

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1866.

FUNERAL ORATION.

Delivered by the REV. BRO. JACOBS in honour of the Memory of the late Bro. WILLIAM J. HILL, late of the All Soul's Lodge, No. 169, Weymouth.

THE solemnities we have lately been engaged in following to the grave the remains of a brother highly esteemed amongst us, naturally lay claim to our deepest thoughts, and thence to our improvement in Divine wisdom and knowledge.

Freemasonry, whether we consider it in its Divine principles or its historical reminiscences of the early ages, when the Divine Being vouchsafed to communicate personally and by his prophets and holy men, called for the purpose with his favoured people; if any benefit to society can arise from the extension and practical exercise of those principles which tend to purify the mind and regulate its affections and the desires of the heart, which tend to unite man with his brother man in every part of the world in the closest ties of brotherly love and in the charities of life, it will always continue, as it ever has been, a subject worthy of our best and earnest attention.

(Here followed some Masonic illustrations of a moral and intellectual nature, introductory to the principal subject of the evening). He then proceeded: Such are some of the subjects Freemasonry lays before us for our instruction. There is scarcely any condition or circumstances in which we may be placed, but those principles will be found beneficial for our guidance and best interests.

Times and seasons, and the daily occurrences of life roll on in a ceaseless course; we scarcely stop to inquire or to contemplate the final issue; prosperity and happiness engage the affections of the heart; affliction and trials bow down the mind in sorrow and disquietude; yet we accept it as from the common storehouse of nature, or the general dealings of Divine Providence towards his creatures, and all appear to be right; but when that awful decree pronounced at the fall of man, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou return," finds its way amongst those we love and esteem, and a vacancy appears in our ranks. We are startled for a moment at the call; it is a voice to the living, severe and imperative, yet full of mercy and loving kindness, "Prepare to meet thy God."

It may be infant innocence, which stayed but a brief period only sufficient to behold the light of

day and enjoy the strengthening influence of sleep, yet unwilling to taste either the pleasures or the trials of life, withdrew into oblivion again. Or the aged who having outlived the term allotted to man has been waiting like the visitor about to return into a far country, for the conveyance to conduct him to his native home. But that which sometimes calls forth from us a more poignant sorrow and sympathising regard, may be of one in early youth, whose friends had looked forward with anxious solicitude to see him become an ornament to society, just like a plant we have tenderly reared, delicate and transparent, without spot or stain from the chilling blasts of the winter frost or the tempest's trail, or the foul tramp of some venomous insect alighting thereon, its flower with a concentration of colour more beautiful than at any advanced period opening into bloom; some insect has brooded within, and just as its petals are expanding and it becomes an object of admiration, and we look forward to the gratification of its continuance amongst us, which a wise Providence, in its ordering of nature had designed for our enjoyment and pleasure, it droops and withers, and we are humbled and brought low by its untimely death. Or again, of another who had safely passed the days of his youth, and just entered the prime of life, with all the vivacity and strength of manhood, surrounded by the offspring of his affections, looking forward to a long series of years of earthly pleasures and success, length of days appear on the one hand, riches and honour on the other, with a faithful companion in his joys, and a sharer as well as consolation in his hours of trial and affliction; for him also the awful fiat has been decreed, and by an untimely fate he sinks into the tomb; but to cheer him at his departure a kind and gentle voice whispers in his ear, "Leave thy fatherless children and I will preserve them, and let thy widow trust in me." To us also this message has been sent, and we are now assembled together in this sacred Temple, to mourn the loss of a brother highly esteemed and beloved amongst us.

In his boyhood and youth his countenance was ever radiant with goodness, with joy and delight in his manhood the same cheerfulness and happiness of disposition were manifested wherever he went; displeasure or gloom found no place on his brow, except when excited upon a subject where the rules of justice or honour were in danger of being infringed upon. He was faithful

to those who entrusted him with their concerns; courteous to those who were brought in opposition in his professional engagements; upright and honourable in his whole character; society in which he was known will for some time mourn his loss.

Should a thought be entertained, or a strict opinion venture itself in reflections on his being called away at so early an age—in the midst of business and the pleasures of a happy life, without scarcely a brief period to consider his ways and make his peace with God, we may well ask who implanted such capacities for happiness in our nature, and for what purpose were they intended? but that being happy ourselves, we may endeavour to communicate that happiness to others. We have indeed a well-grounded hope of his favourable acceptance at the throne of the Most High. At his first reception into the Christian fold, the prayer of faith was heard at the throne of grace in his behalf, the hand of Divine mercy was stretched forth and took him into the ark of God's everlasting love, and being "steadfast in faith," he was preserved amidst the turgid and tempestuous "waves of a troublesome world."

At the first creation man was formed perfect and upright, for it was God's workmanship. He was placed in the Garden of Eden to till it and dress it for his amusement and pleasure; the fruit of the trees were ordained as pleasant and agreeable food to his taste; the Divine Being condescended to visit him and commune with him; traces of the Divine goodness may be seen in the life of many even at the present day; but man fell from his original righteousness; and where the brow is darkened by the working of the mind in selfishness, hatred, malice, and revenge, where pride, avarice, ambition, and the insatiable desires of power disturb the beneficent arrangements of the human heart, these all are the bruises and wounds of the fall of man; they are among the thorns and thistles which occupy the ground where the good seed should spring up; they continually impede the progress of truth, and render abortive any attempt to restore lost man to the favour of his God. On the other hand there are many to be found in human society amiable, good-tempered, can raise the jocund laugh, and, to all outward appearance, pleasant characters, and yet no trace of the Divine goodness discovers itself, because they acknowledge not the Divine hand from whence they came, and are regardless of

future existence; they live without hope and without God in the world; but the brother for whom we now drop the tear of remembrance, cultivated unostentatiously a true and genuine faith, and is now, we may hope, in the enjoyment of its rewards in that paradise of God, once lost, but now the habitation of the souls of the righteous. He has left behind him a memorial of his faith—of sterling worth and truth far more enduring than house and lands, or riches and honour. A tower itself above his sacred ashes, like a polished column towards heaven, or like a golden vessel of perfume, costly and precious, prepared by his own hand and preserved to pour forth over him at his burial. I will now give you an extract or two:—

Judge not that God is harsh with man,
Though fault but one, His kindled wrath was just,
Nor was sweet mercy in the heavenly breast
Suppressed:

He looked down
Upon him fallen; saw, pitied, forgave.

Death came
By One—by One life sprung anew. Rejoice
With grateful love, despairing, sunken man;
When man with trumpet sound, o'er melodied
By angels' tongues, melodiously sweet
Re-enter shall the glorious, the once
Lost paradise, a sinner saved, a saint
Regenerate—washed clean by blood;

Here see, behove fulness
Of prayer to, and faith in Him who shed
That salving stream; though sins be scarlet dye,
His blood shall white them all, white to redeem;
Therefore ye—

A soul with mind and thought so profound, so rich in faith, firm in hope, when the last solemn hour arrives, as he is quietly waiting to be undressed for immortality, assuredly listens with earnest and affectionate longing to catch the first note of that gracious and merciful invitation, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Let us consider further, what must have been the effect when the announcement was made to him that no hope of life remained, and but a few short hours before him; a crowd of thoughts at once rushing upon his mind at being thus suddenly summoned to surrender life just scarcely begun, the comfort, happiness, and pleasures of his earthly home, and all that was dear to him, the numerous arrangements necessary for the welfare of those he was so soon to leave behind him, with an intensity of pain from suffering which caused a dissolution of nature; and then the dark and cold grave to which he was hastening, and the unknown state of existence beyond it, must all have been sufficient to weigh him down in the deepest

sorrow and affliction; but mercy and peace from the throne of the Eternal shed their benign influence around his dying pillow, and his last parting breath of sorrow was exchanged for the first of eternal joy. This faith, expressed by him in such simple, truthful language, was a genuine principle sustained and strengthened by Divine grace in the heart. It is that faith which justifies and serves; it is in truth the faith of God's elect; and it is refreshing to find with what faith and hope he was sustained in his last moments, what joy and peace in believing. It yields, indeed, a melancholy yet pleasurable satisfaction in contemplating the subject—that notwithstanding the throng and crowd of earthly things, of earthly pleasures and of hopes, as well as in his last and only sorrow he ever knew, he was enabled to press through them all, and thus to take hold of the hem of his Saviour's garment as it were, and like the result of a similar faith mentioned in the sacred writings, the same divine and benevolent look was cast upon him, the same gracious and encouraging reply was given, "Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace," and his spirit fled to that God who gave it. Who can imagine the delights of the soul surrounded now with guardian angels, winging their way through the celestial regions to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem; while voices sweet as the seraphins before the throne of the Eternal, carol forth the song of joy, "Lift up your heads O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, that an heir of glory may come in."

Death is a solemn subject to contemplate; it is an awful ceremony through which we must all pass. To put off the consideration of it to a more convenient season will not stay the hand or mitigate the stroke. The patriarchs and prophets—where are they now? Kings, emperors, and the rulers of the world—the statesman, the senator, the philosopher, the learned and the ignorant, the young and the old, the grave and the gay, have all in their turn, from their towering ambition, or in expectant faith and humility, succumbed to its relentless law. If we make it a subject of our daily thoughts—if we turn now and then to the grave, and look at the bed where we shall soon take our repose, it will remove much of the horror and dread of death—it is an awful and a divine necessity. If all the generations of man that have existed from the first creation were still alive, what confusion and misery would be the

result, from the ferocious disposition of those who had nothing beyond the light of a fallen nature for their guide, to whom the Divine revelations were unknown, as well as from those who have despised and rejected them—even at the very first commencement of human society, Cain rose up and slew his brother Abel.

At the first creation when Adam fell, the very ground was cursed for his sake—"In sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life," was the Divine sentence, "for out of it was't thou taken—for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." There was no curse upon this dust, for it had been taken out of the earth before the curse was pronounced, and this dust contained within its folds a divine principle of life, for it was the breath of God which animated it. This dust of man, therefore, returning to the earth again, will still be precious in the sight of God—hence the care instilled into the heart of man to reverence and care for the remains of those deposited in the grave. Thus became the first Adam a living soul. But we read also of a second Adam, born from heaven a quickening spirit; and as by the invigorating influences of the great luminary of day, nature springs forth and buds, and we enjoy those blessings the fruits of the earth; so this quickening spirit, all those who are born in him, by faith, and live through him, he shines upon their affections, and they break forth into heavenly graces and produce abundant fruits of righteousness and of peace; their dust therefore, is sanctified and very precious in the sight of God. [Here were some reflections of a Masonic character on the subject.] He then continued:—Of death we can offer no better idea than that of the course of nature. The sun runs its daily course in its strength, and as it draws near to its close, its effulgence diminishes and its light becomes mellowed and soft; and as it sinks below our horizon, a solemn gloom and stillness creeps over the face of nature, and pervades everywhere as in the hush around the dying bed. The hills and the valleys grow dark and become wrapt in the quiet and rest of night as of death; the stars appear as the witnesses of God's truth; the moon sheds her softened and reflected light, as if it would remind us of God's watchful and protecting care of the souls of the righteous, and His divine presence with them while their bodies sleep in the grave. This emblem of death in the rest of inanimate nature is also beautifully pour-

trayed in active life; childhood, for instance, when tired down with its ceaseless activity, has no very anxious desire at night to resign its pleasures and the society of its friends, and retire into darkness and a state of unconsciousness; but the law of nature is so imperative that even childhood must submit, and that which reconciles it to its fate is the assurance that an affectionate parent is watching over its pillow, and it sleeps in peace. In the morning the sun comes forth, the little creature arises not only refreshed, but renewed with strength. So in the morning of the resurrection of the just at the last day, when the night of death shall have passed away, the Sun of Righteousness will arise with glory and magnificence indescribable, and with all powerful healing in his wings, the dry bones of humanity will collect together, the dust of those precious in the sight of Him who died for them will be reanimated and clothed upon with immortality. Then will those remains we have so lately laid in the dark tomb arise for the joys of eternity; that which we have now sown in corruption will be raised in incorruption; that which we have now sown in dishonour will be raised in glory; that which we have sown in weakness will be raised in power; that which we have now sown a natural body will be raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body. That this our mortal part is capable of a change in immortality to one of heavenly glory, we have a very clear intimation. When Moses went up into the mount and received the tables of the law, while in communion with the Divine Being, he received an impress of the divine glory, and on coming down from the mount his countenance shone so bright that the people could not steadfastly behold him, and he was obliged to cover his face with a veil, which he wore for some time. When the Saviour of mankind went up into the mount with his disciples, he was then in a state of humility (man with us), he was transfigured before them, and became glistening and brilliant as the sun at noonday. At the resurrection the two witnesses who related the circumstance to the holy women appeared with countenances like lightning, and their garments white, such that no fuller could white them. Whether they were celestial spirits created to attend upon and execute the high behest of heaven, who had never been clogged with humanity, or of the spirits of the just made perfect, does not appear, but that

they were of human form appears clearly. Thus will mortality be swallowed up of life. "Blessed, then, are the dead which die in the Lord."

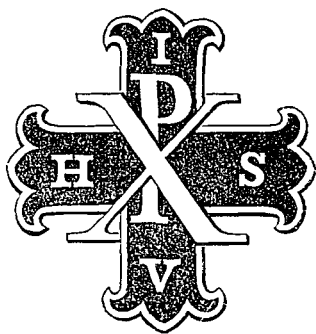
And now, my brethren, what do we learn in Masonry that will lead us in that path which will bring us to this living fountain of joy and happiness—this glorified state of immortality, to Him who will not deceive us, neither will He suffer deception. [Here a solemn and very affecting appeal was again made in a Masonic sense upon the subject.] He then proceeded:—

That great light we possess in Masonry is a divine light—it is a light from above—which will enable us to lift this mysterious veil and look beyond the darkness and gloom of the grave. It opens to our understandings God's omnipotent power, holiness, and truth—it tells of His mysterious dealings with the creatures of His hands; it speaks to us of His divine promises, both of the life that now is and of that which is to come; it stands forth as a beacon light to guide us safely through the shoals and difficulties of life; it stands as a light and guide to eternity. Philosophy cannot raise this mysterious veil, for she is indebted herself to its divine wisdom for the chiefest of her apophthegms. Reason, with her weak and uncertain light, can never guide us to such sublime mysteries, such glorious truths as we find there—science which enables us to make wondrous discoveries in nature, to measure the heights of its pillars down to the fastness of its pedestal cannot unfold to us eternity or the mysterious dealings towards His people of that God in whom we live and move and have our being. Nature, which instructs us in lessons of God's creating and preserving power—which sets before us many instructive patterns for our imitation in faith, in hope, and those beautiful charities of social life upon which angels deign to smile, she may lead us to the threshold, but cannot open to our view the mysteries of eternity, the joys of everlasting life, or the miseries of eternal death. But having now discovered those mysteries in the treasures of God's revealed will, let us therefore praise and magnify His holy name for that knowledge of Himself which He has been pleased to vouchsafe unto us, and endeavour to walk worthy of that light which has now shone around us—that we, with all those who have departed this life in the true faith and fear of that holy and incommunicable name, may have our consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in that eternal and

everlasting kingdom, where the world's great Architect lives and reigns, and will when time shall be no more.

A SKETCH OF THE PHILOSOPHY, TRADITIONS, AND RECORDS OF THE MASONIC ORDER OF THE RED ✠ OR KNIGHTS OF CONSTANTINE, AT PRESENT UNDER THE COMMAND OF LORD KENLIS, M. ILL. G. SOV.

By Bro. ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE, P.M., &c.



(Continued from page 423.)

Constantine the first Christian emperor was the son of Constantius Chlorus a Roman general, and of Helena a British lady, who for her piety and virtues, has been canonised by both the Greek and Roman churches. In the year 289 Constantius was selected to assist in the government of the empire as a Caesar, or deputy to the emperor Maximian, and his rule extended over Britain, Spain and Gaul. The youthful Constantine was however brought up at the court of the emperor Diocletian who resided chiefly at Nicomedia, a city in Bythynia, and the young prince gave early evidence of the remarkable abilities for which he was afterwards so distinguished. At this period of his life the future emperor was initiated into the mysteries of the *collegia artificum* at Rome, and attained the position of master of the colleges of architects, and it was unquestionably this philosophic training which prepared his mind to reject the monstrous polytheism of the ancients, and to seek wisdom where alone it can be found in the sacred writings inspired by the divinity. The father of Constantine was declared emperor on the resignation of Maximian, but did not long survive his accession to supreme authority, his death occurring at York, A.D. 306, when Constantine was immediately chosen by the army in

Britain as his successor in the purple. The imperial government was at this time divided between two monarchs, and the Roman provinces groaned under a succession of tyrants, each of whom rose to power upon the ruins or assassination of his predecessor. The senate and people of Rome in the exigency of despair, called upon Constantine to rescue them from the oppression of Maxentius, who then misgoverned the other moiety of the Empire, nor was their appeal made in vain. At the head of 40,000 men Constantine crossed the Alps and encountered the troops of Maxentius—four times as numerous as his own—on the plains of Turin, when the tyrants' forces were overthrown.

A second battle was fought near Verona with a similar result, and a third and decisive victory was gained at a place called Saxa Rubra, close to the memorable Cremera.

It was on this occasion that a manifestation of the divine will occurred, which not only directed Constantine to the final triumph over his enemies, but led to his conversion to the Christian faith. We are informed that on a certain day the emperor was meditating upon the various religious opinions then existing in the world, and being sensible of his own inability to choose the true from the false, prayed fervently to the one Supreme Being or the unknown god, worshipped in the arcana of the Roman architects—supplicating Him to reveal Himself by an indisputable sign when, as the sun began to decline, and in the presence of his whole army, he saw the figure of a cross traced in light above the orb of day, with this inscription "*In hoc signo vinces.*"

Such a phenomenon created alarm in the minds of many of the soldiers, but the Christians quickly interpreted the sign to the astonished emperor, and Constantine being further convinced by a heavenly apparition in the night, on the next day commanded a representation of what he had seen in the heaven to be borne on his standards together with a device called the *Laborum*, consisting of the two first letters of the name of Christ in Greek characters, so placed as to form a cross. He also sent for the chiefs of the Christian legion, and formed them into an order of knighthood—directing them to wear upon their armour sixteen stars in allusion to the sixteen letters of the mystic words. These warriors afterwards became the body-guard of their sovereign, and were placed under the command of Eusebius, bishop of Nico-

media as the viceroy or deputy of Constantine in the Order.

It would be superfluous to relate how nobly this chosen band fought in the crowning victory which decided the fate of the empire, and which occurred Oct. 28th 312. At the head of his Red Cross Knights, and distinguished by his splendid armour on which the motto of the Order was conspicuously placed, Constantine charged the cavalry of Maxentius, and notwithstanding the determined valour of the proctorian cohorts, the tyrant's army was soon completely routed. Maxentius in his haste to escape, fell from the Milvian bridge into the Tiber and was drowned, and the conqueror soon after entered Rome amidst the acclamations of the people. A triumphal arch was built to commemorate the victory, and a statue of the heaven-inspired commander was created, with the red cross in his hand, and an inscription setting forth the miraculous interposition which had effected the deliverance of the city. From this circumstance the members of the Order of the Red Cross have been designated Knights of Rome and Constantine.

The emperor being himself well-versed in philosophic lore, naturally encouraged learning, and Aurelian's devastations having driven the sages of light or followers of Ormus from Alexandria, Constantine afforded them a refuge in his new capital, Constantinople, where he opened an academy in his palace, after the model of the Bruchium at Alexandria. The members who comprised it were called *οἱ οἰκουµενικοί* at whose head was the *οἰκουµενικός διδάσκαλος*.

The Knights of the Red Cross were admitted into this mystic college, and formed the first class—the ecclesiastics and commanders of the legions composed the second class, and the third or highest Order was confined to Constantine, Eusebius, and the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

This division of the Order into three degrees prevails to this day. In Sweden where Freemasonry is acknowledged by the State, and where the possession of a certain degree confers the rank of civil nobility, the three highest grades are those of "Les Freres de la Croiz Rouge,"* and the third class consists exclusively of members of the royal family.

The church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem was built by Constantine and St. Helena, after the reputed discovery by the latter of the true cross,

* See "Esprit du dogme de la Franche-Maçonnerie," page 234, Bruxelles, 1825.

and in carrying out the necessary excavations, the workmen made a discovery which materially corroborates the traditions of the Royal Arch degree, and a relation of this event, as our learned Bro. Dr. Metham of Devonport, recently stated in the course of a lecture which he delivered, is to be found in the work of an ancient historian of undoubted credibility.

THE NEMESIS: A TALE OF THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

By BRO. A. ONEAL HAYE, K.M., K. Cal., Corresponding Member of the German Society, Leipzig, Knight Templar, Scot.; Author of "The History of the Knights Templars;" "Vara Queen;" "Gatherings in Wanderings;" "Songs and Ballads;" "Poemata;" "Legends of Edinburgh." &c., &c., &c.; Poet Laureate of the Camongate, Kilwinning; P.M. St. Stephens; P.P.Z. of St. Andrews, R.A. Chap.; &c.; &c.

(Continued from page 449.)

CHAPTER XIII.

THE TRAITOR'S DOOM.

The quality of Mercy is not strained,
It droppeth like the gentle dew from Heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed.
It blesses him that gives, and him that takes,
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest. It becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown:
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings,
But Mercy is above this scept'r'd sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings:
It is an attribute of God himself.
And earthly power doth then show likest Gods'
When mercy seasons justice.—*Shakespeare.*

The three hurried silently on towards Adrian's house, where, he possessed himself of Moscus letter to Paulus. Thereafter they left Rome by the Porta Esquilina, the Centurion, by his authority, having the gate opened. Passing the field in which criminals were executed, they entered upon the open plain. A quarter of a mile's walk brought them to an excavation, which led to the catacombs. Lycus caught hold of Adrian's hand, and led him through the passage. After pursuing the road along several winding roads, they came to a curiously carved doorway, which was guarded by an armed man. To this man, Lycus muttered a few words, and asking Adrian for the letter to Paulus, he left him in the charge of Sempronius and the guard.

It was the first time Adrian had ever been in these famous catacombs, and though in Rome it was popularly known that such excavations really existed, no definite description had ever been given

of them. The timid and superstitious tenanted them with unholy things, the deadly basilisk and the loathsome snake had there their habitation, and dark were the legends, and bloody the stories, that ancient beldames whispered to each other of these winding passages. In these, the philosophic societies were wont to meet, the Jews and the early Christians performed their rites, and as the windings were only known to the initiated, they formed a protection to the votaries, more effectual than any army. When the persecutors of the Christian church revelled in the blood of the Martyrs, they in these catacombs, cut out various shrines and which are still to be seen, and as Christianity spread, every Christian's house had a secret staircase leading to these shrines, where at all times some of the faithful were to be found paying their devotions to the most High.

Adrian gazed around him with much curiosity, and he could not but admire the dexterity with which the society had enveloped its assembly with such a maze of winding passages, and the cleverness with which they had seized upon the catacombs as a refuge. He could readily perceive that on the first note of alarm, the members, well acquainted with the intricate windings could disperse in all directions, and baffle the attempts of any pursuer to track them, while the large extent of ground these passages covered, made it impossible for even the largest army to entrap those so well acquainted with its mazes. Only treachery could betray them into the hands of their enemies.

From his reverie he was aroused by the approach of Paulus, whom we have already seen officiating as priest to a small band of Christians. He was accompanied by Lycus and Celsus, a noble Roman, whom Adrian had known in Athens, and who now greeted him warmly. Paulus was a tall majestic looking man, with snow white hair; but in spite of his advanced age, his frame was more vigorous than that of many a man who but numbered half his years. Paulus was the chief of these philosophers in Rome. It may be wondered at by some, that Paulus, being a mere tanner, should yet hold such a distinguished position: but in this society, the worthiest and not the greatest, the wisest and not the richest held the highest seats. It was a true level they met upon, where only mind rose among the members, and all marks of external rank were left without the porch. Though Paulus was now but a tanner on the marsh, it

must be kept in mind, that before he became a Christian, he had been a noble of Corinth. Even this, however, was unknown to most of the brethren, who had elected him only for his eminent abilities. To him, in all times of difficulty and trial, did they go, and he proved to the older brethren a friend and truly a brother, and to the younger an indulgent and careful father. Thus his influence was paramount in the society, the members loving him as much as a friend, as they esteemed him as a leader.

Paulus greeted Adrian warmly, and taking him by the hand led him into the meeting room, and presented him to the members of the society. Adrian was surprised to find among them so many of the first men of Rome, senators, poets, philosophers. The room was about forty feet by thirty, cut out of the earth, and surrounded with pillars curiously carved. The seats were all formed of the earth, and an altar of the same material, but gorgeously cut rose in the centre. After Adrian had suitably replied to the welcomes of his brethren, he took a seat on the right hand of Paulus. Lycus then rose, and addressing Paulus, asked his permission to allow him to examine some of the younger members about their doctrines, to which an assent was given. Six of the neophytes approached the altar, Cossus the traitor being among the number. Lycus having asked various questions turned suddenly upon Cossus:

"Do you remember the vow you took upon this altar to hold inviolate our secrets?"

"I do," replied Cossus, in ignorance that his crime was known, for he was unacquainted with the rank of Lycus in Trajan's household. The others, who were accustomed to such questioning of new members gave it but little attention.

"What was the penalty of treacherously betraying our mysteries, or even of mentioning our names in the world?"

"Death and dishonour."

"Thou hast studied well," replied Lycus. "Now for an example. What penalty should be inflicted upon him who schemes to divulge our secrets to our enemies, who maintains a fair front to his brethren, who joins them in their meetings, who aspires to their to their highest honours, and only to find means to betray them? What does such an one deserve?"

Cossus changed colour slightly as he answered, "Death."

"I am glad to find thou hast such a nice sense

of the justice due to a traitor. Now, listen," said he, turning to the assembly. "I will relate to you a little incident which may prove to everyone that a member dare not attempt an act of treachery without such a crime becoming known to us, or that he can safely harbour a single dangerous thought against the welfare of our order. "I would not," says Horace, "dwell beneath the same roof, nor trust myself in the same fragile bark, with the man who has betrayed the Eleusinian Mysteries, and he who dares harbour treachery in his heart against us, had better hide himself in the fires of Vesuvius, or in the embrace of Charybdis, for only there will he be safe from our vengeance and pursuit."

Lycus paused for a little, and eyed Cossus sternly who began to feel the presence of danger. The others looked on impassively. Lycus continued :

"Once upon a time, in a great city, there was a society of our Mystics, who met to discuss the true principles of philosophy and those truths which, if uttered in the outer world, would doom us to death, as revilers of the gods, and hand us over to the tender mercies of a bigotted and blood-thirsty priesthood. A young noble of the city, esteemed for his bravery and supposed honour, sought admittance, and was initiated into our mysteries. Thereafter perceiving how he might rise in favour with the great—do not move, Cossus! agreed with a priest, when he had been fully instructed in our lore, to betray his associates. Luckily, this scheme came to the knowledge of one of the intended victims, on the morning when this traitor would have been further enlightened in our mysteries. He went up to the traitor, in the middle of the assembly, and said,—and Lycus, as he spoke, approached the alarmed Cossus, and touching him on the breast, exclaimed, "Cossus, thou art the man, thou wouldst betray us!"

Had a thunderbolt crashed through the earth, greater consternation could not have been produced. The members sprang to their feet, as Cossus, covering his face with his hands, fell to the ground.

"Yes," continued Lycus, pointing to Cossus, "there the traitor lies, who would have bartered his honour for the hand of a woman, our lives for an emperor's favour. This morning, at an audience with the emperor, Cassius, the High Priest of Capitoline Jove, told Trajan that this miscreant had undertaken to betray us; and doubtless soon

a proclamation will be issued for the persecution of the followers of Bacchus, the Christians and ourselves, classed together as equally worthy of death with the vilest of malefactors. I have stated the crime, upon the altar, I swear it to be true, what does the criminal deserve at our hands?"

"Death," uttered the assembly.

"And that sentence I demand shall be executed upon him, in the name of our outraged mysteries, and in the name of ourselves, whose lives he has perilled, and thus, I, his accuser, degrade him from our society."

Lycus stripped him of his white robe and gold chain, which he flung into a corner, and then took his seat among his companions. A long silence ensued, only broken by the convulsive sobs of Cossus. Such a treachery had never occurred in the recollection of the members, and each seemed less inclined than his neighbour to demand the execution of the punishment. At length Paulus arose and spoke :

"Cossus," he exclaimed in tones of the profoundest sorrow, "infatuated youth, what has tempted thee to the commission of this great crime? Could the fair face of a woman not become thine, without the commission of such extravagant treachery? could woman's love wipe out the stains of dishonour, or thy marriage bed be blest, with such an offence upon it? Could'st thou hope that justice would close its eye over such an enormity, or that our vigilance could sleep when our lives were put in peril? Hast thou seen so little of us as not to know that our numbers embrace every rank of life, and every city? Are our vows uttered in vain? Have we not wills to sentence, and hands to execute our sentences? Is not justice sure, though she be slow—certain in her stroke, though blind? Hast thou nothing to say why thy life should not be forfeited to our broken laws? Thou shakest thy head, and another must plead for thee."

Turning to the assembly, Paulus addressed them. "My friends, my brothers, coheirs with me in the sublime truths of morality and honour, let us pause before we take this erring one's life; let us not hurry him into that world beyond the grave, with the sin of treachery upon his shoulders. We can take his life, but when taken we cannot give it back. We know not the luring temptations that have been placed in his way, and let us not judge him too hastily, lest we too perhaps, hereafter fall into the same crime."

Adrian next arose. "Thou hast spoken well, O learned Paulus; death we can give, life is beyond our power to bestow upon the dead. Our fraternity, although fenced against treachery by the stern unflinching hand of death, is yet bound by the chains of love. The lilies of its purity must not be bedabbled with the blood of even the greatest criminal. Yet must the guilty be punished, else will his crime swell within his breast, and render him tenfold more dangerous, and give a precedent to unpunished crime that may hereafter spread ruin and desolation among the Craft. Hear then my proposal: and although given by one young in years, yet by one whom the brethren in other lands have not thought unworthy of being intrusted with the greatest secrets of our Order. There is in Memphis a society of our mystics, presided over by Lemo, the High Priest of Isis. Thither let the unfortunate one be conveyed silently and secretly. He must disappear from among us, but he must not die by our hands. In Memphis will he be tended by the noble and the great of our mystics. Whatever is base in his nature will be purged out of him, whatever good strengthened and confirmed. In after years, fortified by wisdom and philosophy, he may return to us pure and upright, and fit to receive those honours which at present we take from him."

A murmur of applause followed these words, and Paulus asked: "Who will answer for his safe conduct to Memphis?"

"That will I," replied Adrian, "with three others, who will accompany me on the voyage?"

"I shall be one," said Lycus.

"Metellus and Julius will also accompany thee," said Paulus. "Take hence the erring one, and may the Great Spirit of Truth smile upon our prayers, and grant this unfortunate his forgiveness."

The four then left the chamber leading Cossus with them. "Lycus, where shall we bestow him till morning, so as to prevent rescue or escape?"

"In my house. My slaves are faithful, and would die for me. You need not go home with me, but make your arrangements for to-morrow. By dawn we will aboard a trireme."

Lycus guided them by a subterraneous passage into the heart of the city. A staircase led them out by a ruined house, and here they separated, "At dawn," said Lycus to his companions, as they quitted him. Utter a single cry, Cossus, and thou art a dead man."

Lycus hurried him through the streets to his own abode, and at a signal, the door was opened by the Ostiarius. Pushing Cossus before him, Lycus asked:

"Is Medorus within? Send him hither."

Medorus, a confidential slave appeared, to whom Lycus whispered a few directions. The slave bowed his head and left the house. Cossus was then led into an inner apartment, and refreshments placed before him, but he declined to partake of them. The night passed away and at the first peep of dawn, Adrian and the others entered. Adrian had written a line to Caius, stating that he was about to leave Rome for a few weeks on urgent business. His preparations were soon made. Medorus entered with them, and addressed Lycus.

"Everything awaits you."

They then departed for the river's side. A fleet trireme was awaiting them a little way down the river, and in two hours they had left the imperial city with their captive. Vehement was the wrath of Cassius at the disappearance of Cossus, and he offered large rewards for his discovery. Years passed ere the traitor re-entered Rome. Under Lemo's teaching he learned noble lessons, and on that mystagogue's death he went to Carthage, where he became a Christian. The lurid light of love had died in the stern pursuit of knowledge, and when he again saw his former lady love, it was the indifference of a wise man, nor did he envy the Questor Deutatus his wife. The error of his youth was amply atoned for by his his after life, and Bossus ended his days right nobly among the lions of the Colosseum, a martyr in the Christian cause.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE WORD OF EXCOMMUNICATION AMONGST THE MARONITES.

There is a passage in "The Thistle and Cedar of Lebanon," a book interesting just now as the work of Risk Allah Bey, which attracted my attention when reading it a couple of months ago.

"The word of excommunication or anathema amongst the Maronites is 'Fra-Massoon.' . . . All houses are closed against a 'Fra-Massoon,' and he may starve of cold," &c., p. 273.—N. M. KIM.

UNION OF FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTIANITY.

Bro. * * * thanks for your remarks upon my communication the "Union of Freemasonry and Christianity," page 348 of the present volume; you correctly express my meaning. I rejoice when the Freemason is a Christian also; and again I rejoice

when the Christian is a Freemason also.—CHARLES FURTON COOPER.

OF WHAT THE TRUE FREEMASON IS THE DEPOSITARY ?

In compliance with the request of a learned brother I put into writing the words to which he alludes. The true Freemason, although not a Thiest, but Christian, Jew, Parsee, or Mahommedan, I regard as the depositary of the great Truths of Natural Religion. Such truths are the foundation upon which repose the Positive Religions, which Christian, Jew, Parsee, and Mahommedan respectively profess.—CHARLES FURTON COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

SUGGESTIONS AS TO OUR CHARITIES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—OUR very excellent brother, the indefatigable Secretary of the Boys' School, is again doing his best to induce members of the Craft to undertake the duties of Stewards at the Institutions next festival, being, I suppose, especially anxious to clear off the debt still resting upon the building. Most cordially do I trust that his appeal will be numerically responded to, and that pecuniarily the result may be a complete success. His energy and courage deserve it. I would suggest that every lodge should nominate a Charity Secretary who should be kept by Bros. Binckes, Patten, and Farnfield *au courant* as to their wants and wishes. As a quondam Charity Secretary, I can assure you, a good deal of ignorance still exists about those glories of our Fraternity and Charities; and a constant stream of information needs to be kept flowing through the Craft. I would further suggest that this Charity Secretary should not be the W.M., who has quite enough work of his own to do if he will do it; that he should plead, whenever occasion may serve the cause of the Charities, urging it upon individuals, who in so many lodges think that there is no necessity for private subscriptions and donations if one or two pounds are voted year by year from the lodge funds; that he should seek out non-affiliated (or non-visiting) brethren, who are not certainly discharged from their promise of freely giving when they have it by them, although they take no heed of summonses; also that this brother, knowing the pulse and purse of his immediate Masonic neighbourhood should be permitted to forward the object in view in any legitimate and Masonic way; and that (as in other societies of a philanthropic and religious character) encouragement should be held out to him for exertion, say in the shape of a medal, etc., according to collections or services, etc.

You know, as well as I do, that the unrewarded servant is a careless servant, and I do not see that Masonry modifies the rule. And you know, as well as I know, that the appeals for charity and reminders which come from head quarters are often without a word of comment consigned to the Lodge Secretary's desk or the W.M.'s waste paper basket. Our Charities flourish certainly, but they would flourish more if they were systematically brought before the mass of our brethren, by especially ap-

pointed agents; plenty of whom would be, I am sure, forthcoming, if properly requested and communicated with, duly recognised, and according to circumstances, stimulated by honorary rewards. I do not say that quite enough would not be forthcoming without this last condition; but they certainly would require those previously noted.

But our brethren, the three secretaries in London, should combine to render the plan perfectly effectual; and one word more to cheer them: in England, and especially amongst masons, there is money to be got for the asking; let them get them, the askers, to work.

But, sir and brother, now we have this magnificent building for our boy's school, are we doing enough for the boys and with the building?

In the first place, could we not have foundationers and non-foundationers within its walls. Those, I mean, who have been elected to all its benefits, as upon a charity basis; and those who are sent thither (their parents being masons) as to a well devised and arranged boarding school under constant supervision and free from the £ s. d. considerations, which render the private cheap middle-class boarding schools, so very often, such failures. And here is the key to the whole of my idea. I should like to see the "Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys."

A Model Middle Class School. Why should not we masons, builders of civilization and true abettors of real progress, find it possible to point to our school as one leading the way, or at all events as amongst the foremost of those which are hastening to fulfil the educational requirements of our age?

We have room enough now to commence such a scheme, I would not call it experiment, for my firm belief is that at this educational crisis, there is no question about its perfect success. And, moreover, I believe that properly and energetically worked out, the idea would be eventually found a happy one for the defrayment of the present incumbent debt.

A thorough modern education should be given to all; a classical where required. But Continental and Eastern language is scientific knowledge, not mere play work; and mathematics of the highest kind should be basis of the curriculum. And for this, apparatus should be abundantly provided, and laboratories built, masters obtained, and lectures instituted. But I will enter further into this, the study course, another time, if permitted by you to do so.

The question arises of course, whence is to come the income for all this? Let me point out, to any brother likely to charge me with utopianism, that such schools do succeed as private speculations, and reply to the querist, once offer to the Craft a good supply; and a good demand, I believe, will be forthcoming, in the shape of quite sufficient paying pupils, non-foundationers, to relieve the committee of all anxiety.

With the appliances we have, let the school be thrown open as a *first-class middle school*, which is the great requisition of our day, and it must distance all private competitors.

This is a long letter. I must plead the interest of my subject as the excuse, and remain, at once,

Yours fraternally,

W. N. KIM.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEM.

THE GREAT MASONIC FESTIVAL AT AMSTERDAM.—The *Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant*, of Dec. 1st., in describing the recent great Masonic festival held at Amsterdam says, "The National Grand Master presented to the Order the library bought by him some time since from the late Dr. Klosz, of Frankfort, consisting entirely of printed and manuscript works on Freemasonry. The collection comprises 5,300 printed works, forming over 7,000 volumes, and above 2,000 manuscripts. There are, besides, numerous commemoration medals, decorations, engravings, &c. The Great East of the Netherlands, already possessed of a great amount of Masonic lore, by this princely donation may now be said to be the richest in the Masonic world."

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, AND THE COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH CROWN.

The winter half-yearly Convocation was held on Tuesday, the 4th December, 1866, in the Grand Hall, Masonic Union, 14, Bedford-row; present:—M.W. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, *M.P.*, *M.W.G.M.*; R.W. Bros. Rev. G. R. Portal, *R.W.D.G.M.*; John Udall, *P.S.G.W.*, as *S.G.W.*; W. E. Gumbleton, *P.J.G.W.*, as *J.G.W.*; V.W. Bros. V. Bird, *G.M.O.*; E. S. Stillwell, *G.S.O.*; Rev. Thos. F. S. Ravenshaw, and Rev. W. J. Skilton, *G. Chaps.*; W. J. Meymott, *G. Reg.*; F. Binckes, *G. Sec.*; W. Bros. Joshua Nunn, *G.S.D.*; Edward Turner, *G.J.D.*; Richard Spencer, *G.S.B.*; F. Davison, *G. Org.*; with several *P.G. Officers*, *Wardens*, *Overseers*, and members of private lodges.

Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, with solemn prayer.

The minutes of the Grand Lodge of June 5, 1866, were read and confirmed.

Letters regretting their absence were read from several Present and Past Grand officers.

V. W. Bro. Rev. W. F. Short, *P.G. Ch.* nominated W. W. B. Beach, *Esq.*, *M.P.*, for election as Grand Master in June next, for the then ensuing year.

The report of the General Board was read, received, and ordered to be entered on the minutes, as follows:—

REPORT OF THE GENERAL BOARD.

The General Board has to report the continued prosperity of Mark Masonry.

Since the 1st of June last 121 certificates have been issued. Warrants have been granted to:—James Edward Lodge, (No. 93), Caunanore, Madras; Love and Honour (No. 94) Falmouth; Star in the East (No. 95) Scarborough; Metham (No. 96) Devon.

The Abbey Lodge (No. 59), meeting at Tewkesbury in the county of Gloucester received permission in June last to remove its place of meeting to the City of Worcester, and to change its name to that of The Lechmere Lodge, the *R.W. Bro. Sir Edmund Lechmere, Bart.*, having been elected to preside as *W.M.*

The severe illness of that distinguished brother, however, prevented the completion of the necessary arrangements, and under the circumstances it was considered advisable to proceed to the election of another Master which has accordingly been done, and there is every reason to believe that under the rule of its present *W.M.* the lodge will attain a high state of prosperity it having met for the first time in its new locality on the 20th ult. when the *W.M.* was duly installed and nine candidates advanced.

It is gratifying to state that a warrant of confirmation has been granted to the Southwark Lodge, held in the Borough, the last lodge under the Grand Chapter in Scotland, actually working in the Metropolitan District, and which will in future meet under this jurisdiction with the title of the Southwark Lodge.

Communications have also been received from representatives of the Langley Lodge, *S.C. Cardiff*, which it is hoped may lead to similar results, while there is good ground to anticipate the not distant adhesion to this supreme body of other time-immemorial independent lodges of Mark Masters.

Under the circumstances here set forth it has been deemed advisable to postpone the preparation of the suggested communication to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, pending the issue of the negotiations referred to.

The policy of adhesion to this Grand Lodge by the associated lodges in Lancashire, is still under consideration by the executive of the latter body.

The lodge recently established in the Channel Islands having experienced considerable disadvantage in comparison with the lodge there working under the Irish Constitution, has memorialised the Board for a reduction of the fees payable for certificates on advancement, and admitting the justice of the pleas urged in support of the memorial which, it should be stated, cordially recognises the courtesy and friendly disposition of the members of the Irish Lodge, the Board recommends for the approval of Grand Lodge, a reduction of the fee for certificate to the same amount as that established for the Colonies, viz., 5s. in lieu of 8s. 6d.

The Treasurer's accounts are annexed given in detail and showing a balance in favour of Grand Lodge of £148 2s. 8d.

The accounts for the past year will be published in extenso.

The Board recommends that the following donations to the Masonic Charities be paid from the funds of the Grand Lodge:—

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	£5 5 0
Royal Freemasons' Girls School	5 5 0
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution ...	5 0 0

(Signed) G. R. PORTAL, *D.G.M.*
Chairman.

On motions duly proposed and seconded, the several recommendations of the Board were adopted, viz.:—

1. The reduction of the fee payable to Grand Lodge for certificate on advancement by brethren in the Channel Islands to the same amount as that paid by brethren in the colonies, viz., from 8s. 6d. to 5s.

2. The postponement of the action of the law as to Fund of Benevolence, pending receipt of opinions from the various lodges, in accordance with the prayer of a memorial from a lodge in the country.

3. Contributions to the Masonic Charities.

The report of the Grand Treasurer for the past year was read and received, showing:—

Balance in favour of Grand lodge, Dec. 1, 1865	£166	2	8
Receipts six months to May 31, 1866.....	106	11	6
Total.....	272	14	2
Disbursements to May 31, 1866	129	13	8
Balance June 1, 1866	143	0	6
Receipts six months to Nov. 30, 1866	133	4	6
Total.....	276	5	0
Disbursements six months to Nov. 30, 1866 ...	128	2	4

Balance in favour of G. Lodge, Dec. 1, 1866... 148 2 8

(Signed) J. R. STEBBING, G. Treas.

Examined, audited, and found correct, Dec. 4, 1866,

JOHN UDALL, P.G.W., } Auditors.
THOMAS MEGGY, }

The GRAND SEC., at the request of the R.W.D.G.M., gave an account of the various lodges, and an explanation of several subjects of interest and importance which are still under negotiation.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER could not refrain from congratulating Grand Lodge on the progress made, and the success attained. It was a subject of much gratification to him, as it must be to them, to see this Grand Lodge, and the genuine and ancient branch of Masonry under its jurisdiction, in the words of the G. Sec., gradually winning its way to the approval of the brethren. This success was mainly due to the conciliatory spirit of their legislature and practice, and he did not doubt but that a continuance of the policy hitherto pursued would be productive of still more successful results, and that Mark Masonry would, in due course, occupy its rightful position with those who, by investigation and research, were led to estimate the general principles of the order.

Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, with solemn prayer, and adjourned.

The usual banquet followed, at which the M.W.G.M. presided, supported by D.P.G.M. Sir Edward Lechmere, Bart., P.G.W., and a large number of influential brethren, and was, in every respect a complete success.

METROPOLITAN.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—A meeting of this old lodge was held on the 4th inst., at the Freemason's Tavern, Great Queen-street, presided over by Bro. Stevens, W.M. Messrs. Waller and Davis were initiated; Bro. Caston was passed, and Bro. Lemiere was raised. Deep regret was expressed for the irreparable loss the Craft at large, and the Albion Lodge in particular, had sustained through the demise of their late much-lamented Secretary, Bro. Rackstraw, P.M. The brethren, however, have elected a most efficient successor to the Secretaryship, Bro. Burton, P.M. Bro. Moring, P.M., was elected Treasurer *vice* Bro. Lee, P.M., who has been compelled to retire from office in consequence of ill-health, but whose merits have been recognised by the lodge making him an honorary member. The P.M.'s present were Bros. Woods, Moring, Burton, Valentine, Friend, Abbott, Warr, and Peryman. There was a strong muster of visiting brethren.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—A meeting of this lodge was held on the 3rd inst., Messrs. Shillito and Gray were initiated, Bro. Farini was passed, and Bro. Messer was passed. There was a numerous attendance of the members and visiting brethren.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 27).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Thursday the 6th inst. The W.M. Bro. Tomlinson was supported by Bros. J. Coutts, S.W.; John May, J.W.; Todd, P.M. and Treas.; Buss, P.M. and Sec.; Hoare, P.M.; Jacobs, P.M.; Bevie, P.M.; Payne, P.M.; and a large number of

brethren. The business consisted of one raising, three passings, and one initiation, the higher degrees being ably worked by Bro. Hoare, P.M. This being the usual period for election of W.M., Bro. John Coutts, the S.W., was unanimously elected to that office and Bro. Todd was re-elected the Treasurer. Bro. John May the J.W., having accepted the office of Steward at the annual festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution in January next a sum of £25 was voted for the general fund of the lodge, to be placed on his list, and the brethren present also contributed liberally for the same benevolent object, also £3 was voted for casual charity. The brethren, forty in number, then adjourned to the banquet, after which the several Masonic toasts were given and responded to, enlivened by several excellent songs by Bros. Jacobs, Clement, Cooper, and others, and the proceedings closed in perfect harmony.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—In consequence of the great amount of business for the regular lodge night, Tuesday, the 18th inst., an emergency meeting of this old and prosperous lodge was held on Monday, the 10th inst., at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark. Bro. J. C. Goody, W.M., occupied the chair of K.S., supported by Bros. G. Morris, S.W.; G. Free, as J.W.; E. Harris, P.M., Treas.; J. Donkin, P.M., Sec.; F. H. Ebsworth, S.D.; D. Rose, J.D.; M. A. Loewenstark, I.G.; F. Walters, P.M.; Knott, Baker, Williams, Gale, and very many others. By the kind permission of the W.M., Bro. Fredk. Walters, P.M., was allowed to occupy his position as W.M., to enable him to initiate two of his friends into ancient Freemasonry, viz., Messrs. E. Halfpenny and T. Farnes, which he did in his usual faultless manner. This being the business for which the lodge was summoned, it was duly closed. On this occasion there were not any visitors present.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 147).—At a meeting of this most prosperous lodge held on Wednesday, December 12th, at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford, Kent. Bro. John Lightfoot, W.M., occupied the chair of K.S. He was supported by G. Chapman, S.W.; J. Patte, J.W.; J. Bavin, P.M., Sec.; W. Andrews, S.D.; C. G. Dille, J.D.; Percival, I.G.; G. Bolton, P.M.; J. Cavell, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M.; H. Moore, P.M.; N. Wingfield, and a large number of members. The visitors were also numerous, and we noticed Bro. Bumstead, W.M. 548; Bro. Barrett, 871, &c. The minutes of the last lodge were read and unanimously confirmed. A ballot was taken for Mr. David Davies, and declared to be unanimous in favour of his admission. Bro. Daukes was passed to the second degree. This being election night of officers, Bro. G. Chapman was elected W.M.; J. Lightfoot, W.M., Treas. The election of the Tyler was postponed until the next lodge meeting. The Audit Committee was appointed. A gentleman was proposed for initiation at the next lodge meeting. A P.M.'s jewel of the value of five guineas was voted to the retiring W.M. Business being ended, the lodge was closed.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 188).—A meeting of this lodge was held on the 3rd inst., at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Messrs. Neumark and Franklin were initiated; Bros. Hyams, Hyman, and J. Leof passed, and Bros. Despecker and Spanh were raised. It was proposed by Bro. H. M. Leigh, P.M., and cordially responded to by the brethren, that a testimonial should be presented to the retiring W.M., Bro. L. H. Lyons. Bro. Eskill was elected as W.M. for the ensuing year.

Yarborough Lodge (No. 554).—The regular monthly meeting of this prosperous lodge was held on the 6th inst. at Bro. Walters, Green Dragon, Stepney. The lodge was opened by Bro. Wynne, P.M., assisted by Bros. Hamilton, Hampton, Middleton, Vasey, and Hudson, P.M.'s; Josiah Green, Sec.; Henry Mozely, S.W.; and a numerous attendance of the brethren. The election for the W.M. for the ensuing year was then proceeded with when the result of the ballot proclaimed that Bro. Henry Mozely, the respected S.W. of the lodge had been unanimously elected, after the W.M. had announced the pleasing fact to the S.W. Bro. Mozely addressed the lodge in these words:—"Worshipful Master and brethren, I rise with feelings of the most lively satisfaction to tender best thanks to those brethren through whose instrumentality I have the honour of standing before the lodge, Master elect. May I be allowed to say, I trust that the future of the Yarborough Lodge will be one of unclouded peace and uninterrupted prosperity; that the members will be of one mind, and act as one man; that they will be knit and bound together by the strongest cords that Freemasonry can weave; that they will be remarkable for their brotherly love and charity—charity, I say, in its

fullest, broadest, noblest meaning—not that charity which consists in mere almsgiving, but which enables each to put a liberal construction on another's words and actions—that charity with out which no society can exist with profit and comfort to its members; and, finally, brethren, may the three grand principles upon which Freemasonry is founded, viz., Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, be the basis of our conduct until the close of life, and when it shall please the Great Architect of the Universe, in his unbounded and unerring wisdom, to direct us, as Masons, to lay aside our working tools, and close our lodges—when our secrets are for ever buried in the safe and sacred repository of the grave—when, having safely passed through the valley of the shadow of death, and arisen from the tomb of transgression, may we all assemble at the Grand Lodge above where the World's Great Architect lives, and reigns for evermore." This address was listened to by the brethren with admiration. Bro. P.M. Hamilton was most unanimously elected as Treasurer, Bro. Wynne having declined to be re-elected. Bro. T. C. Speight was re-elected as Tyler. It was proposed by Bro. T. Barnes, seconded by Bro. Brown, and carried unanimously, that a Past Treasurer's jewel should be presented to Bro. Wynne, for the zeal displayed by him in the discharge of his duties, also that he become an honorary member of the lodge. The W.M. gave the health of the W.M. elect (Bro. Mozely), who, in returning thanks, said: "Worshipful Master and Brethren, I now appear before you at the banquet table for the first, and, in all probability, for the last time in my life, Master Elect of the Yarborough Lodge, and in that capacity thank you for that hearty response which the toast proposing my health has elicited. It has been said by that wise man, of whom you, sir, as Master of a Masonic Lodge, are a representative—even that great and mighty prince, King Solomon, 'that without counsel purposes are disappointed, but that in the multitude of counsellors they are established.' Assuming that the proceedings in lodge this evening are confirmed at our meeting in January, and that my installation will then take place, it is my intention to adopt the proverb I have just quoted as my motto during my year of office, and to seek such counsellors and counsel of shall tend to establish all those purposes which have for their end the good of Freemasonry in general and of this lodge in particular. Brethren of the Yarborough Lodge, I ask you for your hearty and cordial co-operation. W.M. and brethren I fully expect your entire concurrence in the statement which I am now about to make, namely, that our individual and collective experiences must force upon our minds this conviction; that unity and co-operation are indispensable to the well being of society and that the contrary may endanger even the very existence of a Masonic lodge. Then holding, as I do, this opinion I shall endeavour to secure for the Yarborough Lodge that peace and unanimity which must at all times characterise Freemasonry and which ought at all times to characterise Freemasons. Brethren, I believe that in the Yarborough we have all the elements of success, then let our watchword be 'Excelsior,' our progress onward, our actions lively, and the Yarborough Lodge must take that position to which she will be justly entitled, second to none in the Craft." The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings of a most interesting meeting and agreeable evening to a timely close; the harmony prevalent amongst the brethren was further promoted by some excellent singing by Bro. J. Wainwright, 933, Stride, Kimpfle, and Stevens.

PROVINCIAL.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

BEDFORD.—*Stuart Lodge* (No. 510).—In the report, which appeared in our last of the anniversary meeting of this lodge. We should have added to the list of visitors present, the name of Bro. Archdale, P.M. 803, and Bro. Col. Stuart, M.P., should have been stated to be P.S.G.W.

CORNWALL.

SALTASH.—*Zetland Lodge* (No. 1,071).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 3rd inst. The brethren were honoured by the presence of the Prov. G.M. Bro. Augustus Smith, who placed the Master elect, Bro. J. G. Richards, in the chair of K.S. The brethren having again assembled on the conclusion of the ceremonies. The

W.M. appointed and invested his officers, viz.:—W. Foxwell S.W.; S. Warren, J.V.; J. Dable, Treas.; Dr. Littleton, Sec.; J. Dampney, S.D.; R. B. Pascoe, J.D.; Samuel Menheniot, I.G.; Radmore, Tyler. The brethren met after the business to partake of the annual banquet. The usual toasts were given and duly honoured.

DURHAM.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's Lodge* (No. 531).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 6th inst., when the W.M. was in the chair, supported by Bros. Dr. George Moore, P.M., P. Prov. G.W.; S. Armstrong, P.M.; James Groves, P.M., Prov. G.D.; W. Stonier Leigh, S.W. and Sec.; L. M. Hill, J.W.; W. J. Sievwright, as S.D.; J. J. Armstrong, J.D.; George Carter, I.G., and others. The business of the evening was the initiation of Mr. John Hyslop Bell, which, on the whole, was performed in a creditable manner. The excellent and practical address delivered by the R. W. Bro. John Fawcett, Esq., Prov. G.M., in accordance with the circular letter of the M.W.G.M. at the last meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge, impressing on the lodges of the province the greater care that should be exercised in the admission of candidates, was then read. It was decided that the annual festival should take place, as usual, on St. John's Day—the lodge to be opened at two p.m., and the banquet afterwards to be held at the King's Head Hotel. The lodge was then closed in love and harmony.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 279).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the Freemasons Hall, Halford-street, on Wednesday, the 5th instant, when among those present were Bros. W. Kelly, P.M. and D. Prov. G.M. (who presided, in the absence, from indisposition, of the Rev. G. W. Woolcock, the W.M.), Pettifer, Morris, and Weare, P.M.'s; Adlard, J.W.; Ride, S.D.; Stretton, J.D.; and Gosling, J.G. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the last lodge confirmed, a ballot took place for W.M. for the ensuing year, when the S.W. Bro. Leonard Alfred Clarke (who was absent at the time, but arrived subsequently), was elected. The festival of the lodge was fixed to take place on St. John's day. The Rev. Charles John Anderson (Prov. G. Chap.), of the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, Loughborough, was proposed as a joining member, after which, there being no further business, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Silurian Lodge (No. 471).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this lodge was held on the 5th inst. Bro. Henry Hellyer, W.M. in the chair. On the dais we noticed five or six P.M.'s., the Chaplain, Treasurer, and Secretary; and the room, which is one of the largest in Wales, was comfortably filled, several visiting brethren being present. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed. The ballot took place when Bro. Capt. John Richard Pearson, of Craig-yr-hawl, near Castletown, Captain in the Royal Artillery, initiated in the Star of the East Lodge, 80 Calcutta, was unanimously admitted as a subscribing member. The ballot again took place, when Mr. Richard William White, and Mr. Ben Lawrence, were also unanimously admitted, and the latter two gentlemen were initiated by Bro. Hellyer, in his usual admirable manner. The W.M. then in a neat address, told the brethren that that was the usual meeting for the election of a W.M. for the ensuing year, that he had heard of but two candidates, both of whom were in every way eligible to succeed him, and the result he would leave in the hands of the brethren present. The Secretary then read a list of all parties qualified, and scrutineers having been appointed, the votes were duly recorded and the W.M. reported numbers as follows:—Bros. B. Thomas, P.S.W., 26; C. H. Oliver, S.W., 20; Beynon, P.M., 1; Parnall, J.W., 1. The W.M., therefore, declared the election had fallen on Bro. Thomas, who, returned thanks for the honour thus conferred on him, said he should endeavour to rule so as to try to please all, and although he could not hope to carry out the office in such an admirable manner as his immediate predecessor Bro. Hellyer, yet he would do his best, and he trusted the mantle from off Bro. Hellyer's shoulders, would in a measure fall gracefully on his, the speakers. Bro. Oliver also returned thanks for the number 0

votes recorded in his favour, and also to those brethren who had conscientiously voted against him. He for one would bow to the will of the majority, and if the brethren felt disposed at any future time to elect him as their W.M., he would be only too happy to serve them. Bro. Pickford was unanimously re-elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year, and Bro. MacFée was also unanimously re-elected as Tyler. It was then proposed and carried that the installation do take place on St. John's Day, Thursday the 27th inst., and the banquet at the Westgate Hotel, the usual preliminaries being left to the W.M., the W.M. elect, the P.M.'s, and the Secretary. This being the whole of the business, and the clock having struck 10, the W.M. was reminded by the S.W. of the hour, and the lodge was immediately closed in harmony. We understand Bro. Bridges, D. Prov. G.M. for Somerset, will attend on the 27th inst. and perform the ceremony of installation.

NORTH WALES AND SHROPSHIRE.

CONSECRATION OF THE "SAINT MILBURGA" LODGE, No. 1,120, AT IRONBRIDGE.

This week we are able to record an event, which, if not without precedent in the annals of Freemasonry, must be subject to very few exceptions indeed, since we are not acquainted with any second instance, viz.: the consecration of the third new lodge in the same province in the course of five weeks. Such, however, has been the case in the province of North Wales and Shropshire, to wit No. 1,113, at Llangeŷfui on Oct. 24, No. 1,124, at Oswestry, Nov. 5, and No. 1,120, at Ironbridge, Nov. 27 ult., a sufficient evidence (were any required) of the high esteem in which the Provincial Grand Master is held by the Craft in this province, and it has been with great pleasure we have observed that the R.W. Bro. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, is invariably present on these important occasions, thus adding, if that be possible, to the popularity he eminently enjoys especially throughout the principality of Wales. Tuesday the 27th Nov. was fixed by the Prov. G.M. for the consecration of the St. Milburga Lodge (the formation of which principally originated through Bros. Henry Woolner, S.W. designate; James Procter, J.W. designate; Brice Smith, P.M. 117, W.M. designate; E. H. P. Garbett, Sec.; F. G. Yates, Alexander Grant, E. Lawrence, and James Bates, the petitioning brethren) and on that day Sir Watkin, with the following Provincial Grand Officers and other distinguished members of the Craft assembled at Ironbridge for that purpose.

R.W. Bro. H. Dymock, D. Prov. G.M.; V.W. Bros. T. W. J. Goldsbro', Prov. S.G.W.; W. Brightwell, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Heathcote, P. Prov. J.G.W.; W. Jellicose, Prov. G. Chap.; Riou Benson, Prov. G. Chap.; J. P. White, Prov. G. Treas.; Charles Wigan, Prov. G. Sec.; Charles Oakley, Prov. G.S.B.; Henry Atkin, P. Prov. G.P.; Anslow, P.M. 601; Brice Smith, P.M. 117, W.M. designate; Tipton, W.M. 262; Charles Fleet, W.M. 117; Roland Millington, P.M. 601; R. G. Belliss, P.M. 601, K.T.; Thomas K. Gardiner, W.M. elect 262; and Bros. Henry Woolner, S.W. 1,120 (No. 117); James Procter, J.W. 1,120 (No. 117); Alexander Grant, 117, Treas. 1,120; E. H. P. Garbett, 117, Sec. 1,120; John Cook, J.W. 529; W. H. Spaul, 998, J.G. 1,124; F. Needham, 262; Blakeway, 117; Boucher, 117, Acting G. Org.; P. H. Evans, 117; W. Johnson, 23; G. C. Haddon, 892; Greville Thursfield, 755; Francis George Yates, 117 and 1,120; Edward Lawrence, 117 and 1,120; Septimus W. Crooks, 1,120; Richard Oakley, 1,120; Edward Mallard, G.T., &c., &c.

A Craft lodge was opened at two o'clock, and after the confirmation of the minutes, the ballot was taken for Messrs. Crooks and Oakley, two candidates for initiation, which being in the affirmative, those gentlemen were duly initiated into Masonry. On their retiring, the lodge was opened in the second and third degrees, soon after which the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, with the Prov. G. Officers, entered the lodge amidst the most enthusiastic and oft-repeated applause of the assembled brethren.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. having opened a special Grand Lodge, requested Bro. Goldsbro', Prov. S.G. Warden, to perform the ceremony of consecration, in the duties of which he was ably assisted by Bro. the Revs. Riou Benson and Jellicose, Prov. G. Chaps., also by Bros. W. Brightwell, C. Wigan, C. Oakley, H. Atkin, and Brice Smith. The musical portion of the ceremonial being very efficiently rendered by Bro. Boucher. On the conclusion of the consecration the usual preliminary formalities were observed, a Board of I.M.'s was formed, and the Bro. Brice

Smith was duly installed and saluted as W.M. The Board of I.M.'s being closed and the brethren admitted, the W.M. was proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees. The following brethren were then invested as the officers, Bros. H. Woolner, S.W.; J. Procter, J.W.; A. Grant, Treas.; E. H. P. Garbett, Sec.; Yates, S.D.; Lawrence, J.D.; Bates, I.G. After the investment of the officers Bro. Goldsbro', delivered the ancient charges and addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren. The W.M. having expressed the thanks of the lodge to the Prov. G. Master and to the consecrating Master, resigned the chair to the Grand Master, and the Provincial Grand Lodge was duly closed. Bro. Brice Smith then resumed the chair, the Craft lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet provided by Mrs. E. Jones, the obliging hostess of the Tontine Hotel. Grace having been said,

Sir WATKIN rose and said: Brethren, there is an old saying that "wind and tide wait for no man," (I believe it was King Canute who tried the experiment, and found he could not stop the tide.) Now, a good many of the brethren here are members of the Shrewsbury Lodge, and I am afraid that as the railroad is like the tide, we must make the most of time, and I had better begin the toasts, like all good Masonic people, with that of King Canute's successor, the Queen, and I propose "The Health of the Queen and the Craft," which being duly honoured, Sir Watkin said: The next toast I have to offer you, is "The Health of the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family." I remarked on one of the last occasions we met, that Masonry was as popular in Denmark and Prussia as it is here, and I then expressed a hope that the Princess of Wales might have an influence in making the Prince of Wales as good a Mason as his brother-in-law. I fear he has gone to a country where Masonry is not allowed—Russia,—if you talk of Masonry in Russia they know nothing about it. We must only trust, as all the late Royal Family were such good Masons, that the rising generation will try to walk in the ways of their grandfathers and great grandfathers.

Sir WATKIN then said: As the last toast was that of the rulers of the country, so the next is that of the rulers of the Craft. Lord Zetland has presided over this Craft a great many years. Bro. Lord de Grey not so long, but both of them, since they have been in office, have worked most energetically for the Craft. I think there are some who cavil at what goes on at the Freemasons' Hall, still we must own that both these brethren have worked most arduously without profit or favour, for the good of the Craft. I give you "The Healths of Lord Zetland, Lord de Grey, and the Grand Lodge of England."

Bro. DYMOCCK, D. Prov. G.M., said: I have permission to propose the next toast, and it is the greatest pleasure to me to do so. I have done so many times, and every time it gives me greater pleasure; it is the health of a gentleman not only respected in the neighbourhood, but in all Shropshire, and all over England. I speak of him as a man, a Mason, a neighbour, a gentleman, and as a sportsman. To live in his neighbourhood is to know how well he is appreciated; his hospitality and good feeling, and his excellence as a landlord make him esteemed by all. We are all most happy to have him at the head of the Craft, and to have him here to-day. To show his popularity, it is a thing unprecedented in Masonry, that three new lodges should be consecrated in the province in less than five weeks, and on each occasion the Provincial Grand Master was present. It shows how Masonry progresses in North Wales and Shropshire. As a gentleman, as a neighbour, as a Mason, and as a jolly good fellow, he is unequalled. Brethren, a bumper toast for Sir Watkin, health and long life to him and long may he be at the head of the Craft in this province.

Sir WATKIN, in reply to the last toast, said: Right Worshipful Bro. Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Brethren, I beg to return thanks to you all for the kind way you have received my health. I am excessively proud to perceive how Masonry flourishes, and to say that I have had the pleasure of going from one end of the province to the other to open new lodges—(Llangeŷfui is very nearly as far to the west as Troubridge, though not out of Shropshire, is towards the east). I am very glad to be able to come here now, because my family was so many years connected with the borough of Wenlock. I wish to show that although I may not have the same territorial interest as I had before, still from the kind feelings of my friends, I should have been very sorry if I had not been here myself, at the Consecration, to show them proper respect. Of course it is a very great satisfaction to me to see Masonry flourish, and the lodges so well supported and carried out as they are, and I trust

that in this province it may be so, as it is surrounded by Staffordshire and Cheshire, in the latter of which provinces there are more lodges and more Masons than in any other province in the kingdom, considering the population. I hope and trust that Shropshire will not be behind the rest with everything going on so prosperously. It is a great satisfaction to me to see lodges increasing, and those lodges, though small, carried on so well and in such good order as they are now. I beg to drink all your very good healths.

Sir WATKIN then said: The next toast I have to propose is "The Health of Bro. Dymock, and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers." Of course, I own that I have several other avocations, and there are a great many things I have to do for other people, and I am excessively obliged to those here present for the trouble they take in the management of the affairs of this Provincial Grand Lodge. I hope and trust that you, brethren, will have the same feelings towards them as I have, and will join with me in drinking their health. Of course, Bro. Dymock is a neighbour and an old friend—you all know the character he bears, and how much he is looked up to. I propose his health as a Mason. He it was who first brought me to the Shrewsbury lodges, and through him you kindly elected me your Prov. G.M. It is a proud position, and I am very much obliged to you. I must return thanks to him for having introduced me so much amongst you.

Bro. DYMCK, in reply, said: Brethren, it was a very happy thing for the Craft if I induced Sir Watkin to be the Grand Master of this province—it is the very best thing for the province I ever did. I thank you all for the kind way in which you have received my health.

Sir WATKIN said: The next toast, brethren, is one that though we all at this end of the table will be able to drink, all you at the other end will be unable to do, because it is your noble selves. It is a very great source of satisfaction to see this new lodge opened and so many members of it belonging to that class that it is likely to go on. As I said before, we are now in the borough of Wenlock, a borough in which I had for many years great connections, and I hope and trust that those connection for my part may go on. It does not do to talk politics here, but I may say that next year there will be some alteration in the distribution of seats. I trust, whatever alterations may be made, that nothing will be done to injure the importance of the borough of Wenlock. I think I cannot do better with this toast than to couple with it your Worshipful Master, Bro. BRICE SMITH, and his two Wardens, Bros. Woolner and Procter. I have known your Worshipful Master for a good many years as a good Mason, and I hope and trust he will keep you up to your work, as well as I have seen him work in Shrewsbury.

Bro. BRICE SMITH, W.M., in reply, said: I am sure I cannot adequately say what I should like to do on this occasion. Some men have a wonderful facility in making speeches, I never possessed it, but I could wish that I now had the gift to acquit myself with credit to myself, and with honour to the lodge. I can only say that it is a great thing to be a member of a Craft lodge, one of the greatest institutions that man ever put together, and if it be a great honour to be selected by his brethren to preside over a newly-formed lodge. The members of this lodge have conferred this honour upon me, and I feel grateful to them. I can only say that I will endeavour to discharge my duty as Master of this lodge. On behalf of myself, my brother Wardens, officers, and brethren of this lodge, I tender you our most hearty thanks, and we feel exceedingly complimented by you, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, presiding on the occasion. Brethren, one of the most pleasing duties performed by a Master of a lodge is to give the toast of "The Newly-initiated Brethren." I have no doubt that our two newly-initiated brethren recollect what they heard to-night, and will never forget the import of the charge, and that they will eventually become good Masons. I propose "The Healths of Bros. Crooks and Oakley."

"Song of the E.A." with the usual time-honoured observances.

Bros. CROOKS and OAKLEY respectfully returned thanks for the last toast, and expressed their gratification in being admitted members of the Order.

V.W. Bro. J. P. WHITE, Prov. Grand Treasurer, said:—Brethren, a toast fails to my lot, and it is the most delightful one of the evening. I cannot give it as I should like to do. It is "The Health of Lady Williams Wynn, and the Ladies." There is an old legend; that all Masons make good husbands, and all these husbands deserve good wives. In the case of the

lady who stands at the head of this toast, our R.W. Prov. Grand Master is most truly provided with an excellent partner, and one who takes great interest in Masonry. I have the great pleasure of proposing her health, "Lady Williams Wynn and the Ladies."

The V.W. Bro. ANSLOW, P.M., said:—I have been called upon to propose the next toast, it is that of a most worthy Mason, not only worthy by private character, but worthy as we esteem him as a Mason by his extraordinary good working. I heard of our Bro. Goldsbro', who, for the first time came under our notice, by the admirable way in which he fulfilled his duties as Master of the Welchpool Lodge. I am exceedingly sorry that other important duties kept me away, but the way in which he conducted the ceremonies and duties to day I can easily understand. I beg to propose "His very Good Health, and I hope that when he has an opportunity he will pay us a visit to Wellington."

Bro. GOLDSBRO' said:—I beg to express to our Bro. Anslow my grateful thanks for the very kind and complimentary terms in which he has been pleased to propose my health, and to the brethren of the Saint Milburga Lodge for their cordial reception of the toast. If there be one pleasure greater than another in Masonry, it is that of meeting with such good brother Masons as those now present, and of assisting in the duties of a newly formed lodge. I have had the pleasure this evening of investing, amongst the number of the officers, a member of a family with which I have been intimately acquainted for many years, viz., Bro. James Procter, and I feel sure that so long as such zealous Masons as he and Bro. Woolner are to be found in office as Wardens the lodge of Saint Milburga will never lack good Masters. I beg to drink "All your very good Health and Prosperity to the Lodge of Saint Milburga."

Bro. BRICE SMITH said:—The next toast I have the honour of proposing is that of "The Worshipful Masters of the Province." I do not know anything of the working qualities of the Masters of North Wales, but I do of Shropshire, and for some half a dozen years the Worshipful Masters of this province have been a credit to the Craft. There are some of them at our board this evening. I have the greatest pleasure in proposing their health. "The Worshipful Masters of the Province of North Wales and Shropshire."

W. Bro. TIPTON, W.M. No. 262, replied to the last toast, and said: Worshipful Master and Brethren,—In the name of the Masters of the Province I have the pleasure of thanking you for the toast which has been received so cordially. I assure you nothing gives masters of lodges more satisfaction than in being at the inauguration of new lodges. It was my misfortune not to arrive earlier to see the consecration. If anything could be gratifying that must have been to the brethren of the St. Milburga Lodge, as it was to the brethren who were at Llanelgafu, and also at Oswestry. I think that Sir Watkin had us all to accompany him from Anglesea to Troubridge. I again thank you for your kindness in drinking our healths.

V.W. and Rev. Bro. BENSON, Prov. G. Chap. proposed, "The Health of the Visitors, Bros. Cock, Needham, Blakeway, Gardiner, White, and Heathcote."

V.W. Bro. HEATHCOTE, P. Prov. J.G.W., said: I cannot help feeling flattered by having my name coupled with the toast of the Visitors. I had great satisfaction in coming here this evening, as I always have when Sir Watkin—who is such an excellent Grand Master—is with us, and also to support anything for the good of Freemasonry in the country of my adoption, and where I have passed so many happy years. I am happy to see Masonry increasing. I assure you that it is a very great pleasure and honour to see such a phalanx of R.W. Bro. Masons, who have borne the burden and heat of the day for a number of years, and who are present at this moment to accept the very great honour done us in proposing our healths. The Shrewsbury Lodge No. 262, which holds its head up, is number two of the lodges out of London. I trust that your lodge will flourish as ours, and I can wish you no better feeling from my heart.

Bro. COCK said: I feel very much obliged to you for drinking the "Health of the Visitors," and coupling my name also with the toast. It is a peculiar pleasure to me to attend here to-day. I came from a long distance to be present at the consecration of the lodge in my native town. I never expected to have so much pleasure as I have had this day, and if within the length of a C.T. I shall always be glad to visit you.

Bro. F. G. YATES, S.D., in a very warm-hearted and eulogistic

speech, proposed "The Health of Bro. T. K. Gardiner, the Worshipful Master Elect of No. 262," and said he was sure that no toast would be more acceptable to the brethren than that of Bro. Gardiner.

Bro. T. K. GARDINER in reply, said: I am much flattered by the kind reception you have given to my name to-night. I came here this evening as a matter of duty and of pleasure. As a lodge was opened in my immediate neighbourhood, I considered it my duty to support it in every way I could. It is a great pleasure, especially to me, to see the prominent position which this lodge promises to take amidst those in this county. Every member of our Order takes as much interest in a lodge, whether it be composed of a hundred members, or is only composed of a few. I was quite astonished at the arrangements, and astonished at the flattering reception accorded to us as your guests. As your attention has been drawn to myself, all I can say is, as I have already been elected Master of No. 262, when the installation takes place, and I become *bonâ fide* Master, it will be a great pleasure to me to see the members of this lodge on that occasion, if they will come as my guests.

Bro. F. G. YATES proposed "The Health of the Bishop and the Clergy of the diocese," coupling with the toast, the V.V. and Rev. Bro. Riou Benson, the Prov. G. Chap., and spoke in the highest terms of the very able manner in which the Rev. brother had performed his part of the sacred duties in the consecration of the lodge.

Rev. Bro. BENSON returned thanks for the last toast, and observed that the labours of Masons were not to be entirely devoted to within a few miles of the lodge, but also to the outside world, that Masonry might shine forth in its most glorious colours, of love and charity, to all mankind.

Bro. GOLDSBRO', proposed the toast of "The Masonic Charities," and remarked that that these, the just pride of Masons, were not known as they should be, in many remote districts, and that he considered it to be his duty, for the sake of those brethren who might not be so well acquainted with those institutions, to give them some account of them, which he felt sure was all that was necessary to insure for them that support which they deserved, and to which it was the duty of every individual member of the Craft to render his best aid. After giving a long description of the three Charities, Bro. Goldsbro' said that he hoped that the lodges in the province of North Wales and Shropshire would not be behind other provinces in contributing to the maintenance and extension of the benefits conferred by those noble institutions.

Bro. JOHN COCK said: We are much indebted to Bro. Goldsbro' for his having brought the subject of the Masonic charities before us, not only of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, but also the Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows. Masonry contributes many thousand of pounds annually to these charities. The outer world does not know what Masonry does, it is one of the greatest institutions man ever formed, and I feel sure that our lodge will not be behind in contributing to those charities.

The V.V. Bro. WHITE, Prov. G. Treasurer, said: I quite agree with what Bro. Goldsbro' has said respecting the Masonic Charities. The more lodges increase in this province, the more we should be able to contribute to them. Masonry is not a benefit society in the ordinary sense of the word, and, although there is no class of societies that does more good than benefit societies, Freemasonry stands above them. We are not a body of poor men, but no man is above misfortune, however good his position, and in Freemasonry it unfortunately happens that some one of ourselves, a son, a daughter, or a widow requires assistance and there are Grand Lodge funds to fall back upon. The lodges in this province are healthy, and we are fully able to contribute. As I said before, the more lodges we have the better for our finances. I am happy to congratulate this province on the starting of this new lodge. We have heard this evening that at Bridgenorth (some eight miles off) there was a lodge, but it was pronounced to be defunct many years ago. I am happy to find within a few miles of that place that a lodge starts, and I hope a lodge may yet be resuscitated in Bridgenorth. The more lodges we have the richer we shall be and the better we shall be able to contribute to that grand principle, Bro. Goldsbro' has expatiated upon and so well illustrated.

The Tylers' toast having been given, the brethren gradually dispersed delighted with all the events of the day.

INSTRUCTION.

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge of Freedom* (No. 77).—On Wednesday, the 28th ult., a special event in the Masonic history of this province, was celebrated with great *éclat*. The mother lodge having invited the lodge of instruction to hold a meeting, to which the Prov. G. Officers, the W.M.'s of the various lodges in the province, and other distinguished representatives of the Craft, were invited upon the occasion of the fifteen sections being worked by fifteen brethren of the lodge of instruction. The lodge was opened at the time appointed, at the Town Hall, Lord Holmesdale, the Prov. G.M., was unavoidably prevented attending, but his place was well filled by his able and assiduous representative, Bro. W. F. Dobson, the D. Prov. G.M. There was a numerous attendance of the Provincial Grand Officers, Masters of lodges, and brethren of the surrounding neighbourhood, who mustered to the number of forty or upwards. Amongst the visiting brethren present, in addition to the D. Prov. G.M., we noticed the following Prov. G. Officers:—Bros. Fooks, Wates, Page, Busbridge, Ashdown, Bray, Hicks, Lieberman (Prov. G.S. and member of 781 and 1,096). The fifteen sections were worked in a faultless manner by the following brethren, viz.: Bros. F. White, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Moore, P.G.O.; S. Pottingen, P.M.; S. Barczinsky, J.D. 77; Bennett, J.D. 77; E. S. Wright, S.W. 77; W. Hills, P. Prov. J.G.D.; W. Hollingum, I.G. 77; P. Harvey; W. Sheen, J.W. 77; C. Relpb; E. A. Hilder, P. Prov. J.G.W.; L. A. Hart, P. Prov. S.G.D.; M. A. Troughton, W.M. 77; W. Hicks, P.S.G.B. The lodge of instruction was presided over by Bro. T. Nettleingham, P. Prov. S.G.W. All present expressed themselves highly gratified with the admirable manner in which the work had been performed, and the D. Prov. G.M. proposed that a vote of thanks to Bro. Nettleingham and those brethren who had assisted him be recorded on the minutes of the lodge. He felt highly pleased in being present that day, as it had afforded him some knowledge of the way in which the Masonic work was conducted in the Lodge of Freedom. The W.M. should be proud of presiding over such a lodge, in which everything was done in such a creditable manner. Bro. T. Nettleingham responded for himself and brethren, and was pleased to think he had such an opportunity of thanking those brethren who had been the means of bringing the close of the work to a successful issue. The business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to a *recherché* banquet at the Clarendon Hotel. The cloth being drawn, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and those more particularly in connection with this evening's meeting, were given and most heartily received and responded to. The Tylers' toast brought the proceedings of a most agreeable instruction fete to a timely conclusion. We may add that we consider the example set by the Lodge of Freedom is one well worthy of adoption by other mother lodges having lodges of instruction attached thereto. We want "more light." Let, therefore, every encouragement be given to lodges of instruction.

ROYAL ARCH.

CHESTER.—*Grosvenor Chapter* (No. 721).—A convention of this chapter was held on Monday the 3rd inst., at the Bars Hotel, Chester, under the presidency of Comps. Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., P.S.G.W. of England and V.W.P. Prov. J.G.W. Cheshire, M.E.Z.; T. Platt, P. Prov. J.G.D. and Z. of Zion Chapter, Birkenhead, as H.; J. B. Hignett, P. Prov. J.G.D. as J.; and supported by Comps. J. P. Platt, P. Prov. S.G.D. and P.Z.; W. Bulley, P. Prov. S.G.D. and P.Z.; J. Wilson, 537; W. Bainbridge, S.E. and W.M. 721; A. Watts, P.S. and P.M. 721; W. B. Bainbridge, Assist. Soj.; W. Brown, Assist. Soj.; and the following companions were also present:—V. Williams, S.W. 721; H. Allsop, S.D. 721; Elwood Tibbets, F. Green, E. T. Yasker, W. Brisland, McEvoy. After the minutes of the last convocation had been duly confirmed and signed, Bro. McEvoy, 721, being a candidate for this degree, was exalted in a manner not to be excelled by Comp. J. P. Platt, Comp. J. B. Hignett giving the historic, Comp. T. Platt the symbolic, and Comp. W. Bulley the mystic lectures. The M.E.P.Z. having given the charge, the chapter was closed in due form and the companions retired to refreshment. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been given "The Health of the Most Eminent Z." was proposed by Companion J. P. Platt, P.Z., and heartily responded to by the companions. His Lordship returned thanks and expressed his gratification at the progress

of the chapter, and complimented those companions who had been instrumental in forming this chapter, and whose exertions had been so successful. "The Host's" toast brought the meeting to a close. The utmost unanimity and good feeling having prevailed throughout the protracted proceedings of this happy reunion.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*Chapter of Fortitude* (No. 279).—A quarterly convocation of this chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Friday, the 30th ult., at which were present Comps. Major Brewin, M.E.Z.; Goodyer, H.; Weare, J.; Kelly, Prov. G.H. and Treas.; Pettifer, P.Z.; Rev. J. Spittal, N.; Manning, Moore, J. E. Hodges, Harris, Ride, Stretton, and others. The chapter having been opened with prayer, and the minutes of the last convocation confirmed, a ballot took place for Scribe E. and Principal Sojourner, which offices had become vacant by the deaths, within a few weeks of each other, of Comps. H. P. Green (who had just previously been installed W.M. of the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523), and of H. J. Davis, P.M. of the same lodge. The ballot resulted in the election of Comp. J. E. Hodges as Scribe E., and of Comp. the Rev. J. Spittal, as P.S. Comp. Manning was elected Scribe N., in place of Comp. Spittal, and Comps. Moor and Ride were appointed Assistant Sojourners. The name of Bro. J. Barratt Jacques, of the Middle Temple, was down for exaltation, but he was prevented attending. On the recommendation of the Treasurer, the sum of £50 was voted from the chapter funds towards the repayment of a portion of the debts on the hall, on the condition of the sum of £200 being contributed from the lodges or brethren of the province. Bros. G. Norman, J.P., Prov. J.G.W. and W.M. of the Rutland No. 1,130; the Rev. W. Langley, Prov. G. Chap., and J.W. of the same lodge; and E. Gosling, of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, were proposed as candidates for exaltation. The chapter was then closed in solemn form with prayer, after which the companions adjourned to refreshment.

MARK MASONRY.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

SCARBOROUGH.—*Star in the East Lodge* (No. 95).—The first regular meeting since the consecration of this lodge of Mark Masters was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 28th ult., when there were present Bros. W. F. Rooke, W.M.; Major J. W. Woodall, S.W.; R. H. Peacock, J.W.; W. F. Farthing, as M.O.; J. P. Spurr, S.O.; H. W. Garrett, as J.O.; H. C. Martin, Sec. and Reg.; J. A. Chapman, J.D. and Treas.; W. Peacock, S.D.; J. D. C. Jackson, I.G.; W. Milner, Tyler, &c. The lodge was opened in due form, when the minutes were read and confirmed, Bros. D. Fletcher and J. Harrison were balloted for and elected, and each advanced to the degree of Mark Masters. Bro. J. W. Woodall delivered a lecture in this degree, which was listened to with great attention by those present. After which the cde was closed in harmony at nine o'clock.

RED CROSS KNIGHTS.

ORIGINAL OR PREMIER CONCLAVE OF ENGLAND.

A regular assembly of this ancient conclave was held at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Saturday, the 8th inst. The conclave was opened at Four o'clock precisely by Sir Knight Marsh, G. Architect, M.P.S., assisted by Sir Knights Powell, V.E.; Cubitt, S.G.; Wescombe, J.G.; Terry as H.P.; Hubbard, P. Sov., Treas.; Little, P. Sov., Recorder; Thompson, as Prefect; Dr. Clarke, Standard Bearer; Charlton, Herald; Comp. Gilbert, Sentinel; also Sir Knights Buss, P. Sov.; Applebee, Walters, Busher, G.S.G.; and Todd, G.M.; E. Snow, Plantagenet Conclave, No. 2, visitor. The minutes of the assembly held on the 30th May, and of two special assemblies held on the 16th July and 13th October respectively, were read and confirmed, after which, ballots were taken for several candidates, and the following distinguished members of the Craft being in attendance were then regularly admitted, received, constituted, and installed as Knights of the Red Cross, the most ancient institution of Christian Knighthood recorded in the pages of history, viz., Bros. W. E. Gumbleton, 30°, No. 10, J.G. Deacon of England; Capt. Geo. Cockel, 30°, W.M., No. 4,

and G. Steward; Rev. Thwaites; C. Burmeister, W.M., 435; J. Trickett, Chief Engineer, R.N., 73; J. Bringloe, M.R.C.S., 720; W. Holman, M.R.C.S., 198; E. Walker, 173; W. Wrenn, P.M. 1056; and H. Child, I.G., 192. At this juncture the arrival of Viscount Kenlis, G. Sov. of the Order was announced, and the Knights having formed in due order, his lordship was admitted, preceded by his Sword Bearer, and passed under the arch of steel to the chair of state on the dais.

Sir Knights W. E. Gumbleton, G. Cockel, and S. E. Clarke were then presented for admission to the Priestly Order.

Sir Knight Little having assumed the chair, and a Grand College having been opened, the ceremony of consecration was efficiently rendered, and the above-named members were confirmed in the eminent position of Viceroy of the Order. All Knights Companions below the dignity of Sovereigns were then called upon to retire, and a Grand Senate was duly opened, when the crowning rank of Perfect Prince Mason was conferred upon Lord Kenlis, M.II.G.S., and E. Busher, G. Senior General. The whole of the ceremony was delivered upon this occasion, including the mystic signification of the emblems on the royal standard of the order, and the senate was then closed in ancient and solemn form. After the enthronement of the above-mentioned dignitaries of the council the rest of the members were re-admitted, and the closing of the conclave followed, when the knights adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, under the presidency of Viscount Kenlis, G. Sovereign, who was supported on his right by the Em. Sir Knights Gumbleton, Thwaites, Buss, &c., and on his left by Sir Knights Little, Busher, Marsh, Hubbard, &c. Sir Knight Thompson occupied the vice-chair.

The cloth having been removed, and a certain form peculiar to this Christian Order duly observed, his Lordship called upon the companions to testify their loyalty by drinking the health of our gracious Queen, coupled with prosperity to Christian Masonry. This toast having been most warmly received, the M. Ill. G. Sov. rose and proposed the health of Sir Knight Williams, M.P., the G. Eusebius, and the rest of the Grand Council. His Lordship expressed his regret at the unavoidable absence of the G.V.E., but hoped he would be with them on the next occasion. The names of Sir Knights Busher, G.S.G., and Buss, G. Almoner were coupled with this toast, and both those worthy Masons expressed their grateful acknowledgments for the compliment conferred upon them by the handsome manner in which the toast had been given and received.

Sir Knt. Little, G. Recorder, then rose and stated that the privilege had been accorded to him of proposing the next toast, and when he said it was the health of their noble chairman, he (Sir Knt. Little) felt assured it would be enthusiastically received. They had honoured the memory of the illustrious dead, they had rendered due homage to the sovereign of these realms, and they would now pay that meed of respect to his lordship, not only as the unanimously-elected head of the Order, but in recognition of his services in the great cause of Freemasonry; as an active and zealous Master in the Craft; and as a munificent benefactor of those splendid Charities, which were the pride and boast of English Freemasons; in conclusion he gave "The Health of Bro. Lord Kenlis," and we need hardly say that it was received with every demonstration of respect and affection, and with the Red Cross honours observed at the banquet table.

The noble lord then thanked the Sir Knights for the tribute they had paid to his name, by according so hearty a reception to the toast. He believed that they were engaged in a glorious work; they had rescued a portion of the temple of truth from ruin; they had saved from the obliterating hand of oblivion the records of a genuine,—an authentic branch of Masonry,—and they had built up again when time seemed almost to have uprooted its foundations, the sacred sanctuary in which they had assembled that evening—the premier conclave of England; and this was but another illustration of the profound and sublime idea, "truth is immutable and cannot die." His lordship concluded by stating that he would use every exertion to restore the Order to the proud position it enjoyed in past centuries.

The remarks of the M. Ill. G. Sov. were received with applause, in the midst of which the noble viscount retired from the chair, being unable to remain longer in consequence of a pressing engagement. Sir Knt. Marsh then assumed the presidency, and gave "The Health of the Newly-Installed Companions in Arms," enlarging upon the eminent, social, and Masonic position of the brethren admitted that evening—Sir

Knt. Gumbleton, J.G.D. of England; Captain Cockle, G. Steward; Thwaites, Trickett, &c. A cordial reception having been given to this announcement, Sir Knt. Thwaites responded in a most able speech, assuring the members that he was highly pleased with the ceremony of installation, and pledging himself to use every endeavour to promote the prosperity of an Order which was founded upon the chief corner-stone of our faith, and, therefore, however dark and dreary the horizon might appear, such an Order could never succumb to the ravages of time. Sir Knt. Little then proposed the health of the M.P.S., remarking that, during the six months of Sir Knt. Marsh's rule, he had installed twenty-eight candidates, besides receiving five joining members, and most efficiently he did his work. This toast was also warmly received, and the M.P. Sov. expressed in graceful terms the pleasure he felt at the welfare of the conclave during his year of office, and hoped it might long continue. He for one was bound up heart and soul in the good cause, and would never relax his exertions to place the Order on the proudest pinnacle of fame. "The Officers" were then given, and responded to by Sir Knts. Thompson, Cubitt, Wescombe, and Clarke, Sir Knt. Little having previously returned thanks for the Past Sovereigns.

The M.P.S. then proposed the health of the host, Comp. Todd, and expressed the high sense which the conclave entertained of his efforts to give satisfaction to every member with a result that was extremely pleasing to all parties concerned. Comp. Todd replied in an appropriate speech, and the Sentinel's toast closed the proceedings of this memorable assembly which will ever be regarded by those who were present with feelings of unmixed pleasure, and as a red letter day in the records of the grand old Order of the Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday evening, Nov. 29th, at the Masonic Temple. In the temporary absence of Bro. H. L. Manuel, W.M., the lodge was opened by Bro. C. Lesner, I.P.M., assisted by Bros. John Oatley, S.W.; Abraham Viel, J.W.; Ph. Binet, P.M., as S.D.; John Benest, J.D.; Ph. Starek, I.G.; Nap Le'Gouppillot, Treas.; A. Schmitt, P.M., Sec.; Ch. J. Hocquard, P.M.; Jn. Th. du Jardin, P.M.; Jn. Durrell, P.M.; Elias Le Geyt, J.D., Chevalier, &c. Among the visitors were Bros. J. F. Draper, P.M. 243; W. Adams, P.M. 244; W. H. Long, W.M. 958; M. Surguy, S.W. 953; Ph. Blampied, 245; Capt. Ph. Le Jeune, 108, &c. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. was now announced and received with due honours. The Sec. having read the circular of summons, two candidates for initiation, regularly proposed, and well and worthily recommended, were ballotted for and unanimously accepted. A third candidate, Bro. P. Brindejont, aged twenty, born in Mexico, whose father is a Freemason well known in Jersey, was proposed by emergency at seven days' notice; above all, his character and conduct were well vouched for by several members of the lodge, who recommended him as a fit and proper person to be admitted into the Order. The ballot taken having proved unanimous in his favour, a dispensation granted by our highly esteemed Bro. J. Le Cronier, M.D., D. Prov. G.M., was read, and the candidate, being in attendance, was initiated in due form into the mysteries of the Order. It may not be inappropriate to mention, *en passant*, an interesting circumstance, demonstrating the early disposition of the candidate's heart to become a Mason. About two years ago, happening to be in Jersey, he earnestly solicited our late regretted Bro. Le Roy, P.M., his uncle, to propose him for initiation, but it was considered that he was then too young, and thus his anxious desire was for the time frustrated. At the conclusion of the ceremony Bro. A. Schmitt delivered an address to the newly-initiated Bro., and which will be given in our next.

Obituary.

DEATH OF THE PROV. G.M. FOR CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

A gloom has been cast over this and the neighbouring provinces by the news of the sudden death of the Prov. G.M.,

Bro. Frecheville Lawson Ballantine Dykes, of Dovenby Hall. The mingled feelings of surprise and regret with which the sad announcement was received by the brethren will be shared by a large circle of the friends of the deceased Prov. G. Master in Cumberland and elsewhere.

On Monday, the 19th ult., our deceased brother was present as usual on the Bench at Cocker-mouth, and took an active part in the business before the court. At that time he seemed in his usual health and spirits. On the evening of Monday, the 26th ult., he breathed his last.

The deceased Prov. G.M. belonged to one of the oldest and most highly respected of the Cumberland families. The name itself is said to have been derived from the Roman wall of Hadrian; and we learn that the family were seated at Dykesfield before the Norman Conquest. On the female side, the family are descended from the Plantagenets. Another noted ancestor was Thomas Dykes, who was a devoted Royalist, and was present at the battle of Marston Moor. After the defeat of the Royalists, he concealed himself in a large mulberry tree in front of his house at Ward Hall, where food was conveyed to him by his wife and daughter. Having eventually fallen into the hands of the Republicans he was imprisoned in Cocker-mouth Castle, where he is said to have died.

The deceased Prov. G.M. was the eldest son of Joseph Dykes Ballantine, Esq., of Crookdale Hall, and Ireby, who died in 1830, and his mother was the heiress of Dovenby Hall. When the Reform Act became law, in 1832, Bro. Dykes was a candidate for the representation of the borough of Cocker-mouth. The other candidates were Mr. Aglionby and Mr. Green, and after a keen contest Mr. Dykes was returned at the head of the poll. At the election of 1835 he was again returned; on this occasion, however, he was second on the list. In February, 1836, he accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and was succeeded by Mr. Edward Horsman, the well-known member for Stroud. In 1833 Mr. Dykes received the honour of being appointed one of the sheriffs of Cumberland, and up to the period of his death he continued to take the deepest interest in all matters referring to the welfare of the county with which was so intimately connected. As a magistrate he was eminent for the kindness of his demeanour, and in the case of any one brought before the bench, whom he believed to be more sinned against than sinning, he never failed to show his sympathy. As showing his deep interest in archaeological studies, it may be mentioned that a few years ago he made a careful survey of the old Roman road from Papcastle to Maryport, the whole route being carefully mapped; and to this the Ordnance Survey were indebted for much invaluable information.

The deceased Prov. G.M. married, in 1844, Anne Eliza, eldest surviving daughter of J. Gunson, Esq., of Lugwell, near Whitehaven, and leaves a large family.

Bro. Dykes was, we believe, initiated by the late Sir Sydney Smith, in Paris, and was appointed to the Prov. G. Mastership of the province on February 14, 1862.

The deceased Prov. G.M. had endeared himself to the brethren of the province over which he so ably ruled, and it only remains to be added that all who came in contact with the deceased, either in a public or private capacity, felt that they had to do with a "perfect gentleman"—one worthy to represent a long line of illustrious ancestors.

DEATH OF THE PROV. G. TREAS. OF CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

We regret to have to announce the death of the late Prov. G. Treas. Bro. Dr. Thomson. The deceased brother was highly esteemed in the province. His loss will be deplored by the Craft, and a wide circle of private friends and acquaintances.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The doors of Her Majesty's, which have been closed since Saturday night week, are announced to open on Thursday, Dec. 20th, for the annual grand Bal d'Opera, under the conductorship of Mr. Daniel Godfrey. Amongst the attractions mentioned are a new valse entitled "Belgravia" and a new quadrille entitled "Therese."

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

The performances here during the past week have consisted of "The Hunchback," "Faust," "The Lady of Lyons," "As You Like It," and "Katherine and Petruchio." Mr. Chatterton has announced that it will be impossible for "Faust" to be performed after Wednesday next, the 19th inst. Monday next is the night of Mr. Montgomery's benefit, when "Hamlet" will be performed. The Christmas pantomime announced for Boxing-night is entitled "Number Nip; or, Harlequin and the Gnome-King of the Giant Mountain," with new and characteristic scenery by Mr. William Beverley.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

Monday next is announced to be the benefit night of Mr. George Turpin, Box Book Keeper. The performances to consist of the comedy of "A Game of Speculation," after which the comedietta of "A Comical Countess," followed by the farce of "Box and Cox."

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

To-day concludes the representations of the "Long Strike." The forthcoming attraction is announced to be "Rouge et Noir," which is stated to be an adaptation by Mr. Leslie of the French drama already known on the English stage as "Thirty Years of a Gambler's Wife."

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

Mr. Charles Dickens's "Barnaby Rudge," as adapted to the stage of this theatre, has been continued here during the past week, preceded by "The Mistress of the Mill." We understand a Christmas piece, in the shape of a new burlesque, is in course of preparation for Mrs. John Wood.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

Under the able management of Miss Herbert, Mr. Boucicault's new drama of "Hunted Down," or the two lives of Mary Leigh, continues to draw a full house. Mr. Boucicault is fortunate in having, in Miss Herbert, such a powerful and effectual personator of this vigorous drama.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Wilkie Collins's drama of "The Frozen Deep" is still the leading attraction here.

HOLBORN THEATRE ROYAL.

Mr. Boucicault's drama of "Flying Scud" continues to be represented here with great success. The manager, Mr. Sefton Parry, appears in the farce of "Family Jars."

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTLEY'S.

Mr. W. H. C. Nation announces that the present series of representations, which have been so enthusiastically received of "The Golden Dustman" and the burlesque of "Atalanta" must cease on Monday next, to allow of the necessary preparations for one of the grand Christmas pantomimes with which the name of Astley's has been so long identified.

ROYAL STRAND THEATRE.

The Christmas attraction promised here is a new and original historical burlesque extravaganza by F. C. Burnand, Esq., entitled "Guy Fawkes."

SADLER'S WELLS.

The attractions here during the past week have been of a most diversified character. The directress, Miss Marriott, has borne the brunt of the work, and won the praise most deservedly which has been bestowed upon her. The pantomime announced here for Christmas is founded upon one of the Countess D'Aulnay's celebrated fairy tales, entitled "The Golden Cask! the Princess! and the Pageant! or Harlequin Queen Grumble."

COVENT GARDEN.

The Christmas pantomime announced here under the management of Mr. Alfred Mellon is entitled "Ali Baba, and the Forty Thieves; or Harlequin and the Geni of the Arabian Nights." The pantomime is to be preceded by a new comic operetta called "Terrible Hymen."

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.

Miss Marie Wilton's management continues to go on most successfully. The comedy of "Ours," by Mr. J. W. Robertson, and Mr. H. J. Byron's new burlesque, "Der Freichutz; or the Bill, the Belle, and the Ball," have met with a most cordial reception on the part of an appreciative audience, though the pieces have been represented now for the fourteenth week, they still retain their attractiveness.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARYLEBONE.

Mr. James Anderson has been received here most warmly by the frequenters of this fashionable suburban theatre. If Mr. Anderson deserves praise for the admirable manner, in which he performed in the characters of *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Ingomar*, and *Hamlet*. Still more does he deserve warm commendation for the effectiveness of his playing in "The Scottish Chiefs." His impersonation of *Wallace* is grand. Mr. Anderson was supported in his Shaksperian representations by Miss Emma Barnett, a clever young artiste, who is already favourably known by laurels deservedly won at the Princess's and Olympic. Miss Ada Cavendish takes the part of *Helen Marr* in the Scottish piece.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

Professor Pepper, who is indefatigable in his exertions to keep up the attractiveness of this celebrated resort for scientific recreation has succeeded in adding, as the latest novelty, an optical illusion under the title of "The Decapitated head; or Cave du Burreau," which bids fair, from the astonishing and puzzling character of the mystery involved in it, to have even a longer run than "The Cherubs Floating in the Air." The nature of the illusion may be briefly summed up as a "Decapitated Head Speaking." How it is accomplished seems to us as yet a mystery, but we leave our readers to go and witness the illusion and judge for themselves.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 22ND, 1866.

Tuesday, Dec. 18th.—INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.

Wednesday, Dec. 19th.—SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.

Thursday, Dec. 20th.—CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen walked and drove on the 5th inst., and drove out on the morning of the 6th inst., accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Louise. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice, walked and drove in the afternoon of the 7th inst., and Her Majesty drove out in the morning in a carriage and four, attended by the Marchioness of Ely and the Hon. Flora Macdonald. The Queen drove out on the morning of the 8th inst., accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice, and attended by the Hon. Caroline Cavendish. The Queen walked and drove in the grounds in the afternoon, attended by the Marchioness of Ely. The Queen, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, and the ladies and gentlemen in waiting, attended divine service on the morning of the 9th inst., in the private chapel. The Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster preached the sermon. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise, and attended by the Marchioness of Ely, visited the Windsor Royal Infirmary on the morning of the 10th inst., driving direct there from the Castle. Her Majesty was received by the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley and the resident physicians. The Queen drove in the grounds in the afternoon, attended by the Marchioness of Ely and Lady Augusta Stanley. Her Majesty walked out on the morning of the 11th instant, attended by Lady Augusta Stanley. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Louise, and attended by the Marchioness of Ely, Lady Augusta Stanley, and Major-General F. H. Seymour, went to Kew in the afternoon, and visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge and the Prince and Princess of Teck. Her Majesty travelled by a special train on the South Western Railway, and returned to Windsor Castle at half-past four o'clock. The Queen went out in the grounds on the morning of the 12th inst., accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The health of London in the week ending Dec. 10th, does not appear to have been in quite so favourable a state as in the two or three preceding weeks, for instead of being fewer than the average of past years, the deaths exceeded the estimated number by 59; which, however, the Registrar General says, "is amply accounted for by bronchitis, a disease of cold weather." Only one death from cholera was registered in the seven days; it was that of a labourer's child, 2½ years old, in Poplar. The deaths from cholera in the last five weeks have been 67, 35, 8, 3, and 1. The return gives some curious statistics as to the incidence of cholera as affected by the water of different companies. The annual rates of mortality in the week ending December 1st, in thirteen of the principal towns were, per 1,000:—Birmingham 25, Bristol 26, London and Salford 27, Edinburgh, Manchester, Dublin, and Sheffield 29, Hull 30, Liverpool 31, Glasgow 32, Newcastle-on-Tyne 35, Leeds 36.—At a meeting of the Court of Common Council held on the 6th inst., a letter was read from Lord Derby to the late Lord Mayor, Alderman Phillips, announcing that her Majesty had been pleased to confer the honour of knighthood on Mr. Phillips. Lord Derby's letter pays high and

deserved compliment to the manner in which the late Lord Mayor discharged the duties and dispensed the hospitalities of his office.—Some startling disclosures were made in the Court of Bankruptcy on the 6th inst., as to the way composition deeds are sometimes concocted. A bankrupt named Wm. Hopkinson, made a clean breast of it, and admitted that in the deed which he had attempted to carry through, many persons were put down for amounts which he did not owe to them at all, or which were enormously in excess of the actual liabilities he had incurred. Altogether the list contained creditors for £1,600, although he only owed £600, the object, of course, being to trump up a fictitious settlement, and to sacrifice the interests of the real creditors. It is to be hoped that the registrar will give effect to the indignation which he expressed against the authors and abettors of this scandal, and make a judicial example of the most guilty.—A deputation from the council of the Royal Agricultural Society waited on the 7th inst. upon the Duke of Buckingham, in reference to the cattle plague. The deputation urged that the restrictions on the importation of foreign cattle should be made permanent; that fairs and markets should not be re-opened yet; and that the Privy Council should obtain greater power in respect to these matters from the Legislature. The Duke of Buckingham made known to the deputation that the Harwich scheme, had received the sanction of the Government. Foreign cattle may be brought there and turned on to lands where they will remain in quarantine for twenty-eight days. This sort of thing is expected to satisfy the public demand for more meat from abroad. As to markets and fairs, they are not to be allowed just yet. The cattle plague returns show that, spite of all the restrictions, the disease which seemed to have all but died out has flickered up again. There were thirty-two attacks reported last week, being twenty-five more than in the preceding week.—A few days since a most alarming subsidence of the ground, occasioned by coal excavations beneath, took place at Newton, near Stourbridge. Fortunately, the earth first opened in the backyard of a public-house, and before the fissure had widened into a gulf a considerable amount of property was saved. Some buildings in the yard and the back kitchen were, however, swallowed up. The colliery which extends through a portion of this district belongs to Lord Dudley.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

ERRATA.—In Bro. R. W. Little's Article, p. 422, in paragraph commencing "The Masonic Dispensation," &c., to read thus: "The *Mosaic* Dispensation and the creed of the Gospel were thus engrafted upon the tree of wisdom and truth, under the shadow of which Plato contemplated the Infinite and the Eternal."

A MEMBER OF LODGE 199.—We are obliged to you for your letter. We quite agree with you in the sentiments which you express; happily, however, you will have found from our Notices to Correspondents in last week's issue that under the circumstances there explained, the insertion of your letter has become unnecessary.

P.M. AND SEC.—Thanks. Your suggestion was a necessary one, and has been attended to.

MASONIC REFORMER AND S. L.—Your communications to hand. Shall receive attention in our next.

INQUIRER (Deptford).—1st. No; it is not necessary that to render a brother eligible for election as a member of a lodge of instruction he should be a subscribing member to a regular lodge; he should, however, be properly vouched for, and give satisfactory proof of the regularity of his initiation; but, whether he be a subscribing member or not to a regular lodge, he has not the right, as you term it, or cannot claim admission to a lodge of instruction unless invited.