any one would conclude the amount was to be given in one payment. I am glad that Bro. Binckes has given us a balance sheet, because figures tell their own tale, and I must confess that I am not satisfied with those before me.

I am not one of those who would wish to see the Festival arrangements carried out in any niggardly or mean spirit, but I think that if the estimates (like her Majesty's) were framed with a due regard to efficiency and economy, they might be considerably reduced—firstly, as to the music, £1 15s. should be sufficient for half-a-dozen songs, and I doubt very much whether eight out of the eighty Stewards value the rosette, after the evening, has passed, beyond its being a plaything for the nursery, for a Lewis to make himself smart with; they may be pretty, but not worth spending nearly 4s. 6d. a-piece upon, even supposing the brother to have a high appreciation of the elegant or the beautiful in art. The Tavern bill seems a large one, but I suppose that is estimated upon a certain scale. I imagine, too, that when the banqueting room is completed, the £15 10s. for the extra gallery will be saved. Now, in his great zeal for the noble Institution he so earnestly represents, I cannot altogether acquit Bro. Binckes of a little injudiciousness. At the Festival mentioned, each Steward having deposited (does not the word imply that it was returned) £5, after the Festival was over, in striking a balance between receipts and disbursements there was nearly £100 in hand. Now, being anxious to reduce the amount of the Stewards' deposits, why not have returned a sovereign to each Steward, who could then have given it to the Charity, if so disposed, securing himself an additional vote for the year—sometimes of importance in a close contest. Bro. Patten, in his circular for the ensuing Girls' Festival, fixes the liability of each Steward at a minimum of £5, whereas I do not see why the expense should exceed £3, £1 18s. for the Steward's own and two ladies' tickets, and the balance for extra expenses. Considering the large number of Masons in England, that new lodges are continually springing into existence, that fresh members are constantly added to each lodge, and that the class from which Masons are drawn is, as a rule, well to do, I consider that the number of Stewards is less by one-half than it should be. Again, under the present system, many are deterred from serving a Stewardship more than once who would be pleased to do so, if only for the sake of the pleasant reunion, and the knowledge they were helping those Institutions which, as Masons, they had undertaken to support.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,
ANOTHER COUNTRY P.M.

BRO. TREU AND FREEMASONRY IN THE EAST.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Without in any degree wishing to enter upon a critical examination of the peculiar views held, and the very incorrect information given, by Bro. Treu in his account of Masonry in the East, as summarised in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE of the 27th ult., I feel bound to give the most unqualified denial to his statement that he had experienced any difficulty in ascertaining any information about the English lodges either in this capital or district. Bro. Treu never applied for such information, and, if he had, it would have been readily given to him, notwithstanding the feeling, and, unhappily, a too well grounded one in his case, that he would only gather it to suit his own views and narrow prejudices. Bro. Treu has the most extraordinary idea of his greatness in the Masonic world, and, to a person reading his effusions, it would appear that he occupied a conspicuous position, and had weight with the Craft. Unhappily, it is quite the reverse, even in his own Lodge Germania, where he dogmatises to about twenty members. His long-winded effusions are now looked upon as bores, and the lodge itself is in a very declining condition. It would be neither fair nor becoming in me to offer any remarks upon the opinions held by the members of the lodge in question, but I feel I have a right to ask on what possible grounds can Bro. Treu justify the admission of avowed atheists into the mysteries of our Order. Before professing to set himself up as an oracle on Masonic matters, he certainly ought not to leave himself open to the proof of—to use a mild expression—great inconsistency. Bro. Treu's Masonic principles are held in but poor esteem here by his countrymen, as is well evidenced by the fact that, while he can hardly muster twenty members, the Deutscher Bund Lodge, working in German under the Grand Lodge of England, has nearly three times that number, and is rapidly increasing, while at the same time Bro. Treu is at a standstill. I do not complain of the over-zealous brother doing as he does everything in his power to discourage his brethren visiting other lodges, or giving them any fraternal co-operation, but I do complain of his systematically and continuously holding up especially English Masonry in the East in the most unfavourable light. He forgets, or does not know, that we number now seventeen lodges, and that our numbers are to be counted by hundreds. Can he say as much for the German lodges? And yet he cannot accuse us of in any way either speaking or writing against our brethren of other nationalities after his style. I have had personal experience of Bro. Treu's proneness to long-winded letters, of his unfounded taunts, and strange love of that falsely called philosophical Masonry which he dupes himself, and tries to do others also, into imaging as Masonry reformed. I advise the worthy brother to abstain from writing, as he has a weakness for thinking that high-sounding, involved sentences which have an absence of common sense, will ever pass muster with those who are actuated by what our best authorities teach us to be the sound principles of pure Masonry.

Yours truly and fraternally,
AN ENGLISH MASON IN TURKEY.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

We are pleased to learn that Bro. J. G. Stevens, J.W., of the Yarboro' Lodge, 554, has kindly consented to read on the 6th inst. at the rooms of the Yarboro' Lodge of Instruction, the Green Dragon, Stepney, selections from Dickens' works of "Dombey and Son," and "Pickwick," the proceeds to be applied for the benefit of the Girls' School. The proceedings are to commence at seven o'clock precisely. We trust the brethren will attend in goodly numbers. Bro. Stevens is deserving of credit for this laudable plan for aiding the Charity, and we commend his example to other brethren who may be similarly gifted; the more especially as at the present time there is a decided movement amongst the Craft tending towards the strengthening of our Charities, and various suggestions have been thrown out as to the ways in which the desired end may be accomplished. That under notice appears to be one which might be carried out with great advantage, if brethren in different parts of the metropolis and throughout the provinces were to start similar plans in aid of the support of our Charities.

We are glad to see that Bro. Sprig announces the "Devon and Cornwall Masonic Calendar," for the present year. The Calendar being under the able editorship of Bro. Hughan, 18, will, doubtless, come up to, if not exceed, the preceding issues of this useful Masonic companion, in point of utility for the Masonic local information which it contains. We are indebted to the courtesy of Bro. Thos. Coombs, Prov. G. Sec. for Dorset, for being supplied with a Sheet Calendar for that province. We think the plan which has been adopted by the Prov. G. Sec. of Dorset, is a very useful one, and might with much advantage be carried out in each Provincial Grand Lodge. The Calendar under notice shews at a glance, first: a list of the various lodges in that province, with the dates and places of meeting, the names of present W.M.'s, &c.; second: the names of the Royal Arch Chapters in the province, with dates of places of meeting; third: information as to Knights Templars of the province; fourth: information as to the Rose Croix meetings in the province; and fifth: the Calendar proper, shewing the lodges, chapters, Knights Templars, and Rose Croix meetings, falling on the respective days of each month.

GRAND LODGE.

The following is the official agenda of business to be transacted in Grand Lodge on Wednesday, March 7th, 1866:—

1. The regulations for the government of Grand Lodge during the time of public business will be read.
2. The minutes of the quarterly communication of the 6th of December, 1865, will be read and put for confirmation.
3. The election of a M.W. Grand Master.
4. The election of a Grand Treasurer.
5. The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants, viz.:—

- The widow of Bro. James J. Wood, of the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance (No. 7), London £30
 Bro. Samuel Jones, of the St. Andrew's Lodge,
 No. 222), London 30
 6. The report of the Annual Audit Committee of the Grand Lodge Accounts for the year 1865.
 7. The report of the Board of General Purposes to the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England was as follows:—

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that there has been brought under their consideration the propriety of making an increase in the salaries of the brethren employed as clerks in the Grand Secretary's Office, by reason of the great increase of work in the office.

The brethren referred to comprise Bros. Buss, Little, and Pendlebury, and also Bro. Payne, the Grand Tyler, many of whose duties are those of a clerk.

Bro. Buss was appointed clerk in 1855, at a salary of £115. This was increased to £150 in January, 1859.

Bro. Little was appointed Clerk in October, 1862, at a salary of £2 2s. per week, being £109 4s. a year, at which amount it remains.

Bro. Pendlebury was appointed Clerk in April, 1864, at a salary of £100 a year, at which amount it remains.

Bro. Payne was appointed Grand Tyler in November, 1856, at a salary of £84, at which amount it remains.

The appointment of two additional Clerks (Bros. Little and Pendlebury) was rendered necessary by the large increase of work consequent on the progressive increase of income, involving a very much large correspondence, more book-keeping, and general office business. The Board are of opinion that, notwithstanding such appointments, the labours of the other clerks have been considerably augmented, and are increasing with the growing prosperity of the Grand Lodge funds. Grand Lodge will not fail to notice that the increase, since the appointment of Bro. Pendlebury as an additional Clerk in 1864, is very large, and the labours of all the Clerks are therefore constantly becoming greater.

The Board believe that the services of the several Clerks are efficiently performed. Under the above circumstances the Board are of opinion that an increase in the salaries of the Brethren employed as Clerks in the Grand Secretary's Office may fairly be agreed to, and they recommend to Grand Lodge as follows:

That the salary of Bro. Buss be increased from £150 to £200 a year.

That the salary of Bro. Little be increased from £109 4s. to £135 a year.

That the salary of Bro. Pendlebury be increased from £100 to £115 a year.

That the salary of Bro. Payne be increased from £84 to £100 a year.

(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS,
 President.

Freemasons' Hall, February 21, 1866.

To the report is subjoined a report of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 15th of February ult., showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £2,700 14s. 10d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £1,481 6s., to the Fund of General Purposes, £585 19s. 8d., and there is the Unappropriated Account, £680 10s. 2d.

8. The report of the Building Committee to the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England was as follows:—

The Committee regret much to state that the progress of the buildings has been little, if at all, more satisfactory than has been previously reported.

According to the terms of Mr. Rider's undertaking the whole Masonic portion of the new building (or that which will constitute "Freemasons' Hall") should be completed (with the exception of painting) by the 24th of this month. There is no prospect of its being so completed within three months.

According to the terms of the same undertaking the contract No. 3, which includes the kitchen and great banqueting room of the new tavern, should have been carried up and roofed in by the 15th of this month. It will probably be at least two months before this work can be completed.

The committee have spared no pains, and have left untried no means to induce the contractor to proceed with even moderate diligence; the penalties for non-performance are at the rate of £100 per week on each contract; the committee have given the contractor notice that the penalties on No. 3 contract commenced to accrue on the 15th inst., they will give a further notice in reference to penalties according on No. 2 contract on and after the 24th inst., and it will only remain to the Committee to enforce the payment of these penalties.

The committee have experienced very considerable difficulty, owing partly to the illness of Bro. S. B. Wilson, and partly to other causes, in obtaining any account of extras and additional works, and it is only since the commencement of the present year that they have been able to obtain such accounts.

The committee regret very much that in spite of all their efforts to the contrary, very considerable additional expenses have been incurred, and that the amount of such additional cost will fall very little short of £5,000. This sum however includes, as far as the committee can ascertain, every expense connected with the building over and above the contract price.

Of this large sum it is to be understood that there is a considerable proportion which does not belong to the building proper, and that in several instances the additional cost could not have been foreseen or provided for in the estimates.

Of the total amount, the sum of £2,428 5s. 8d. has been incurred for extras or works not contemplated at the commencement of the building. These extras include the sum of £860 11s. 11d. for underpinning old walls, extra depth of drains and walls, pumping, &c., consequent upon the nature of the soil and upon permission having been given to carry the drains into the Middle Level Sewer. They also include the sum of £380 paid to the Board of Works for making a junction with the Middle Level Sewer, and for diverting at their cost a drain from New Yard which formerly passed under the ground now occupied by the new buildings of the society; the extras also include the surveyor's charges, a portion of which belongs to all the other measured works, and should be distributed equally over them.

It is also to be observed that the total amount includes the sum of £949 16s. 7d. expended in putting new floors to the Sussex and Glee-rooms, in constructing bed-rooms in the tavern, and in repairs to roof of tavern and great hall, all of which were absolutely necessary and must have been incurred under any circumstances.

There is also included a charge of £1,135 19s. for stoves, gas, fittings of Clerks' office, and expenses attending removal; and lastly, there is included the expenses attending the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, including platform, temporary approaches, &c., amounting to the sum of £239.

It will be in the recollection of Grand Lodge that Mr. Malby occupied a workshop in Middle Yard belonging to the Society, upon lease, of which there were 3½ years unexpired, and that it was most necessary to obtain possession of this workshop, as

therwise the building of Section No. 3 must have been deferred at that time. The Committee arranged to build for Mr. Malby new workshop upon ground not required for other purposes in Fiddle Yard; this workshop has been erected in a most substantial manner at a cost of £1,296, and is let on lease to Mr. Malby for ten years at a rent of £100 years per annum. This rent will probably be doubled on the expiration of the lease.

The doorway of the grand entrance to the new buildings being at length completed, a passage has been constructed in the hoarding, and the brethren are requested to notice, that on and after Monday next, the 26th February, the back entrance used in New Yard will be closed, and that all persons having business at the office, and brethren attending lodges, will enter Freemasons' Hall direct by the entrance in Great Queen-street.

(Signed) JOHN HAYES,
Chairman.

London, February 21st, 1866.

9. The Report of Brother R. P. Harding, Auditor of the Grand Lodge Accounts, of the receipts and disbursements during the year 1865.

METROPOLITAN.

THE GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE.—This distinguished lodge held its usual meeting on Wednesday the 21st ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Bros. Spencer, W.M.; J. Gurton, S.W.; G. States, J.W.; Watson, Sec., and several other brethren being present. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Watson, P.M. and Sec., in his usual correct and perfect manner. Bro. John Gurton, P.M., and now (for we cannot say how many times) W.M., appointed Bros. States, S.W.; Henry Norman, J.W.; W. Watson, Secretary. This business having been done, the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet. After the usual Royal and Masonic toasts had been given, the W.M. gave a hearty welcome to the visitors, amongst whom were Bros. H. A. Stacey, P.M. 180, and W.M. 733; T. W. Sedgwick, P.M. 180; Smeed, Chalker, W. Aspinwall, Matthew Cooke, and Irving, all of whom everlastingly returned thanks. The "W.M.'s" and "P.M.'s" health having been drunk, the W.M. briefly thanked the brethren, and Bros. Spencer, P.M.; Udall, P.M., P.G.D.; and Nutt, P.M., P.G.D., responded. The W.M. then gave "The health of Bro. William Watson, P.M. and Secretary," and in doing so paid a well-deserved compliment to Bro. W.'s Masonic abilities. Bro. W. Watson thanked the W.M. and brethren for their kindness, and stated that he had many years been a member of the G.S. Lodge, and that at one time the lodge found itself in this position, that he (Bro. W.) was the only working Mason in it, and to secure his services the lodge elected him an honorary member, and as he had to do the lion's share of the business he hoped they would elect him their W.M., to enable him to wear the collar in Grand Lodge. Bro. States, S.W., said he would most willingly give way for Bro. Watson, for which Bro. Watson thanked him. The brethren then separated, after enjoying some singing by Bros. J. Gurton, W.M., Chalker, M. Cooke, and encer.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—This prosperous old Lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, the 20th ult., at the Green Man, Tooley-street. Bro. J. C. Goody, W.M. presided, assisted by Bros. D. Rose, as S.W.; T. J. Sabine, J.W.; E. Lewis, P.M., Treas.; J. Donkin, P.M., Sec.; Ebsworth, S.D.; Ezbach, J.D.; Loewenstark, I.G.; Walter, P.M.; Chipperfield, Cooper, Hurrell, Watkins, Billington, Groom, Brookhouse, Beck, Moore, Hide; and visitors Bros. W. F. Laing, P.M.; Field, Wood, and others. The business done consisted in six singings and one initiation. The Secretary, Bro. F. Walters, and the names of all who had subscribed to his list as Steward for the late festival, with the amounts given and promised, which made a total of £78 6s., and at the same time thanked subscribers for their support. He also announced that Bro. J. Donkin, P.M. and Sec., would represent them as their steward for the Aged Freemasons' next year, unless the then W.M. would do so. A vote of thanks to Bro. Donkin was passed for his present of a new set of gavels. The W.M. in the

absence of Bro. G. Morris, the Steward for the Boys' Festival appealed to the brethren for support on that occasion. Bro. E. Harris headed the list with ten guineas, and other brethren followed his example. The lodge also subscribed ten guineas. Bro. F. Walters gave notice of a motion to take £10 from the lodge funds for the Female Annuity, in name of the Treasurer for the time being, to purchase a Life Governorship for him. Bro. H. Moore, I.P.M., introduced an excellent scheme, which the lodge determined to try, by which any subscriber of one shilling a week, may, in the space of four years, become a Life Governor of one of the Charities. Several names were added to Bro. Moore's list, which now numbers nearly thirty. In four years' time the Charities, from this source alone, will be benefitted 300 guineas. The tontine principle is one of the main features of the plan. Business being ended, the lodge was closed.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 140).—This old lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, the 21st ult., at the Lecture Hall, Greenwich. The lodge was opened by Bro. C. J. Badger, W.M., who was supported by Bros. W. Neak, S.W.; A. H. Tattershall, J.W.; G. Edington, P.M., Treas.; H. A. Collington, P.M. Sec.; E. W. Pook, S.D.; C. Hudson, J.D.; Johnson, I.G.; Ryder, P.M.; and Visitors—F. Walters, P.M. 73; W. R. Orchard, P.M. 79; A. D. Loewenstark, P.M. 548; West, S.D. 548, and numerous others. Bro. E. M. Hubbuck, I.P.M., raised Bros. E. Atkins and Carter, and passed Bro. Earle. It was unanimously agreed to give five guineas to Bro. Hubbuck's list for the Boys' School. One gentleman was proposed for initiation at next meeting. The proof of the centenary jewel was shown round to the brethren and approved of, and the lodge was then closed.

LODGE OF TRANQUILITY (No. 185).—The brethren of the above lodge met at Radley's Hotel for the purpose of installing Bro. Harfell as W.M., on Monday, February 19th, the ceremony being worked by Bro. S. Moss, P.M., in a manner that elicited the warmest encomiums from the brethren present. The W.M. then elected his officers as follows:—Bro. L. Israel, S.W.: Bro. S. Harris, J.W.; Bro. Holbrook, S.D.; Bro. Dr. Beigel, J.D.; and Bro. B. Cohen, I.G. The brethren adjourned to a sumptuous repast provided by Bro. Hart. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Bro. Algernon Sydney presented to Bro. Moss Cohen a splendid tea and coffee service, subscribed for by the lodge and the brethren. Bro. Cohen, in feeling and impressive manner, returned thanks. Among the visitors were Bro. Coote (W.M., Lodge of Israel); and Bros. Lazarus and Harriss; Bro. H. M. Levy (P.M., Lodge of Joppa, 188); Bro. H. Cohen, Bro. Binckes, P.M. The harmony of the evening was greatly enhanced by the singing of Bro. H. Cohen, Bro. Adolphus, and Bro. Beigel, by Bro. H. M. Levy, P.M., giving his excellent imitations of London actors, and Bro. Coote's admired playing and singing. After spending a delightful evening the brethren separated in peace and harmony.

DORIC LODGE (No. 933).—In the report of the meeting of this lodge, given in our issue of last week, through an accidental omission on our part a very important feature in the proceedings was lost sight of; we, therefore, hasten to rectify the omission and do justice to a very worthy and esteemed brother, by stating that the ceremony of installing Bro. Gilchrist into the chair of K.S. as W.M. of the Doric Lodge for the ensuing year was performed by the retiring W.M., Bro. Scurr, in a manner which reflected the greatest credit upon him, and drew from the P.M.'s Bros. Hamilton and Hudson (554), who supported Bro. Scurr, the warmest eulogiums for the perfect and impressive manner in which so young a Mason had conducted this imposing and solemn ceremonial.

VICTORIA LODGE (No. 1,056).—Under the presidency of its first W.M., Bro. William Wrenn, this new lodge held its regular monthly meeting, on Thursday, the 22nd ult., at the Sir John Cass (Bro. George Steeds's), Victoria Park-road, South Hackney. Bro. H. J. Moore was raised, Bro. John Hill passed, and Mr. Alfred Robins initiated. The whole three ceremonies were most admirably performed, and the business was concluded at a quarter-past nine o'clock. The brethren then adjourned to a neat repast, and when it was finished returned to the lodge room, where the usual toasts were proposed, and drunk. During the speeches which were made in proposing, and returning thanks for these toasts, the brethren were made acquainted with the following facts:—That the lodge was consecrated in April, 1865, when Bro. Wrenn was installed as W.M., and selected Bro. Pendlebury as his S.W.; Bro. W. Turner as J.W.; Bros. Roberts, Latrille, and Robottom, as S. and J.W.

and Sec.: that from that time the lodge had flourished, and although the number of its members was to be limited that restricted number was fast filling up: that the W.M. had performed the duties of his office, not simply with satisfaction to the lodge and the visiting brethren, but in a style which was superior to the ordinary working of the W.M.'s: that the officers he had chosen were perfect in their parts, and careful to display that perfection: and, that the lodge had, from the excellent management of its officers, considerable funds in hand, and would shortly be represented at all the Charities. In the course of the evening the W.M. sang the "E. A." song, and Bro. Finch the "Installation" song. Other songs were also given, and a very pleasant evening was spent. The cordiality with which the visitors were welcomed deserves special mention. Among the brethren present were Bros. Wrenn, W.M.; Pendlebury, S.W.; W. Turner, J.W.; Roberts, Ulysses Latreille, F. Y. Latreille, Adams, Robottom (Sec.); and visitors—Finch, P.M. 217; Raynor, P.M. 217; Gilchrist, Saqui, Bristo, 860; and Crouch, 860.

PROVINCIAL.

DERBYSHIRE.

DERBY.—*Arboretum Lodge* (No. 731).—The monthly meeting of this flourishing lodge was held at Bro. Williamson's, Arboretum Hotel, on Wednesday, the 14th ult., Bro. H. Carson, W.M., presiding. The first business was to elect a W.M. for the ensuing year, when the choice of the brethren unanimously fell upon Bro. Joseph Clayton, S.W., who returned thanks to the members for the honour they had conferred upon him. Bros. Merry and Swan, who had been initiated by the W.M. at the previous lodge into the mysteries of Freemasonry, were this evening passed to the second or Fellow Craft degree, the impressive ceremony being performed by Bro. H. Carson, W.M. Some other business having been disposed of, the lodge was closed. The anniversary of the lodge, and installation of the W.M. elect, will take place on Wednesday afternoon, the 14th March, when a large attendance of the Craft is expected. The lodge now numbers eighty members.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—NEW MASONIC HALL.—A short time since Bro. Isaac Watts, P.M. (of the Globe Hotel), purchased the residence of the late Mr. Bishop, in Princess Place, opposite the Devon and Cornwall Hospital. He stated at the banquet at Devonport on Thursday last, that he had purchased it at the suggestion of Bro. Rodda, P.M., &c., and that he intended to place the house at the disposal of the Freemasons of Plymouth for a Masonic Hall. We should state that Mr. Bishop had erected in the rear of, but in direct communication with the house a handsome picture gallery, which will be readily adaptable for all the business purposes of a lodge with scarcely any outlay of money. There are also, immediately contiguous to this large hall, rooms that will be available for Masonic purposes, so that if the building had been erected for the purpose it would not be more suitable than it is. When the Prov. G.M., Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, was here last week, he visited the gallery, along with Bro. Dennis Moore, P.G. Sec., and expressed his gratification at the Masonic body having a place in all respects so eligible for their purpose. It is proposed to hold the meetings of several lodges in this hall. There is only one lodge in the three towns which now holds its meeting at a public house, and the question of its removal from Stonehouse to Plymouth into the Masonic Hall, is now under consideration. The lodge to which we refer Fortitude, No. 105, which was originally a Plymouth lodge. It was formerly held at the Prince George, in Vauxhall-street—a place which is now in the sere and yellow leaf, but which in its pristine days was honoured by having initiated within its walls the then duke of Clarence, afterwards William the Fourth, and many of the most respected of our oldest tradesmen. So in bringing Fortitude back to Plymouth, the lodge will only return to the place to which it at one time belonged, and there will, in Lodge Sincerity, be still left a thriving and excellent lodge in Stonehouse. So completely has Bro. Watts dedicated his purchase to the Masonic body, that he refused a very large offer of profit on his purchase, and the brethren by their arrangements will be able in a few years to save enough money, by setting apart the balance of their present rentals, to purchase the fee simple of the property. If the plan be carried out, as

we doubt not it will be, the Freemasons of Plymouth will have one of the finest, largest, and most convenient buildings in the west of England, and all the lodges will meet in private rooms and halls.

HAMPSHIRE.

LYMINGTON.—*New Forest Lodge* (No. 319).—On the 13th ult. the officers and brethren of this lodge held their monthly meeting at their hall in Quay-street. There was a very large attendance of the brethren, including many distinguished visitors from Southampton and the neighbourhood. The ceremonies were performed by Bro. Stebbing, W.M., the Grand Senior Deacon of England, in a very impressive and able manner, assisted by Bro. the Rev. Dr. Bradshaw, Prov. G. Chap.; and Bros. Weston and Milner, P.M.'s. A presentation from the lodge of a P.M.'s jewel was made by the W.M. to Bro. Webb, P.M., as an acknowledgment of that brother's great services to Masonry in general and the New Forest Lodge in particular. A very striking and eloquent address on the progress of Masonic principles in India was delivered in lodge by the visiting brother, Sir Manockjee Cursetjee, one of her Majesty's Indian judges, a distinguished Parsee, and the D. Prov. G. Master of Western India. At the close of the lodge the brethren adjourned to a banquet provided for the occasion, and an evening long to be remembered for its truly Masonic enjoyment was spent by the brethren. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, Bro. the Rev. B. Maturin, P. Prov. G. Chap. of the Isle of Wight, proposed, "Our Poorer Brethren," in a very eloquent speech. Bro. Stebbing, W.M., afterwards alluded to the presentation made in the lodge to Bro. Webb, P.M., whom he characterised as one of the best Masons he ever had the privilege of knowing. In the wide-spread institution of Masonry there were necessarily men of all shades of opinion, but there stood out prominently in the Masonic character the recognition of the labours, the character, and the conduct of those who devoted their lives to the advancement and to the practice of those principles which it was only necessary to know in order to admire (hear). The habits of Bro. Webb were such as to make him a happy and comfortable man even before the light of Masonry shone on his path, but when he joined the Order the talents and tastes he possessed were led into a channel more wide and diffusive of good than they could have been under other circumstances. His brethren had not been unmindful of the advantage which he had taken of this extended sphere of usefulness, and to what account he had turned the talent with which he was blessed, and so they had presented him with the jewel which he had now the honour of wearing, as an expression of their feeling that it was not always those who made themselves most conspicuous that did the most good, but they who did good by stealth, and blushed to find it fame, were as successful as any in discharging aright the duties devolving upon them as men and as brothers. (Hear, hear.) He concluded a speech in which the advantages of Masonry were lucidly pointed out and its aims inculcated, by wishing Bro. Webb a long life, and that he might continue an example to his brethren in the Order of which he was so conspicuous a member. Bro. Webb in returning thanks, said that whatever he had done towards promulgating the sublime system of Masonry had been for the love of its innate excellence, and he was sure that that man could not be far from the right path, who kept ever before him and steadily pursued those grand principles which were its pillars and its foundations. (Hear, hear.) It regarded the high and the low, the rich and the poor, with equal impartiality, and the more he knew of it, the more delighted and honoured he felt to be included in its members. (Applause.) The brethren would excuse him saying more at that moment (hear, hear), which was one, as they might easily understand, of deep interest to him. (Cheers.) The W.M. afterwards proposed the health of their right worshipful Bro. Manockjee Cursetjee D. Prov. G.M., of Western India an eminent Parsee Mason, who had come amongst them. (Cheers.) We were accustomed, in this country, he said, to speak of the universality of Freemasonry—of its being confined to no one country, or clime, to no particular people, or age, or nation, or politics, or religion. (Hear, hear.) This was certainly a great and broad, and proud basis, but it was why the institution was permanent. (Hear, hear.) They had but seldom, however, such a practical illustration of its universality as they had that evening in the presence of their welcome visiting brother, who had spoken so nobly in the lodge of his experiences of Freemasonry during a quarter of a century. (Hear, hear.) It was pleasing that in such an age and at this time those differences

which had been the cause of so much harm to society should be cast aside in that great and fair realm whence their brother had come, and that whilst shackles and bonds should be broken in the way which had been referred to more distinctly in the lodge by him, the grand principles of Masonry had had their part in working out this change. In those principles laid the secret of its surviving as well the wreck of empires as the destruction of time, and that night they had a practical exemplification that wherever Masonry planted its roots there it never failed to rise into that splendour known only to those who were acquainted with its workings. Its location made no difference to its brethren's reverence for the Creator, their loyalty to the sovereign, their faithfulness to the soil, their help one to another, and the binding them together in those bonds of brotherhood over which they had reason to be proud (cheers). He hoped that when their brother got back to India he would not fail to assure the brethren there of the fraternal regard entertained for them among their brethren in England, and their desire that the Indian nation at large should be great and prosperous —(hear, hear)—and he concluded by the expression of a hope that their brother might long be spared to see and enjoy the fruit of his labour in Masonry as well as in those other positions in which he had so prominently exerted himself for the benefit of mankind (cheers). Bro. Manockjee Cursetjee, in acknowledging the compliment, said that during a career of forty years he had done his humble part as an instrument in the hands of Providence, to advance his people. Masonry was one of the most prominent among several means which he had ever regarded as a foundation upon which to work for some of the most benevolent objects (hear). This Institution included in its sublime principles men of all beliefs—Christians, Hindoos, Parsees, and Mahomedans, and its history might be summed up in the glorious sentence, "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you" (cheers). Masonry, like religion, was a mystery; it required not only to be heard, and read, and understood, but to be practised (hear, hear). A compound of philosophy and of religion, without practice it was nothing (hear, hear). Religion had doubtless done much good, but in the name of religion much harm had been wrought by the strifes which had taken place concerning it. Masonry, however, was the helmate of real religion, for it was universal in its ends, and aims, and existence, having God as the Master of a universal Brotherhood, the world being its lodge (cheers). Several other toasts were given and drunk, Bros. Dr. Bradshaw, P.G. Chap.; Hayward, P.M.; Milner, P.M.; Weston, P.M.; and Donan, S.W., being among the speakers.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—*Blair Lodge* (No. 815).—At the last meeting of the above lodge the brethren had the satisfaction of inaugurating a set of magnificent emblematical solid oak chairs, of an entirely new design, by one of the members, Bro. Jas. Redford, J.D., architect, of this city. They are massive in character and inlaid with ebony; the oak is gilt in some part, showing the grain of the wood through. Each chair is ornamented with the emblems, working tools, &c., of the respective degrees, and upholstered in blue morocco. They have a most noble appearance, and form a lasting monument of the skill and research of the designer. About seventy brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, and a most pleasant evening was spent.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights*, (No. 148).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, on Monday evening last. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M. Gilbert Greenall, Esq., M.P., Prov. G.S.W., the chair was occupied by Bro. H. B. White, P.M. and Treas., Prov. G.S., who was supported by Bros. W. Smith, S.W.; R. Stevenson, J.W.; Rev. Thos. Doughty, Chap.; C. Ekert, Org.; Rev. J. N. Porter, S.D.; David Finney, J.D.; Akern, J.G.; John Bowes, P.M., Prov. G.D.C., Sec.; Bancroft, Anderton. Thos. Jones, B. P. Coxon, C.E., W. Robinson, Dr. Spinks, Alderman Rylands, W. Savage, Charles Pettitt, M.C., John Pierpoint, W. H. Spring, W. Woods, Alderman Hepherd, G. J. Higginbottom, P. Pearse, James Woods, Geo. Blackhurst, R. Gibbons, Jos. Robinson, and Jas. Johnson, Tylers. Visitor:—William Morsoop, 119, Whitelhaven. The lodge was opened in due form according to ancient custom, and the minutes read and affirmed. The ballot was taken for Bro. Leonhardt as a joining member, and for Captain S. Reynolds and Arthur Waring,

Esq., candidates for membership, which proved unanimously in favour in each case. Grand Lodge certificates were received and duly signed by several brethren. The chair of K.S. was now assumed by Bro. John Bowes, P.M., &c., and Bros. Anderton, Bancroft, and Thos. Jones, being candidates for promotion, and having proved their several claims, were entrusted and retired. The lodge was opened in the second degree, the brethren severally admitted and passed to the degree of F.C.'s. The chair was now resumed by Bro. H. B. White, P.M., &c., and Bros. P. Rylands and Jas. Woods being candidates for advancement, and having proved their proficiency were entrusted and retired. The lodge was opened in the third degree, the brethren admitted in due form and raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s. The lodge was closed down to the first degree. The minutes of the lodge room committee were read and passed. It was proposed, seconded, and resolved that an harmonium be purchased for the use of the lodge, and that its selection be left to five musical brethren who were named. Two gentlemen were proposed as fit and proper persons to be made Masons. A petition to the Supreme Grand Chapter for a Royal Arch warrant was sanctioned and signed by every brother present. It is proposed to designate it the "Chapter of Elias Ashmole," in memory of that distinguished antiquary's initiation at Warrington, in the year 1616. The first principal Z. is Bro. H. B. White, P.M., Prov. G.S.; the first principal H. is Bro. John Bowes, P.M., Prov. G.D.C., I. 129 and E. 220; the principal I. is Bro. Thewlis, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.D., (Mayor of Warrington). A Grand Lodge summons and agenda paper were read and some routine business transacted, when the lodge was closed in ancient form and the brethren separated in perfect harmony.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gaunt Lodge* (No. 523).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday, the 15th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of the W.M., the Rev. John Spittal, when there were also present the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly; Bros. Brewin, Bankart, and Sheppard, P.M.'s; and about twenty brethren. Visitors—Bros. Klein, P.M. 21, and P.G.S.; Duff, P.M. 165; White, 333; Hubert Collins, 107; and Weare, P.M.; A. L. Clarke, S.W.; and A. O. Davis, 279. The lodge having been opened and the minutes read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. David Watson, who was unanimously elected, and being in attendance, was initiated into the Order; the ceremony was very efficiently performed by the W.M. The working tools were explained by the D. Prov. G.M., and the tracing board by Bro. Brewin, P.M. Bros. Rome, Hack, and A. C. Spencer having been called to the pedestal, and examined as E.A.'s, retired, and the lodge having been opened in the second degree, they were passed F.C.'s. The lodge having been lowered to the first degree, it was proposed by Bro. Brewin, P.M., seconded by the D. Prov. G. M., and unanimously agreed, that the lodge should contribute £1 per annum to the National Lifeboat Institution towards the manning of the Leicester life boat, now being provided by the inhabitants of the town. Bro. A. M. Duff, P.M. 165, London, having been proposed a joining member, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Lodge* (No. 200).—On Wednesday evening, February 21st this lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. Lodge opened in the second and third degrees, when Bro. Harcourt Johnstone was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was reduced to the E.A. degree, when Mr. R. M. Candler, of Scarborough, was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Tree candidates for initiation were proposed, and it is anticipated that in future the brethren who proposes a new member is likewise obliged to acquaint the brethren of the qualifications of the candidate as to his character and morals, and whether a sound man in all respects, that it may be debated whether he shall be admitted as for the good of this and all other lodges it is wished a more strict regard were paid on the part of the proposer to the character, morals, and disposition of the candidates, that those only may be admitted who desire to promote the cultivation of science and elevate the standard of knowledge and virtue. There were present upwards of thirty members, amongst whom were Bros. Godfrey Knight, W.M.; W. B. Stewartson, W. F. Rooke, P.M.; James Frederic Spurr, P.M.; J. W. Woodall, P.M., Treas.; H. C. Martin, P.M., Hon. Sec.;

George Symons, S.W.; J. Hargreaves, as S.W.; Dr. Armitage, S.D., J.W.; D Middleton, J.D.; Sandras and Ash, Tylers, &c. The labours of the evening being ended and hearty good wishes proclaimed, the lodge was closed about nine o'clock in harmony and with prayer.

ROYAL ARCH.

DEVONSHIRE.

On Thursday last, 22nd ult., a Provincial Grand Chapter was held at Harmony Masonic Rooms, Treville-street, Plymouth, for the purpose of consecrating the Chapter of Harmony. The room presented a very pleasing appearance, there being no fewer than sixty-seven Royal Arch Masons present, including thirty Principals and Past Principals. The appointments were very good, and the arrangements were pronounced by the Provincial Grand Superintendent to be perfect. The programme was strictly carried out. The companions assembled in the ante-room until the chapter was opened by the Past First Principals. When opened the Companions entered in procession in the following order:—Visitors, Members, Officers, and Principals of the Chapter of Harmony; Grand Officers—all of whom took their seats, as appointed by the director of the ceremonies. An appropriate ode was then sung to the organ. After the transaction of some formal business, including the reading and approval of minutes of all meetings held while under dispensation, the P. Prin. Z. E. Comp. L. P. Metham, of Devonport, delivered an oration. This was one of great beauty and eloquence, the orator descanting at some length and with much force upon the excellence of the Masonic attributes. He dwelt fully on the objects of the three first degrees, and then passed on to notice with equal power and precision the objects and attributes of the higher order of the Holy Arch. To the reader who is versed in the secrets of Freemasonry, the learned and impassioned address of Comp. Metham was full of beauty and intelligence, but it would occupy too much of our space to give it at length. The consecration was performed by the M.E. Comp. Rev. John Huyshe, Prov. G. Superintendent, who is also the newly appointed Prov. Grand Master of Devon. He was accompanied by E. Comp. W. Dennis, P.G. Scribe E. The three Principals of the new chapter are Isaac Watts, Z. P. Prov. G.T., R. Rodda, H., P. Prov. G.T.; and Thomas Harvey, J. At the grand banquet which was afterwards held at the Royal Hotel, Devonport, the Rev. John Huyshe, who has been connected with Lodge Fidelity for thirty years, and annually dines with the lodge, presented on behalf of the lodge a P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Pursey, the I.P.M.

DURHAM.

SUNDERLAND.—*Chapter of Strict Benevolence*, (No. 97).—The convocation of this Chapter postponed from the usual time of meeting on the 15th was held on the 22nd inst. After the Chapter had been opened by the three principals, the companions were admitted and Comp. Emra Holmes having given the usual seven days' notice, proposed Bro. William Charles Ward Jackson, J.P., of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge, 764, as a fit and proper person to be exalted a companion of the Royal Arch Chapter; Comp. J. Crossby, P.M.F.Z., seconded the proposition, and Bro. Jackson having been elected, was duly exalted by P.M.E.Z. Levy, P.G.D.C., who conducted the beautiful ceremony in a manner calculated to impress very deeply the newly exalted brother, as it impressed with its great solemnity all who were present, Comp. Stainsby, 1st Prin. Soj. assisting very ably in his place. M.E.C. Levy then proceeded to give the mystical lecture, which he delivered in a very effective manner. The following officers were then installed for the ensuing year: Comps. James Hamilton, Z.: F. H. Rahn, H.; J. Graham, J.; J. Lindsay, Treas.; M. H. Wiseman, E.; T. Younger, N.; J. Stainsby, Prin. Soj. Laws, Jan., George Lord, L. D. Chatt, Auditors. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Companions to the number of about thirty, sat down to a banquet served in very good style by mine host of the Bridge Hotel. M.E. 1st. Prin. Z. Jas. Hamilton, presided, and amongst those present with those mentioned above, were P.M.E. Comps. B. Levy, Prov. G. Dir. Crs.; Crossby, P. Prov. G.S.W.; J. H. Rahn, Evans; Comps. W. C. Ward, Jackson, Emra Holmes, K.T. and S.:P.R.H., &c. On the removal of the cloth, the M.E. 1st Prin. proposed "The Queen," which was given with all the

honours, the National Anthem being sung by Comp. Emra Holmes, the companions joining in the chorus in the usual hearty and loyal style of Royal Arch Masons. The M.E. Prov. G. Superintendent John Fawcett was then proposed, and then the toast of the evening, that of "Our Newly Exalted Brother and Companion, Wm. Charles Ward-Jackson." Comp. Ward-Jackson who rose to reply amidst applause, thanked the Companions for the way in which his health had been proposed and assured them that the more he saw of Masonry the more he liked it, and he was sure that he should long continue to admire its precepts and remember its obligations. Comp. Emra Holmes amused the company with the song of "Poor Susan," and the evening was spent in that harmony and good fellowship which is always the characteristic feature in the social gatherings of the Royal Arch Masons of Sunderland. It is intended, we believe, to memorialise the Prov. G. Superintendent to form a Provincial Grand Chapter for Durham, the number of Royal Arch Masons and Chapters having increased to such an extent as to warrant such a procedure. We wish success to the movement, and cannot but think that the time has now arrived when Durham ought to take rank in the Royal Arch Degree.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

WOOLWICH.—*Invicta Chapter of Sovereign Princes Rose Croix*.—A meeting of this chapter was held on the 16th ult. Present:—J. R. Thomson, M.W.S.; Lieut.-Colonel H. Clerk, S.G.I.G. 33^o, as Prelate; Captain N. Philips, S.G.I.G. 33^o; W. J. Meymott, 1st Gen.; W. P. Ward, as 2nd Gen.; W. Carter, as G. Marshall; Captain Boyle, as Raphael; Laird, Treas.; Figg, Sec.; Cook, Org. and Dir. of Cers.; and Bros. Captain Dadson, Cockle, James Forrester, Fraser, Dr. Hughes. Bro. Chas. Allen, of the Mount Calvary Chapter, was elected a joining member. Bro. Major H. Trew was advanced to the degree of S. P.R., and Bro. Meymott was installed M.W.S. of the chapter. A sum of five guineas was voted to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows. The M.W.S. then made the following appointments:—Bros. Thomson, Prelate; Captain Dadson, 1st Gen.; G. Lambert, 2nd General; D. Wens, G. Marshal; J. Hometon, Raphael; Cockle, Herald; Taylor, Capt. of Guard; Cook, Org. and Dir. of Cers. The chapter being closed the brethren adjourned to Bro. De Grey's, where they dined and passed a very pleasant evening.

IRELAND.

MASONIC FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL.

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

The brilliant and imposing ceremony usually observed on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes to the children of the Masonic Orphan School, took place on the 10th ult., in the Grand Concert Hall of the Exhibition Palace, Dublin. A more magnificent spectacle, or more peculiarly impressive demonstration, Dublin has seldom witnessed. In the splendour of the array, the rank, beauty, and fashion of the assemblage, the number of distinguished brethren present, and the admirable carrying out of the general arrangements, it eclipsed any previous festival of the kind, and exceeded the anticipations of the most sanguine.

When all were assembled the *tout ensemble* presented on all sides was truly magnificent. The rich and varied hues of the ladies' apparel, the quaint and peculiar dresses of the brethren in all the paraphernalia of the Order, lighted up beneath the blaze of the gasoliers, was something dazzling. The gallery could only be compared to a bank of flowers of tropical luxuriance and beauty, while the body of the hall was, if possible, even more resplendent. At a quarter to eight about forty Knights Templars, preceded by two bearing flags, entered the hall, and lined the passage to the platform during the approach of the procession. Their martial bearing, no less than their picturesque garb, rendered them at once the cynosure of ladies' eyes. There was a general press forward to obtain the best view, and fortunate were they who held commanding positions. In the meanwhile the Grand Officers, the representatives of foreign and Provincial Grand Lodges, and the Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries of the several Dublin lodges, assembled

in the nave of the building, formerly occupied by the foreign department of the International Exhibition, and a procession having been formed, it moved to the grand concert hall. On entering, their approach was heralded by a flourish of trumpets, and immediately the Knights Templar drew their swords, and formed an arch of steel, under which the procession moved in the following order, the band playing a Masonic march.

Two Stewards.

Assistant Tyler, with Sword.

Lodges, according to seniority, the junior first.

Officers and Members of the Grand Master's Lodge.

The Committees of the Orphan School.

The Vice-Presidents and Honorary Officers of the School

The Tyler to the Grand Lodge.

Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges.

Provincial Grand Officers

Two Stewards.

Grand Organist. Grand Inner Guard.

Grand Superintendent of Works. Grand Steward.

The Grand Deacons, with their Wands.

The Chaplain of the Orphan School.

The Grand Chaplains.

The Grand Secretary, The Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Wardens.

The Grand Sword Bearer, carrying the Sword.

The Deputy Grand Secretary, carrying the Book of

Constitutions.

THE GRAND MASTER.

Past Deputy Grand Master. Deputy Grand Master

Past Grand Officers, &c.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies, with his Wand.

Two Stewards.

The Knights Templars then fell in with the procession, and filed off to the right and left of the platform. On ascending the platform the brethren filed off according to their lodges, and took the respective seats assigned to them by the stewards.

The Grand Master, his Grace the Duke of Leinster, on occupying the throne was saluted, according to ancient usage, by "eleven on the third coming down."

Two officers and pupils of the school then entered the room in the following order, and took their seats on the platform:— Two stewards, the hon. secretary of the Orphan School, the pupils, two and two, the resident governess, the matron, two stewards. It was a subject of much regret, and was alluded to in graceful terms by one of the speakers of the evening, that Bro. Samuel B. Oldham, the courteous and indefatigable assistant secretary, was unable in consequence of illness, to attend. The children were neatly dressed, and appeared, without exception, intelligent, healthy, and comfortable. There were about thirty-seven present.

A portion of the 100th Psalm, accompanied on the grand organ, having been sung, a prayer was read by the Rev. J. J. McSorley, the Grand chaplain.

Bro. Edmund R. Digges La Touche then read the following report, from which it appeared:—"The total receipts of the year 1865 amounted to £1,671 17s. 10d., and the expenditure to £1,339 19s. 9d. Of the balance, £330 was invested in the purchase of stock, in accordance with the rules of the school, which require all donations of £10 and upwards to be so invested, and there remained in bank to the credit of the institution, on the 1st of January, 1866, £1 18s. 1d. The amount now invested on permanent security for the benefit of the institution is £2,769 4s. 7d.

Bro. Arthur Bushe, S.G.D., then came forward to propose the first resolution, viz.—

"That the marked thanks of this meeting are eminently due to Bro. E. R. D. La Touche, honorary secretary, the members of the Ladies' Committee, the Education Committee, and the Apprentices' Committee, for the efficient services they have rendered to the Masonic Female Orphan School during the past year." This resolution, was seconded by Bro. C. Lanyon, and carried unanimously.

Several pieces of pianoforte music were at this stage of the proceedings performed by pupils belonging to the school, and were executed in most creditable style.

Bro. Mostyn next came forward to propose the second resolution, and said that the most pleasing duty had devolved upon him of tendering to his Grace the thanks of the Order, for the unceasing interest he had ever taken in maintaining their principles, and the unceasing attention bestowed by him in upholding their privileges, and concluded by proposing—

"That the thanks of the Masons of Ireland are hereby given to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, his Grace the Duke of Leinster, for the unceasing interest which he has ever taken in maintaining their principles and upholding their privileges."

Bro. Townsend, on coming forward to second the resolution, said that the committee of management for that evening had done him the honour to ask him to second the resolution which had been so ably proposed by Bro. Mostyn in all respects, except that he thought his kindly feelings towards him (Bro. Townsend) had led him to speak a little more of him than it was agreeable to him to hear. For that, however, let them permit him to thank Bro. Mostyn most sincerely, and to add that, as it had always been his anxious endeavour to deserve the confidence of his Grace and their good-will, so he trusted he might continue to deserve them until the end of his tenure of office. He supposed he had been chosen to second that resolution because the committee thought that, as Deputy Grand Master, he was perhaps more in the confidence of his Grace in Masonic matters than any other person, and that, consequently, he knew more of the zeal of his Grace in promoting the interests of the Order, and the anxious wish which he had for its prosperity in every respect, and after dilating at considerable length upon "The principles and privileges of Freemasonry," concluded by stating that he found in George Faulkner's Dublin Journal of the 9th of February, 1799, an advertisement of a sermon about to be preached on behalf of the school then existing, and at the foot of the advertisement it was stated in large capital letters that the institution supported no less than seven orphans. But ought they not to do more than they had even yet done? He trusted that, comparing that brilliant assembly with those of former days, he might not only expect to see the girls' school maintained in its efficiency, but also that a boys' school would be established, so that the sons of the members of the Order might be brought under the care of the society; and if that establishment succeeded as the present one had done, then, indeed, when their day was past and gone, they might say that they had in some degree carried out those principles which the Order inculcated upon all. One of the first things taught by the society to its members was, that it was the duty of all to co-operate, each in his own way, and each in his own degree, to carry out the objects of the society. One of the ways in which this could be done was by each man putting his hand into his pocket and contributing to the funds of the institution on whose behalf they were assembled. He was glad to find that what had been done already met with their approval, and he only hoped that their noble Grand Master, who had done so much for them by his continuing his support, his patronage, and his money, would live to see a kindred institution for boys established, and that he would be not only the patron of the Masonic Female Orphan School, but of a new boys' school also.

The resolution was passed by acclamation.

The prizes having been awarded,

The procession was then reformed, and retired from the hall in the reverse order to that in which it entered, and the brilliant assemblage dispersed.

The band of the 5th Dragoon Guards performed admirably during the evening, and a selection of vocal music was rendered in excellent style by the choir, consisting of Bros. R. W. Smith, J. Duane, E. Peele, J. O'Rorke, J. Mallen, S. Dobbins, and B. Mallen.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

ST. AUBYN'S LODGE (No. 958).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, February 20th, when the lodge was opened at a quarter past seven by Bro. E. C. Malet de Courteret, assisted by Bros. C. Le Sueur and Long acting as Wardens, and Bro. Dr. Hopkins, I.P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. mentioned the case of the Tyler, who, from old age and infirmity, is now unable to pursue his regular occupation for a livelihood. It was agreed to raise means for his support by subscriptions among the members, including freedom from rent by residence at the lodge rooms. Several matters of business were arranged. The Treasurer, Bro. Le Sueur proposed, and Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M., seconded, the nomination of Bro. Long, P.S.W. 491, as a joining member of the lodge. This being a rural lodge in which but

little occupation can be expected from administering the ceremonies to novices, the I.P.M., with the assistance of the brethren, as usual worked two sections of the authorised lectures, which appeared to interest the visitors who were present, to many of whom they were new. The lodge was closed at half-past eight, and, after a pleasant hour at the refreshment board, the party broke up at half-past nine.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—At the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 22nd, the lodge was opened at half-past seven, by Bro. C. Le Sueur, W.M., assisted by Bros. Chevalier, S.W.; Oatley, J.W.; and Dr. Hopkins, acting as P.M. The minutes of the last meeting, and also of an emergency meeting, were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Messrs. Le Griffon and Danguy as candidates for initiation, which in both cases was unanimously in favour, ample testimony having been given as to character and conduct. The lodge was opened in the second degree. The usual questions having been put to Bro. De Veulle, and satisfactorily answered, a much more searching examination of the candidate was made by Bro. Schmitt, P.M., which proved his acquaintance with the objects and principles of the E.A. and F.C. degrees. The candidate was then entrusted and dismissed for preparation. The lodge was opened in the third degree. Bro. Durell entered and took his chair as I.P.M. Bro. De Vouille was again admitted, and raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge having been resumed in the first degree, Messrs. Le Griffon and Danguy were admitted and duly initiated as E.A.'s, after which the W.M. explained the working tools and gave the usual charge. One or two matters of business were settled, a candidate for initiation was proposed, and nothing else offering, the lodge was closed with the usual ceremonies at ten o'clock. Nearly fifty of the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room and spent a pleasant social hour together. This lodge is now becoming very strong, the number of members being nearly 120, although two years ago there was a secession of about a dozen who joined the lodge working under French warrant, and were therefore suspended by Grand Lodge.

AUSTRALIA.

QUEENSLAND.

We understand that at the request of several of the Craft, residing in the Kennedy district, the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. W. M. Boyce was deputed by the R.W. Prov. G.M. Bro. A. C. Gregory, to visit Bowen and inaugurate the Kennedy Lodge. Accordingly, on the 16th October, the brethren met at Bro. Willis's, at Bowen, to perform the ceremony. In the evening a dinner was given to celebrate the event, at which Bro. Brodzinski presided. Among the guests were the D. Prov. G.M., the hon. Bro. Macalister, Bro. Douglas, M.L.A., and Bro. Franklin. P.M. After the good things had been freely discussed, the evening terminated with the usual loyal toasts.

Upon the occasion of the visit of his Excellency Sir George Browne, the Governor of Queensland, to Bowen, he was presented by the Freemasons of that place with an address, which was read to him by the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. W. M. Boyce, and to which his Excellency replied as follows:—

"TO THE FREEMASONS OF BOWEN.

"GENTLEMEN.—In responding to the address which has just been read, I beg to assure you of the value which I attach to the loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of our Sovereign which animates your ancient fraternity in all portions of the British Empire.

"I thank you also sincerely for your gratifying expressions of regard and esteem for my family and myself. I have often regretted that I did not become in early life a brother of your Craft; a member of that society which binds together in its mystic tie all nations of the civilised world, all political parties, and all social classes in every nation. The praise due to your genial hospitality can be exceeded only by the praise due to your munificent charity towards your poorer brethren.

"In conclusion, gentlemen, I beg earnestly to join with you in the prayer that the Great Architect of the Universe may vouchsafe to build up the future of this colony; may prosper the public works initiated by its government and parliament; and may grant to us that wisdom, moderation, and courage, which are necessary to guard and extend the blessings which we already enjoy, and to hand them down hereafter to our children's children.

His excellency then added—Gentlemen, I feel more than ordinary gratification in receiving this mark of respect from you, and if I do become a Mason I shall be certainly initiated in Bowen.

REVIEWS.

Papal Teachings in Freemasonry: being a Rectification of the Errors and Misrepresentations contained in a recent Allocution, promulgated from the Secret Consistory at Rome, by Pope Pius IX. By the REV. GEORGE OLIVER, L.D., P.D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, P.D. Prov. G.M. for Lincolnshire, and author of many Masonic works. London: Bro. R. Spencer. 1866.

Habent sua fata libelli. Pio Nono's libel on Freemasonry has, for the last four months, formed the subject of multifarious criticism in all Masonic and many non-Masonic periodicals, and met with a notice that the spiritual position of its author, but by no means the strength of his arguments warranted. Somewhat tardily, but certainly not too late, the veteran champion of Freemasonry and father of the Masonic literature of the present day has come forward to contribute his share in the vindication of the good cause of our Institution, and endeavoured to refute, seriatim, the accusations of the Pope, with the weapon of religious dialectics. If our reviler had shown in his charge that sincerity and fair-play which might be expected of a *bond fide* adversary, the manner in which Bro. Oliver deals with him might be thought very appropriate. The arguments brought forward by the venerable Patriarch are forcible and to the point, but we fear that his object of "persuading his Holiness to entertain a better opinion of a society which is widely spread over the entire surface of the habitable globe, and includes amongst its members, not only the wealthy and powerful, but also the wise, the pious, and the good"—this object, we fear, will be sadly frustrated. Were the Vatican accessible to a ratiocination suggested by common sense, the diatribe of last September would never have been uttered; but "there's nae sae blin as them that winna see," to use a Scottish adage, and surely Bro. Oliver will never believe that his arguments, however sound, could cause the See of Rome to rescind the anathema it has vouchsafed upon us.

The chief aim of the pamphlet under notice is to show that Freemasonry, so far from being "inimical to the Church and to God," has for its essence and groundwork the doctrines of Christianity, and rests on a triangular base, representative of the Trinity; and that the Church is chiefly indebted to the Craft for the erection of its cathedrals and the diffusion of its light. The pamphlet is intended for the uninitiated who may be biased and prejudiced against our Institution and take the Pope's assertions for granted; and it is evidently written from the standpoint of a Protestant clergyman, to whom the doctrine of infallibility is entirely foreign. But this is the flaw in the evidence adduced by our octogenarian brother. He omits to show that the diffusion of light is compatible with the character of the Roman Catholic Church, as understood by the Ultramontanes, not by the followers of Mr. de Montalembert. It is impossible to show that this compatibility exists; no man can serve two masters; light and darkness, toleration and bigotry, Freemasonry and Popery cannot be made to coincide. Bro. Oliver has not attempted to refute the Roman Pontiff's accusation that we are "an association of men belonging to all religions and every belief." Had he attempted to dispose of this charge in like manner as of the others, the whole of his arguments would have fallen to the ground. Bro. Oliver's *opusculum* is highly interesting as a concise statement of the doctrines of Freemasonry. We are not so sanguine as to believe in the success of the endeavours of the author, for "even Gods struggle in vain with stupidity."

and obstinacy combined;" but we must give him due credit for the excellent intentions that prompted him to undertake this labour at the age of 84 years. We are sorry to hear Bro. Oliver say, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." We hope, on the contrary, that the Craft may rejoice, for years to come, in the continuance of his meritorious co-operation.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

TOWNLEY PARKER LODGE, WHITTLE SPRINGS.

The first grand Masonic ball in connection with the above lodge, took place at the house of Bro. Settle, the Howard's Arms Hotel, Whittle Springs, on the 1st ult., and certainly surpassed any public ball held in the neighbourhood for many years. Some people in modern times have charged Freemasons with being a society of men who have no good object in view, but, independent of the benefits to be derived from a connection with any lodge of the "secret fraternity"—as they are called—we think the fact of their maintaining establishments for the education and welfare of the children of distressed or deceased brethren is quite a sufficient proof that they are doing a real work in the world. In the province of West Lancashire, a "Masonic Educational Institution for the advancement in life of the children of distressed and deceased Freemasons" was founded in 1850, and has increased in usefulness from year to year. According to the last published report, the amount received on behalf of the society, in the previous twelve months, was £306 16s. 6d.; and the funds of the institution then amounted to £4,717 13s. 7d. The payments for the education of children, in 1861, were £110 18s. 5d.; in 1862, £143 2s. 10d.; in 1863, £166 17s.; and in 1864, £243 8s. 4d. In the last-mentioned year thirty children were educated under the auspices of the society, and the benefits conferred have, no doubt, been of a lasting character. Public balls, to which only highly respectable persons are admitted, have frequently been the means of increasing the funds of the institution, and at one of these, held in Liverpool, the sum of £130 3s. 5d. nett was realised. Following this course, brethren in other parts of the country have assisted similar societies in a similar way, and the principal members of the Townley Parker Lodge (1,082), recently established at Whittle Springs, determined not to behind in this direction. They consequently publicly announced their intention of having a ball to which the public would be admitted, and intimated that the surplus would be handed over to the treasurer of the society to which we have alluded. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Sir T. G. Hesketh, Bart., M.P., the R.W. Prov. G.M. for West Lancashire, to whose exertions the great increase in the number of Freemasons in this district is principally owing, kindly accepted the presidency; Bro. R. Townley Parker, Esq., the R.W.D. Prov. G.M. for West Lancashire, in whose honour the lodge received its designation, and who on all occasions displays his deep interest in Freemasons and Freemasonry, consented to hold the office of vice-president; Bro. J. M. Rigby, M.D., the W.M. of Lodge 1032, was elected chairman of the committee; Bro. G. Hoult, Esq., P.M. of Lodge 1032, the vice-chairman; Bro. D. Stansfield, Esq., S.W. 1032, the treasurer; and Bro. John Yates, J.W. 1032, the hon. sec. Extensive arrangements were made, every effort was put forth, and the ball, which, as we have said, took place on Thursday night, was a decided success. The rain poured down in torrents about the time the ladies and gentlemen were expected to leave home, and there is every reason to believe that a goodly number from neighbouring districts were thus prevented from attending. Notwithstanding this great drawback, however, about 120 ladies and gentlemen assembled, and the proceedings commenced shortly after nine o'clock.

On entering the room the party were at once struck with the very profuse and tasteful manner in which the walls were decorated. At the head of the room there was a portrait of Bro. R. Townley Parker, Esq., and the words, "Townley Parker Lodge" were formed immediately below it in very neat characters. Emblems of Freemasonry were placed underneath these, on each side of which was a coloured flag. The implements of the Order were also displayed conspicuously, and a handsome mirror made the general appearance very striking. On the left side of the room the motto, "Prosperity to the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution," was inscribed, with various Masonic emblems. At the lower end were the Royal Arms, supported on each side by a large flag. On the right side an ancient flag, with the arms of the Townley Parker family, and the words, "Old England and freedom for ever" upon it, was stretched along a portion of the wall; and there was also a representation of the crown of the realm, with the initials V.R. above it. All the windows were draped with white lace; garlands of evergreens ran across the roof; narrow, but lengthy banners were suspended from various parts of it; the doorways and gas chandeliers were beautifully adorned with evergreens and artificial flowers; and the whole room was decorated in a gorgeous manner. Some most costly bannerets were displayed in different parts of the room, two of which are said to be worth not less than 100 guineas. They were magnificently completed, and are such specimens of workmanship as are very rarely seen.

The orchestra was occupied by Bro. J. Norwood's first-class quadrille band from Preston, and to its strains dancing commenced with the Contra Dance (triumph), and concluded with Sir Roger de Coverley.

Like the ball room, the place in which the refreshments were supplied was beautifully decorated. A large blue flag—evidently one that had seen many a good electioneering fight—was hung upon the wall. It bore the words "Parker for ever," in large gilt letters, and also the arms of the Townley Parker family, and reminded the Preston visitors of the days when Bro. Townley Parker fought the battles of the Conservative party in their old constitutional town. In another part of the room were the words "Townley Parker Lodge (1032) of Free and Accepted Masons—Welcome to our Festival;" and on one side was another portrait of the highly respected and talented owner and occupier of Querden Hall. Portraits of the Queen, the late Prince Consort, the younger members of the Royal Family, and several other celebrities also adorned the wall, and evergreens, artificial flowers, and red and white drapery gave the whole an imposing appearance. Rather out of place, but with the best intentions, Bro. Melledew, of Liverpool, a Knight Templar of the Encampment of St. Jacques de Molay, proposed "Prosperity to the Townley Parker Lodge," whilst the refreshments were being partaken of. He said he was so greatly pleased with the arrangements that had been made, and so much delighted with the whole proceedings, that he could not resist giving utterance to his feelings. The proposition was cordially acted upon by the company, and suitably responded to by Bro. Hoult, who, by the way, was most assiduous in his efforts to make the ball one of the most agreeable that has ever been held.

Bro. Hoult, P.M., officiated as Director of Ceremonies, and the Stewards were Bros. John Yates, J.W.; John Heald, M.M.; and S. Fowler, M.M.; all of Lodge 1032.

In consequence of the death of a relative, Bro. R. Townley Parker was unable to attend, and Bros. Sir T. G. Hesketh, Bart., M.P., and the Hon. F. A. Stanley, M.P., were unavoidably absent.

Through an arrangement which had been made being found impracticable, we were unable to procure a full list of the names of the ladies and gentlemen present.

The whole of the arrangements were carried out satisfactorily, and there was not a person in the room

that found any reason to complain, the whole proceedings clearly demonstrating that people can not only dwell, but also live and act together in harmony, and that—we hope we may say—Freemasonry has a tendency to promote this very desirable object.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 10TH, 1866.

Tuesday, March 6.—INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.

Wednesday, March 7.—SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, at 8.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Helena, walked and drove in the grounds on Thursday, the 22nd ult. Earl Russell had an audience of the Queen. Her Majesty walked this morning with Princess Louise. Lord and Lady Napier arrived at the Castle on the 22nd ult., and had the honour of an interview with her Majesty. The Hon. Emily Cathcart and the Hon. Florence Seymour have arrived at the Castle as Maids of Honour in Waiting. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Helena, drove out on the 23rd ult., attended by the Duchess of Roxburghe. Her Majesty the Queen, with Princess Helena and Princess Louise, went to London on the 24th ult., and paid a visit of condolence to Lady Phipps, at St. James's Palace, on the occasion of the death of Colonel the Hon. Sir C. B. Phipps. Her Majesty was attended by the Duchess of Roxburghe and Lieutenant-General Hon. C. Grey. His Royal Highness Prince Alfred arrived at the Castle on the 23rd ult., having completed his service on board her Majesty's ship *Raccoon*. The Prince went to London, attended by Lieut. Haig. Viscount Sydney, Lord Chamberlain, had an audience of the Queen to present the addresses from the House of Lords, in answer to her Majesty's message. Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Louise, drove in the grounds on Saturday, the 24th ult. The Chancellor of the Exchequer arrived at the Castle, and had an audience of the Queen. The Queen, Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Hohenlohe, and the ladies and gentlemen in waiting, attended Divine service on Sunday in the private chapel. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated. The Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by the Countess of Macclesfield and Major Teesdale, returned to Marlborough House, on Saturday, the 24th ult., from a visit to the Duke of Rutland, at Belvoir Castle. His Royal Highness Prince Alfred, attended by Lieutenant Haig, arrived at Marlborough House, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Alfred, with the Countess of Macclesfield, Major Teesdale, and Lieutenant Haig in waiting, attended Divine service at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and Princess Mary attended the service. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Helena, drove in the grounds on the 26th ult. The Prince of Wales went to the House of Lords. The Princess of Wales, attended by the Countess of Macclesfield, took a carriage drive. The Queen walked and drove this morning, accompanied by Princess Helena. Viscount Torrington and the Hon. Mortimer Seckville West have succeeded the Earl of Caithness and Major-General F. Seymour, C.B., as Lord and

Groom in Waiting. The Prince of Wales went to the House of Lords yesterday afternoon.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—The HOUSE OF LORDS sat rather longer than usual on Thursday the 22nd ult. An address, the echo of the Queen's Message in reference to the Princess Helena and Prince Alfred, was brought up by Earl Russell. The Sales by Auction Bill made some progress. The Art Bill passed through committee, and some explanations were given about the Cattle Diseases Bill, which nobody seems to understand. Their lordships rose before eight o'clock.—On Friday the House of Lords was occupied only a short time, and the cattle plague was of course the chief topic of discussion.—On Monday the 26th ult. Lord Derby gave notice that on Friday evening the 22nd inst., he should, on behalf of the trustees of the late King of the Belgians, lay a statement before the House.—Earl Granville announced that Government declined to take charge of Mr. Hunt's Cattle Plague Bill, and said that if it were taken up by an independent peer he should have a string of amendments to propose to it. The bill was brought in and read a first time.—Viscount Lifford, in a lengthened speech, desired to be informed whether the Government intended to endow the Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland. He was understood to advocate the application of some of the funds of the Established Church to the education of the people.—Earl Russel, in reply, reviewed the legislation with respect to Ireland for the last thirty years, and most distinctly said Government would not propose to endow the Roman Catholic clergy. Indeed that clergy were strongly opposed to any such thing. It was certain, said his lordship, that the Church of Ireland was not the Church of the people, and the Government would be glad if the revenues of that Church could be applied as had been suggested; but any proposition to that effect would create heartburnings.—Earl Grey afterwards gave notice that he would bring forward some resolutions in reference to Ireland. Their lordships adjourned at twenty-five minutes past seven o'clock.—The Cattle Plague took up most of the time of the House on the 27th ult. Earl Granville moved the second reading of the Cattle Plague Bill, which, after some discussion, was agreed to. Earl Granville then moved that the bill be referred to a select committee, one of the members of which is the Prince of Wales. This was also agreed to.—Subsequently the Earl of Airlie, in moving for a memorial from Kincardineshire, strongly condemned the indiscriminate slaughter of cattle. Their lordships rose at twenty minutes to seven o'clock.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Thursday, the 22nd ult., the first business was the proposal made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in reference to the Princess Helena and Prince Alfred. Mr. Gladstone proposed that an annuity of £6,000 a year should be settled on the Princess, payable from the date of her marriage, and that she should have besides a dowry of £30,000. As to Prince Alfred, it was proposed to settle £15,000 a year upon him for life. Both proposals were accepted by the House with very little discussion.—Another proposal made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was that a monument to Lord Palmerston should be erected in Westminster Abbey at the expense of the nation. In making the proposition, which was acceded to, Mr. Gladstone pronounced an eloquent and glowing eulogy on the late Premier.—The second reading of the Jamaica Bill came next under discussion. It was from the first evident that any entering upon the larger question of the massacres in the island was deemed inexpedient. Only one person had the bad taste to break through this understanding. It was Colonel Edwards, who was anxious apparently so show that he had been foolish enough to make some absurd statements at a dinner in Yorkshire. The

folly of the loud-voiced representative of Beverley, however, met with no imitators, and the bill was read a second time. Then the House went on to cattle plague again.—On Friday the 23rd ult., Sir Robert Peel elicited from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the declaration that what is proposed to be done in respect to the Queen's University in Ireland will be submitted to the House before it is carried out. The formal resolutions in reference to [the dowry of the Princess Helena were agreed to. Afterwards the House entered upon a discussion relative to the deep sea oyster fishery, and a somewhat longer and deeply interesting debate on our neutrality laws. The chief topic of debate in the House on Monday the 26th ult., was Mr. White's motion in reference to expenditure. Mr. Whyte enforced the necessity for retrenchment in an exceedingly able speech, and was followed by Mr. Baxter.—Mr. Laing, Mr. McLaren, and others took part in the debate, which was brought to a close by a speech from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—Later in the evening Lord C. Paget introduced the navy estimates. On Tuesday, the 27th ult., Mr. Layard, in replying to Mr. Ewart said that when the customs arrangement between France and Monaco was made, her Majesty's Government notified to the French Government that they could not accept it as a precedent, and that if any other nation insisted upon having the same rights and privileges they should insist upon having them also.—Mr. Sheridan got leave to introduce a bill to compel railway companies to provide means of communication between guards and passengers, and Mr. B. Cochrane obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Colonial Governor's Pensions Act.—A motion by Mr. Aryton for a select committee to inquire into the local government of the metropolis led to rather a sharp passage of words between that hon. gentleman and Lord Robert Montagu. Both, however, seemed to agree that there was room for improvement in the management of London. Sir George Grey afterwards acceded to the motion for a committee, and it agreed to—The condition of the telegraphic communication with India was the subject of an interesting debate. Mr. Crawford moved for a select committee on the matter, and pointed out how gross were the neglects and delays between Bagdad and Kurrachee. Several other speakers endorsed the statements of the member for the City of London, and the Government acceded to the motion for a committee. The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at nine o'clock.—Mr. Hadfield succeeded on Thursday, the 29th ult., carrying the second reading of his Qualification for Office Bill. Mr. Newdegate was its opponent, and adduced all the stock arguments in support of his amendment for the rejection of the bill. The discussion was interesting, and the division showed 176 for the second reading and only 52 against it.—Another measure, having also for its object the extension of religious liberty, was the Fellows of Colleges Declaration Bill, introduced by Mr. Bouvierie. It too was read a second time.—The Jamaica Government Bill was read a third time and passed after a brief discussion; and the bills for the annuities of the Princess Helena and Prince Alfred were also put forward a stage. The House adjourned at three o'clock.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The Registrar-General, in his usual weekly return, states: In the week that ended on Saturday, February 24, the births registered in London and twelve other large towns in the United Kingdom were 4,709; the deaths registered 3,638; the annual rate of mortality was 31 per 1,000 persons living. In London the births of 1,189 boys and 1,161 girls, in all 2,350 children were registered in the week. In the corresponding weeks of ten years 1855–65 the average number, corrected for increase of population, was 2,135. The deaths

registered in London during the week were 1,630. It was the eighth week of the year, and the average number of deaths for that week is, with a correction for increase of population, 1,503. The present return is not of a favourable character, for the actual deaths exceed the number calculated for the third week of February by 127. Small pox appears to be gradually on the increase; and the fatal cases referred to it last week were 26, of which number 11 were returned as having occurred in the Small-pox Hospital. Forty-six deaths from measles were recorded, 37 from scarlatina, 11 from diphtheria, 70 from whooping cough, 69 from typhus, 18 from diarrhoea. The mortality from pulmonary diseases became decidedly heavier; the deaths from phthisis, which had been 154 and 170 in the two previous weeks, rose to 214; those from bronchitis, which had been 145 and 181, rose to 210; while in the last three weeks those from pneumonia were successively 67, 59, and 95. The deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, exclusive of phthisis, were 337, the corrected average being 349. The annual rate of mortality last week was 28 per 1,000 in London, 38 in Edinburgh, and 29 in Dublin; 31 in Bristol, 34 in Birmingham, 40 in Liverpool, 35 in Manchester, 36 in Salford, 37 in Sheffield, 38 in Leeds, 27 in Hull, 26 in Newcastle upon-Tyne, and 32 in Glasgow.—Some discussion of an important character took place in the Court of Common Council on the 22nd ult., on the subject of the cattle plague. Now that the passage of cattle through the streets will be stopped, it is necessary that a larger number of dead meat markets should be opened, and one or two members of the court urged that the requisite steps should be taken to supply the metropolis with food.—Mr. Hunt's clause prohibits the moving or transport of cattle for a greater distance than 500 yards. An attempt will be made to obtain a modification of this clause, in order that foreign cattle arriving at Blackwall may be brought to London to be slaughtered.—Messrs. Rosenthal and Osmond, merchants, were defendants at the Mansion House on the 23rd ult., on a charge of having sold several rifles, the barrels of which did not bear the proper proof mark. Some very foolish statements have appeared in some of our contemporaries anticipatory of this case, but it really was a very simple affair. Messrs. Rosenthal and Osmond had consigned to them a number of muskets, which having been manufactured for Austria during the war with France, had been superseded by better weapons. Afterwards they were to have been sent to the Confederate States, but did not get off. Finally, as we have said, they came into the hands of Messrs. Rosenthal and Osmond, who sold some of them. They did not bear the proof marks required by law, and hence the offence charged had been technically committed. The defendants were fined one shilling per barrel for the number they had sold.—The army estimates have been issued. They show a net decrease as compared with the votes of last year of £253,447.—On Thursday, the 23rd ult., the London and Scotch express from London ran into a bank engine a few miles from Preston. Several of the passengers were much contused, and the line was blocked for a time.—At Lambeth police court, on Friday, the 23rd ult., two Poles were brought up, charged with having in their possession a number of forged Russian bank notes. When apprehended in Walworth by Inspector Thompson, of the detective force, one of the prisoners endeavoured to throw away two small parcels, which, on being picked up, were found to contain the forged notes in question. On the person of his companion were found a few Polish State Bonds forming a portion of those stolen from the Polish Treasury.—A deputation waited upon the President of the Board of Trade on Saturday, the 24th ult., to ask that a Royal Commission might be

appointed to inquire into the condition of the mercantile marine. It was urged by Mr. Chadwick that many of the losses at sea were owing to the defective education of the seamen, and that something ought to be done to alter this state of things. Mr. Gibson said he was unable to promise a commission, but the matter should have his best consideration.— Professor Simonds has written a letter to the Clerk of the Council in reference to the attack of cattle plague at Mentmore. He comes to the conclusion that of the twenty-five animals said to have been attacked, eleven have really never had the disease, five are not severe cases, five have died, and four are sinking under the disease. He adds that as the animals have been herded together, more cases may be expected, upon which Mr. Worms may test his system.—Sir C. B. Phipps, expired suddenly on Saturday morning, after an illness of only two days. For the last twenty years he has held various important offices connected with the Court. At the time of his death he was Keeper of Her Majesty's Privy Purse and Receiver-General of the Duchy of Cornwall.—An accident which all will deplore happened on Saturday afternoon, the 24th ult., to the Rev. Dr. Whewell, *Master of Trinity College, Cambridge*. The rev. gentleman was riding out with a party of ladies when suddenly he was thrown from his horse—an animal which he has ridden for the last eleven years. He was taken up immediately and carried to Cambridge, where medical aid was procured. It was then found that he was suffering from a severe concussion of the brain.—

There were two elections on Tuesday the 27th ult. for London and Leominster. Mr. Goschen was re-elected without opposition for the city. In his speech at the hustings he mentioned Reform, education, the Church, the cattle plague, Ireland, and Jamaica. As to Reform he declined to go into particulars, and civilly refused to tell an elector, who asked him the question, whether he would support a £20 lodger franchise. In regard to both education and the Church he urged liberal measures. As to the cattle plague and Jamaica he confined himself to approving what the Government had done. Speaking of Ireland, he said if England was to do good to Ireland, Ireland must meet her half way. He rebuked Mr. Roebuck and the shallow politicians who talks as he talks about Ireland being satisfied with the same institutions as England. Is nothing, asks Mr. Goschen, to be allowed for difference in the character of the people? He insisted that such allowance ought to be made. The right hon. gentleman was very warmly received. At Leominster Mr. Richard Arkwright, of Hampton Court, was returned unopposed to the seat which Mr. Gathorne Hardy has left for Oxford University.—The police have apparently got hold of two very dangerous swindlers. The men, who are young, call themselves George Essen and Charles Allen. They appear to have advertised in the country papers to grant loans. When applications were made to them they pretended to make inquiries, after which they announced that the loan would be granted. They forwarded a promissory note for the amount to be borrowed and half a cheque, and promised on receipt of the five year's interest to send the other half of the cheque. This they did in fact, but when the cheque was presented it was found there was no account at the bank. They seem to have got a good deal of money in this way. Both men were remanded.—The official report of the inquiry in reference to the loss of the *London* is published. It completely exonerates Captain Martin from any blame, and says the accident occurred through the water getting down the hatchway, but suggests that there may have been some unknown leak. The report contains further some suggestions in reference to the build of such ships as the *London*.—

At the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday, the 27th ult., it has announced that the bill which had been preferred against Mr. Kent for publishing the alleged libel against Mr. Sothern would be withdrawn. True bills were returned in the course of the day against the defendants Coleman and Cooper, and it was said that an application will be made to postpone the trial until the April sessions.—The Marquis Townshend, on Tuesday the 27th ult., took two young women to the Clerkenwell police court and asked for a summons against a relieving officer of St. Pancras parish and the pauper porter of St. Pancras workhouse. He charged the relieving officer with behaving cruelly to one of the girls, and charged the porter with assaulting the others. The girls themselves made a statement, from which it appeared that the Marquis had met them in Piccadilly, and advised them to apply for relief at St. Pancras. One of them said she had no complaint to make against any one, and should not have come to the court had it not been for the Marquis. The other girl said she had been pushed about by the porter, and in his case a summons was granted. The application of the Marquis, as far as the relieving officer was concerned, was refused.— The Hon. George Denman was on Wednesday, the 28th ult. returned for Tiverton by a majority of 46 over his opponent, Sir John Hay. The Marquis of Hartington was returned without opposition for North Lancashire. His colleague, Mr. Fenwick has probably not been so fortunate. When this is written the close of the poll has not come to hand, but at one o'clock Alderman Caudish, the Radical opponent of Mr. Fenwick, was ahead by nearly 100 votes.—The National Reform Conference, convened by the Executive Council of the Reform League, held the first of its sittings on the 28th ult., at St. Martin's Hall, and was numerously attended by provincial delegates. A resolution was adopted, affirming the principles advocated by the Reform League of Residential and Registered Manhood Suffrage protected by the Ballot. Mr. Leverson submitted a bill which he had prepared by order of the Council of the League. Its chief provisions were: an equalisation of electoral districts; the appointment of an officer to be called the Superintendent of Elections, who should rank next to the Speaker of the House of Commons; the qualifications of a voter to be that he is of age, is not receiving relief under the poor rates, and has not been convicted of crime; the indemnity of Members of Parliament from election expenses, and the appointment of a permanent Committee of the House of Commons. The bill was referred to a committee of twelve, —The annual meeting of the National Rifle Association was held on the 28th ult. The Duke of Cambridge presided. The discussion turned chiefly on the number of prizes given for small bores. Several of those present urged that more prizes should be given for Enfields. There was also some discussion in reference to the Whitworth Rifle Company. Finally the report was adopted, and the Duke of Cambridge was reelected president of the association for the ensuing year.— The latest report represent Dr. Whewell as remaining in nearly the same state.—Some touching mementoes of the loss of the *London* have been received at Lloyd's. Several bottles containing messages from some of the passengers to their relatives have been washed ashore on the French coast. The perusal of these sad missives will cause a pang to many besides the relatives of the ill-fated passengers.—The arguments in the famous Banda and Kirwee prize of money case have been brought to a close. The Judge announced that he should have to defer giving judgment, and it is believed judgment will not be delivered until Easter term. It is said the costs of the suit will be at least 50,000L.—The seamen who were charged with mutiny on board the *Scotland*, were brought up for trial at the Central Criminal

Court on the 28th ult. The evidence showed that the men had received great provocation. Baron Bramwell, who tried the case, recommended that two of the men—Matthews and Tupper—should be acquitted. This was done. The other men were found guilty, but recommended to mercy. Baron Bramwell, in sentencing the prisoners, said they had committed an offence legally, but in a very harmless manner. He sentenced Laffin, Carr, and Dickson, to a week's imprisonment each, and ordered Pillage to be released on his own recognizances.—Mr. Charles Newton, a well-known barrister, was found dead at the bottom of a stair-case in the Temple, on Wednesday morning, the 28th ult. It is believed that the unfortunate gentleman in walking down stairs slipped and fell.—At the Lambeth Police-court several members of a gang of swindlers, well known to the police, were committed for trial on various charges of obtaining goods under false pretences. Amongst these men was a brother of that Manning who, with his wife, was executed for the murder of O'Connor; the living Manning having also the *alias* of "Edward Ellis."

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—A paragraph of Australian news conveys the gratifying intelligence that the protracted drought has terminated on that continent.—The Liberals in Prussia are to be silenced. William, by Divine right king, has, through his willing Minister, Count von Bismarck, announced in the Chamber of Deputies at Berlin that both Houses of the Diet will be closed to-day, and will remain adjourned to the end of the session. No doubt this is owing to the persistence of the Chamber in demanding free speech, and in dealing constitutionally with the budget.—The refusal of Prince Napoleon to resume his place as President of the Committee of the International Exhibition at Paris raised a difficulty not easily to be surmounted. However, the Emperor has proved himself equal to the emergency. He has appointed the Prince Imperial to the place, and delegated the duties to the Minister of State. The Emperor has presented, through his Ambassador at Copenhagen, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour upon the Crown Prince of Denmark.—The message with which the King of Prussia has closed the Parliament is a strange specimen of despotic arrogance. He had hoped, he says in effect, to find the Chamber of Deputies filled with a desire to do as the Crown wished them, and to do its bidding humbly. To his surprise no such spirit actuated the Deputies. They were resolved to insist on a constitutional revision of the finances and the right of free speech, and it was evident to his Majesty that if they were allowed to go on in that way unpleasant consequences might ensue. Therefore he shuts up the Chamber. The message has the merit of possessing some frankness, but it shows how hollow a sham is the pretence of constitutional government in Prussia.—The *Patricie*, no very good authority, be it noted, asserts that the Pope and the King of Italy are coming to an understanding in respect to the appointment of the Pontifical debt; nay, that the principle of the apportionment has been agreed upon.—The most startling news of the day is that of a revolution in the Principalities. On Thursday, the 22nd ult. there was a change of Ministry at Bucharest, and the same day a body of troops surrounded the palace of Prince Couza, and forced him to sign his abdication. Forthwith the new Ministry announced the abdication, and the Count of Flanders was proclaimed Hospodar of Roumania, under the title of Philip I. The Count will probably consider twice before he accepts the post. A telegram from Vienna brings another piece of news which not improbably may have some connection with this revolution. It states that the Russians on the Pruth are making preparations for crossing that river, and that they have actually got the

pontoons in readiness. Through Vienna also we hear that numerous Servians and Roumanians are travelling through Bosnia and the Herzegovina endeavouring to stir up the people against the Turkish rule. In consequence of this the Turkish garrisons have been strengthened.—On Saturday the 24th ult., General La Marmora in the Chamber of Deputies vindicated the Government from charges which had been made against them in respect to Spain and France. He denied there had been any subservience to France, and whilst saying that France and Italy had each its own views as to the future, he declared that the September Convention would be carried out. He declined to break off diplomatic relations with Spain; and as to Austria, said there were no political negotiations going on between the two countries.—It seems that the fear of renewed hostilities in Bhootan has passed away. A telegram to the Indian Office says that the guns lost at Dewangiri have been returned by the Bhootan chief, and that the invading force will now return.—Prince Couza has fallen by a bloodless revolution. Even his foes pursue him not. He has been liberated from confinement and permitted to leave Bucharest. The world is now before him.—A deputation from the Croatian Diet presented an address to the Emperor of Austria on Thursday last. The reply of his Majesty was thoroughly conciliatory; but he urged that all measures should give way to the important one of settling the mutual relations of the countries belonging to St. Stephen's Crown, and of securing their intimate and inseparable connection with the entire realm.—The debate on the address to the Emperor was begun in the French Corps Legislatif yesterday by M. Thiers. He seems to have made an outspoken demand for real liberty of the press, of the individual, and of election. He deprecated the system of official candidates. Count Latour followed in defence of the Government. The election for Epernay has ended in the return of the Government candidate by a great majority.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We regret to be compelled to request brethren from whom outstanding amounts are due to respond to the above notice. Some of our Colonial Subscribers are especially reticent in this respect, and our exchequer is not only impoverished through the non-receipt of amounts overdue, but we have also been put to the trouble and expense of writing and postages without even producing the bare courtesy of a reply.

S. L.—The question of the Mark Degree remains just in the same unsatisfactory state. The recognition has not yet taken place, and an English Mark Master would not be allowed to visit a Mark Lodge holding under those constitutions. 2. The strict carrying out of the clause is, we are all well aware, comparatively seldom enforced, but the W.M. would certainly *not* be justified in admitting the visiting brother, if he were "unknown and without a certificate." As though the non-production of the latter might satisfactorily be accounted for. The refusal to admit the brother would be based upon good grounds if he was unknown and unvouched for. 3. We have not yet succeeded in arriving at a satisfactory explanation, but will keep the questions before us and will hope to be able furnish you with a solution. 4. We are now awaiting the results of enquiries being prosecuted in Scotland and Ireland, and will not fail to inform you immediately we hear. 5. Yes! it would however be necessary to give the applicant a written receipt, acknowledging you hold it for that specific purpose. Always glad to hear from you.

Rev. J. M.—We are obliged by your courtesy: we will, with pleasure, attend to your suggestions. 2. We will write you per post in detail.