

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1866.

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN
CORNWALL.By ✠ Bro. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN, 18°, &c.
(Continued from page 442.)

There was a capital muster of the brethren at the lodge held 9th May, 1781, Bro. William, R.W.M., in the chair. The minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed, and after a lecture on the first degree, Bro. Arthur Mankin, J.W. produced an account of the funeral charges of our late Bro. Hull, amounting to £5 8s. 6d., "of which the lodge ordered the Treasurer to pay the one-half, reserving the other half for the Lodge of Regularity and Reputation to pay." (The junior lodge held in the same town.) A resolution was regularly proposed, seconded and carried the same evening, "That the secretary for the time being give an acknowledgment to the R.W.M. for any books, papers, or any other utensils belonging to the lodge, which by his office he may have in his custody."

In the minutes of the next lodge we read that Bro. Robert Lutey, the tyler, died in May, and the lodge having obtained a dispensation from the Prov. G. M. to attend the funeral and bury their late outer guard, with masonic honours, it was decided to meet for that purpose on the 31st May, 1781, at one o'clock, and the brethren were requested by the R.W.M. to attend. There does not seem to have been any law in force then requiring that "no mason can be interred with the formalities of the order, unless it be at his own special request, nor unless he has been advanced to the degree of a master mason," such as exists now. A "special license" to attend in the masonic clothing was all that the Grand Lodge considered necessary.

The tyler was "decently interred" on the day mentioned, and the brethren then adjourned to the lodge, and contributed eighteenpence each towards the expenses of the day. The tylers of the Love and Honour, and Volubian Lodge of Regularity and Reputation attended, and received two shillings and sixpence each for their services. The whole cost of the funeral, coffin, and other sundries amounted to £2 14s. 3d., which the treasurer paid by desire of the lodge. The practical benevolence and generosity of the lodge is most commendable.

The lodge summoned for July 12th, 1781, "being solicited to postpone their meeting on account of an entertainment, it was accordingly acceded to, and the lodge was adjourned to Wednesday, the 25th July ensuing.

The lodge was held on that date when after the transaction of its business, and "Nothing further proposed for the good of masonry in general, after the question being thrice demanded, the lodge was closed in due form, till the 29th day of August, 1781, emergencies excepted of which timely notice will be given." The dignity of the lodge received a rebuff on October 31st, but still showed its position and independence by the following resolution: "No lodge held by means of the lodge room being peremptorily denied on account of an assembly, which was there held that evening, and to whom the preference of the said room was given by our Bro. William Job, the master of the house, whereon it was determined by the majority of the members present to remove the Lodge of Love and Honour from the King's Arms Tavern to the Standard, which was carried out to the letter. The landord, Bro. Job, does not seem to have had the extraordinary patience possessed by his great predecessor of the same name, for he resented the removal by never appearing in the lodge again.

The members numbered a little under fifty at this time.

On January 30th, 1782, it was proposed "That a stipulated sum should be allotted for seafaring members to pay throughout the year, when the majority of seafaring members present, the land members not interfering, proposed five shillings per quarter to be paid for that purpose, which was acceded to by all the members present." "N.B.—Peter Cogrel, a prisoner at Kegillick, having applied for relief, and being found a proper object, was by the unanimous consent of the lodge, relieved with the sum of one pound and one shilling." A most praiseworthy act of the lodge. Their benevolence, however, as usual soon met with another applicant in the person of "Bro. Benjamin Warogmer, a French prisoner," who was generously relieved to the same amount by the members. The former brother again requested assistance on 27th March, 1782. It appears from the minutes that he was an American prisoner of war, in the hospital at Boyer's Cellars, Falmouth. The lodge determined not to be "weary in well doing," and appointed a com-

mittee of three members to examine into the wants of Bro. P. Cogrel, and ordered that such relief should be given him as they found necessary. May such disinterested benevolence ever continue to adorn the pages of masonic history, and actuate its members, for

God hath made mankind *one* mighty brotherhood,
Himself their Master, and the world their lodge.

The Festival of John the Baptist was held on Monday, and the R.W.M. consented to act as Master of the lodge another term, and appointed Bro. Thomas Baker, S.W., Bro. Aaron Delissa, J.W., Bro. John Bellhouse, Treasurer, Bro. John Tressider, Secretary (a most efficient scribe, so far as we can judge from the admirable manner in which the minutes are recorded, Bro. Roberts and Quash, Stewards, and Bro. Wrangham, tyler.

The lodge decided to proceed to Church, after a ballot was taken to know the opinion of the members, but subsequently decided not to. "Excellent Lectures" were gradually given at this period at each lodge, and the attendance was particularly good, and several invitations occurred. Occasionally a "short lecture was given on the third degree." The secretary acknowledges that the lodge of "Love and Honour, No. 95, met on 11th September, 1782. The Secretary, John Tressider, being by business obliged to retire from lodge, Bro. William Cocker fell in his place the remainder of the evening, and took the minutes of the lodge, on a loose piece of paper, which by accident was mislaid, and could not afterwards be found."

"A motion was made by Bro. Nichols to relieve our Bro. Thomas Longs he being distressed. It was seconded by Bro. Quash. On a show of hands it was agreed that four pounds four shillings should be immediately paid to him for his use."

On the 12th February, 1783, Bro. Bellhouse moved that "Twenty-five pounds be subscribed to assist the Grand Lodge in paying off the debt incurred by building the Grand Hall, and assured the brethren present that a particular privilege would be allowed to the subscribing lodges"

"This being a lodge of emergency (24th June, 1783) appointed to celebrate the festival of Saint John the Baptist's Nativity, and as our regular lodge night is the 25th instant, it was proposed by Bro. Bellhouse, our worshipful treasurer, to have it prorogued to the second Wednesday in July

next (emergencies excepted) which was unanimously agreed to."

"Some days past we were advised by the Prov. G. Sec. that there was to be a provincial lodge held on this day at the King's Arms, in this town, and he was directed by the Prov. G.M. to give our R.W.M. and W. Wardens an invitation, a copy of which may be seen in the letter book, as well as our answer to excuse their non-attendance. The tyler of the Volubian Lodge of Regularity and Reputation waited on us with the compliments of its members to request the favour of the loan of the provincial jewels. We returned for answer, that it was the opinion of the lodge they could not part with them. Finis Coronat Opus." At the lodge held 12th November, the secretary feelingly states that a poor man (James Singleclear) an object of charity, evidently not a mason, applied to the lodge for relief, and the members thought proper to give him five shillings, and the brethren present also gave him eleven shillings."

On 10th December, 1783, four brethren were proposed for the office of Master, two for Treasurer, and two for Secretary. A little opposition no doubt made the successful candidates value their privileges still more, and the voting seems to have gone off most harmoniously.

(To be continued.)

A FEW WORDS ON FREEMASONRY.

Dating from the last century, the institution of Freemasonry has never ceased to be the object of the most virulent attacks on the part of the Ultramontane party, and these attacks have been lately renewed, loudly and boldly, in the polemical dispute between Mgr. the Bishop of Orleans and the *Siecle* newspaper. Subject to serious animadversions from without, the Order has for some time also become more and more a prey to internal discord on a fundamental point.

These discussions, which have attracted attention to the subject, may cause some interest to be taken in an inquiry as to the origin of Masonry, and an examination of its essential formularies, which is precisely the point on which depends the issue of the internal dispute to which reference has been made.

Some time ago, in tracing the history of this association, we had nothing to guide us to clear

and definite conclusions, beyond the accounts relating to the Templars, and the societies of masters and workmen, or guilds of the builders in the Middle Ages. But the study of the religions of the east has led us to the opinion, that the pretensions of the Freemasons to an origin far more ancient may be readily and clearly justified. Certain it is, that their essential formulary proceeds from a class of ideas far anterior to the temple of Solomon. The Freemasons consider themselves symbolically as workmen freely associated for the erection of a temple, whose author and builder is no other than the Great Architect of the Universe. They are therefore fellow workmen with the Supreme Architect in the pursuits of universal life.

If we penetrate the symbolic mysteries of the most ancient forms of religion, we learn thence, that God, before having commenced his work as Creator, had laid the foundation thereof, or entered on the design, as the Artizan, the Arranger, the Architect, of the world, an idea less abstract, less deep, and which naturally preceded the other. This was the original idea of the Cabiric societies, the most ancient associations, at once industrial and religious, of which a knowledge has been handed down to us; and the ritual and ceremonial observances of the Freemasons are as it were an echo of their primitive traditions. Although it is only derived from this ancient symbolism, not identical with it, Freemasonry hence obtains its essential and distinctive character.

Freemasonry is a theistical society, receiving into its fold men of every religion, on the condition that they profess the principle of religious liberty, its object is the welfare of mankind and the promotion of the spirit of progress in the world; its members are the workmen of God in this labour. The Freemason is either that or he is nothing; to efface from the Masonic scheme the Great Architect of the Universe, is to destroy Freemasonry itself; take away the Architect, and there no longer exist either temple or Masons. Doubtless a philanthropic society may be constituted, in which there shall be no consideration as to the relation between God and man, neither under any symbol, and should such a society be formed, we desire full liberty for it as for every other, but it can have nothing in common with Freemasonry.

Here lies the mistake committed by the dissentients, who desire to destroy the peculiar nature

and aim of the Freemason, while they retain possession of his title. It would not be correct to compare the position of such dissentients from true Freemasonry with that of the more advanced Protestants in their warfare against orthodoxy. The orthodox and the heterodox Protestants are alike disciples of Jesus Christ, who hold discussions with each other on his nature, but who both equally recognise him none the less as their Master and Spiritual Father. Serious as may be their difference, there yet remains between them something in common, and it is only by one arbitrary definition that the orthodox refuse to the liberals the name of Christians, since the latter do not reject Jesus Christ. The orthodox Masons are on the contrary quite in the right to refuse the title of Freemason to those who reject the Architect and destroy the Temple.—Translated from *Le Siècle*.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LXXXIV.

XII.—NEPTUNE AND FEBRUARY.

Neptune, by the Greeks called Poseidon, who was one of those three sons of Saturn so curiously saved by their mother, Ops, or Rhea from the inviolable oath and unsparing jaws of their father, we all know, in sharing the divisions of the earth with his brothers Jupiter and Pluto, obtained the sovereignty of the vacant title of the God of the sea. It will be perhaps well to remember here that Saturn was the son Terra or Vesta, and Calum or Caelins, who was the son of Æther and Dies, the most ancient of all the deities, and that he had among divers of his brethren, the Cyclops, the Titan, the hundred handed giants, and, to come to what we would point out, Oceanus, the very subject, which, as forefiguring of the waters of the raging deluge, he was to subdue and reign over. This Oceanus, his parents, and his kindred were antediluvians personated in idols as deities, whereas Neptune became commemorated as a postdiluvian creature of worship, and in element a God. Of course, by course of time, they represented him in wood and stone, and at length arrived at such conclusions as having been some mortal potentate. Then, where we can only see an assumption of names, very learnedly it has been made out, as has been by us in our third chapter shown that he was Japheth. Let that be determined as it may by the rendering of Mythology

into history. Still we never did discover either of the former elements to be a mortal man. Japheth, the meaning of which word is "the enlarger," some say was the eldest son of Noah; also some assert that Neptune was the eldest son of Saturn. We allow in this respect there is a certain coincidence. But if the text, "And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his youngest son had done unto him," admits of no error, the text, "And Noah was five hundred years old; and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth," involves a *lysteron proteron* tending to no trifling confusion and uncertainty. In some works on Heathen Theology and of ancient history, Japheth is known under the name of 'Japetos, the son of Calum and Terra, and Greek historians have concurred in believing Japheth to have been the progenitor of the Grecian whose race were of the Ionian settlers under Javan, who was the fourth son of Japheth. In the Mythistoria Works we are told that Perseus, on his travels, by chance entered the kingdom of Mauritania, reigned over by Atlas, brother of Prometheus, and the son of Japetus or 'Japetos, and out of respect designed to visit him. The ungracious reception the hero met with provoked him to so much anger that, lifting his terrible shield before the King's eyes, and thus showing him the head of Medusa, he turned him into the mountain, still retaining his name, whose top was thought to reach Heaven. Also, we are told, and what are we not told? When Atlas was sinking beneath the weight of his burden, Hercules relieved him thereof, and supported the heavens upon his own shoulders.

No power the pride of mortals can control;
 Prone to new crimes, by strong presumption driven;
 With sacrilegious hands Prometheus stole
 Celestial fire, and bore it down from Heaven.

Audax omnia perpeti
 Gens humana ruit per vetitum nefas.

So Horace very sweetly, and somewhat truly sang. There are however those who say, Jupiter did not punish Prometheus for his theft, but because he was the first who made a human image out of clay. Others assert it was because he made woman, and they would thus almost apply the continued meaning of the verse to her as one with Pandora's box. Setting that aside, we think that in it there may be discerned a close resemblance, as ascribed, not only with the blending of the Heaven with the earth, but in

the consequence of the disobedience in the eating of the forbidden fruit.

Post ignemq; therea domo
 Subductum, macies et nova februm
 Terris incubuit cohors
 Semotique terris tarda necessitas
 Lethi corrupuit viam.

That fatal gift brought on the mortal race
 An army of Diseases: death began
 With vigour then to mend his halting pace,
 And found a more compendious way to man.

The figure Prometheus made was doubtless passing skilful. At the sight of this man of clay, even Minerva became so enraptured that she promised to procure from Heaven anything he thought would complete his works. Then also, doubtless, his woman out of clay was exceeding beautiful, both before and after she was animated. The Artese was a son of Jupiter. For all that, is it likely she could be companion with Milton's ideal description of the innocent Eve? Nay, could the real young Eve or Eva have been more lovely? Our selected lines, well as they are known, will lose nothing by reperusing. The help meet for Adam or Adama says:

That day I oft remember, when from sleep
 I first waked, and found myself reposed,
 Under a shade, on flowers; such wondering, where,
 And what I was: whence thither brought, and how!
 Not distant far from thence, a murmuring sound
 Of waters issued from a cave, and spread
 Into a liquid plane, then stood unmoved,
 Pure as the expanse of Heaven, I thither went,
 With unexperienced thought, and laid me down
 On the green bank, to look into the clear,
 Smooth lake, that to me seemed another sky.
 As I bent down to look, just opposite,
 A shape within the watry gleam appeared
 Bending to look on me—I started back;
 It started back; but pleased I soon returned;
 Pleased it returned as soon; with answering looks
 Of sympathy and love. There I had fixed
 Mine eyes till now, and pined with vain desires,
 Had not a voice thus warned me—What thou seest,
 What there thou seest, fair creature is thyself;
 With thee it came, and goes; but follow me,
 And I will bring thee where no shadow stays
 Thy coming, and thy soft embraces; he,
 Whose image thou art, him thou shalt enjoy,
 Inseparable thine; to him shalt bear
 Multitudes like thyself, and thence be called
 Mother of Human race.

Jupiter commanded Mercury to chain Prometheus to Mount Caucasus, and ordered an eagle to prey upon his liver as fast as it grew. Hercules, however, desired to kill the eagle. Prometheus had revealed to Jupiter his father Saturn's conspiracy. He also had prevented his marriage

with Thetis, the consummation of which he had proved would be fatal, whereupon, remembering these services, he authorised Hercules to dispatch the eagle and liberate his so severely punished friend.

We would here bring again to mind that those "men of renown" who had Gods for their fathers, wherefore called *Ἡμιθεοί* (*Hemitheoi*), or Demi-gods, had superior, or sacred minds, celestial souls, and powerful, but, however noble, only human bodies. Nevertheless, it was held, their immortal incarnations were for the religious good, the social safety, the moral happiness, the instruction in the arts and sciences, and the general improvement of mankind, inducing ever towards a more aspiring state of existence, in which respect Labeo (St. Aug. L 10, c. 21) has distinguished them from the Heroes, and so they should be distinguished; yet still, from their great profundity in speech, strength, virtue, and love, or from such words in Greek, namely, *Ἔρως*, *eros*; *Ἱέρος*, *hieros*; *Ἀρετή*, *arete*; *Ἡρός*, *Heros*, some, far surmising, think they acquired the title of Hero.

Almost all nations, and we may say all known nations, more or less, apparently have believed that all their most useful acquirements and knowledge were at the first and at sundry times, taught them by some incarnate God or superlative spirit. Thuswise we ourselves know that the World's Great Architect has forwarded His improving work of man's redemption by man in the Godhead born of woman, and that His second coming has been more or less predicted and expected by all separated and governed races of people formed under the sun; but how, when, and where, possessed of what attributes,—the God above all Gods, the most high God, who comprehends the Universal All—alone can know.

ADDRESS TO A NEWLY INITIATED BROTHER.

Delivered by Bro. A. SCHMITT, P.M. and Sec., Lodge La Césarée, No. 590, Jersey.

DEAR BROTHER,—You have now obtained the accomplishment of your desires. At last you possess the title of Freemason, which necessarily implies, on the part of him to whom it rightly and worthily belongs, a mind, liberal, enlightened, exempt from prejudices, a character tolerant and benevolent, a heart which sympathises with all the miseries incident to humanity.

To receive into the bosom of the great universal family men fully conscious of their duties towards themselves and their fellow men, those who have been initiated into our mysteries and our symbolic teachings, men henceforth to be ranked as fellow-labourers toiling for the spread of generous and liberal ideas, towards the triumph of the noble principles of morality and civilisation for the progress and development of all that is just, beautiful, and true; is not this one of the most brilliant and at the same time consoling objects in which it is our privilege to take part?

Be assured, my very dear brother, that it is with an emotion which we by no means seek to conceal or to suppress, that as witnesses and as actors we unite in this kind of baptism, which affects the entrance of new members into the bosom of this grand and humane religion which is called Freemasonry.

Our definition of morality may be thus stated: To be deeply imbued with love of country, of kindred, of the whole human race. We also inculcate a love of honest labour, we pay homage to it by our title, by our insignia, by our symbolic distinctions, and by our acts. Being masons, we are consequently labourers.

What is the title which you are now privileged to bear? It is that of apprentice. Look around, and you observe that we all wear the apron, the badge of labour. The Master of the Lodge is armed with the symbol of labour, so too are the senior and junior wardens. We adore God himself under the name of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Labour, moreover, is a powerful means for the accomplishment and realisation of our principles, for it leads to brotherly love, the supreme end and aim of all our efforts! sacred words, which express and comprehend all the social virtues! For from the moment in which you address another man as "Brother!" you apply to him a title which renders him your equal, and since you profess to love him, to aid him, you cannot henceforth entertain the slightest thought of committing any act to his prejudice, of doing him the least wrong.

Thus I affirm and seriously declare to you that brotherly love is a grand and comprehensive moral principle, which men and women have made it their first object to inculcate and to promote. You cannot fail to be convinced of this truth and to impress it on your heart, for from this time you have become one of the large family of Freemasons.

Henceforward, whithersoever Divine Providence may direct your steps, wherever your abode may be fixed, you will find Masons. All members of the Craft throughout the world are under solemn obligation to evince their love for you in the same proportion as it is your sworn duty to act likewise towards them; never do violence to this sentiment, this obligation of love, by refusing your concurrence in it, your action upon it.

In our temples you will learn to love God, the Great Architect of the Universe to magnify his infinite power, by the cultivation of your intellectual faculties, without allowing them to be the slaves of superstition. You will learn to control the passions which debase the soul, to banish from your heart all sentiments of egotism, of self-glorification, that great bane of our modern societies.

It now only remains to me to urge upon you the duty of rendering yourself worthy of these benefits, by devoting all your powers of head, of breast, of mind and of body, to our institution. Never forget that all the Freemasons on the face of the earth are brethren, and that in proportion as you may depend upon them they must in like manner be able to depend upon you. Not here, however, do your duties cease, for you have still more important ones to regard in your aims after moral order. Your conduct must always be free from reproach. You must endeavour to imitate those of your brethren who have arrived at a higher state of perfection than yourself, and at the same time remember that to those who have made less progress you have to serve as an example. Your knowledge, your intellectual powers, belong to us, and you have no longer a right selfishly to employ them for your own exclusive advantage.

Finally, I am convinced that you have lively impressions of the great duties I have enumerated, and that you will zealously discharge them. Freemasonry includes within its fold one good child more, and the modeste lodge "La Césarée" has the satisfaction of having made you a participator in the light of our order within its bosom. One day, perhaps soon, you will depart from our midst. I have a strong conviction that you will carry with you delightful recollections of this evening, and of us, who perched upon the little rock named Jersey, have conferred upon you the title of brother."

THE NEMESIS: A TALE OF THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

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

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CHAPTER XIV.

A FALLEN VESTAL.

"Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain;
And with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanso the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff,
Which weighs upon the heart."—*Shakespeare.*

The Vestal Virgins were honoured and esteemed among the Romans. The order was founded by Numa Pompilius for the purpose of feeding the sacred flame in the Temple of Vesta. The Palladium brought from Troy by Eneas, and other sacred relics were placed under their charge. The number at first was two, then four, and afterwards, when the tribes were increased, it was raised to six. Whenever a vacancy occurred in the Order, the Pontifex Maximus was required by the Lex Papia to select twenty virgins of good family, free from bodily defects, and with various other qualifications. One was chosen by lot, and the Pontifex Maximus taking her by the hand led her as it were by force, from her parents. They were not thus properly elected, but in a manner taken, whence the expression "capere virginem Vestalem." They were admitted into the society between the years of six and ten, and were vowed to the strictest chastity for the space of thirty years. The first ten were passed in a noviciate, when they were taught the ceremonies, and perfected themselves in the duties of their religion. The next ten were spent in the active discharge of their sacerdotal functions, and the remaining ten in teaching and instructing others. After the thirty years were completed, they were at liberty to leave the Order, and choose any condition of life that best suited their inclinations. They seldom availed themselves of this privilege, as it was deemed unlucky. Their dress was a white robe, and a fillet round the head. They enjoyed very important privileges. They were free from parental control, whenever they went abroad a licitor bearing the fasces preceded them, a Consul or the Proctor being obliged to give them the way. In all public entertain-

ments, they had the best seats, and if in their walks they casually lighted upon a malefactor led to execution, they had the power of delivering him from the hands of justice, but they had to make oath that their meeting was purely accidental, and not brought about by collusion or design. On the other hand their punishments were of the severest character. Upon commission of any trifling fault they were scourged by the Pontifex Maximus, who had the charge of them, and most cruelly if they permitted the sacred fire to go out. Vestals convicted of unchastity were buried alive in the Campus Sceleratus. The sacred fire was kept in earthen vessels hanging in the air, which the vestals tended with the utmost care, as the fire was one of the most holy pledges of the city. Should it by any means have become extinguished, all public and private business was suspended, and a vacation proclaimed, till they had expiated the unhappy prodigy with incredible pains. Upon the kalends of March, every year, although it was not extinguished, they used to renew it with no other fire than that which was produced by the rays of the sun. It was seldom that the fire went out.

Sometimes the vestals fell from the paths of virtue, and the very terrors of their fate seem to have formed an incentive to Roman seducers to work their ruin. One of the most terrible acts in the cruel life of Domitian was in executing a vestal virgin accused of having broken her vow of charity. Thirty cases of condemned vestals are recorded, but it was generally the custom to allow them to commit suicide. Domitian however resolved to carry out the sentence in all its horrors, so as to gain credit for holy austerity, he the most abandoned of voluptuaries. The crime was never proved; the accused was never confronted with her accuser. Domitian had prevailed upon a knight, under a promise of pardon, to confess to the crime of seduction, a confession which he recalled when the tyrant, regardless of his promise, gave him up to the sentence of the law, that of being scourged to death in the forum. Cornelia Maximilla, the senior vestal was the victim. The unhappy woman was borne in a covered litter to the Colline gate; a subterranean chamber was excavated; bread, water, milk, oil, a burning lamp and a couch was laid in it; as they were leading her to the place of execution, she called upon Vesta, and the rest of the deities to attest her innocence, and amongst other exclamations she

cried out: "Is it possible that Cæsar can think me polluted." As she was going down into the subterranean cavern, her gown caught upon something in the way, upon which turning back to disengage it, the executioner offered her his hand, which she refused with some horror, as if she could not touch it without impurity. She was buried alive, preserving to the last the appearance of a consummate chastity.

Such a terrible fate might have discouraged the vestals from incurring it, but in the first year of Trajan's reign, one morning Sempronia the Vestal was not to be found in the temple, and the sacred fire committed to her charge, had gone out. The city was searched, but no trace of her could be discovered, her brother Sempronius the Centurion, searching every where for her, till at last years passing it was supposed she had fallen into the Tiber, or lost her life in some mysterious way. All the time however she had never quitted Rome, for Balbus had been the seducer, and in his house she had been concealed from the eyes of her pursuers.

A tall beautiful Roman she was, and one who seemed born to wield the destiny of nations. She had loved Balbus, and he had loved her, but time and remorse on her part, and satiety on his, had dissipated the affection which had made them incur such a terrible risk. Sempronia too late found she had fallen a victim to a worthless voluptuary, who within a month had tired of her, and engaged in the pursuit of new victims. The gloss of nobility of mind which had captivated her soon wore off, and her seducer oftentimes reeled to her drenched with wine. Disgust ensued, followed by tears and reproaches, which so worried Balbus, that on one occasion he struck her to the ground. He was aghast at his unmanly deed, and attempted by renewed blandishments to win her forgiveness. She smiled once more upon him, but swore in her heart revenge. Balbus would have fain sent her out of Rome to a foreign land, but she steadily refused all his offers. Safety lay in remaining in Rome, while in another country she would assuredly be discovered by some Roman living there. Balbus was forced to acknowledge this truth, and much against his will she remained in his house. There was little chance of discovery there, his slaves were too faithful, and she never appeared in public, and kept to her own chamber when Balbus entertained company.

When Balbus resolved upon marrying Lais, he

was terribly perplexed how to break the news to Sempronia, and what to do with her. If she remained in his house Lais would become cognisant of her existence, and others too, for his scheme of ambition, included a handsomely appointed table, and a house full of guests. Yet he could not forego Lais, he was mad to possess her, and this madness led him to commit deeds from which in other moments he would have shrunk. Although Bacchanalians, Lais and Phryne were too cautious to imitate the excesses of their fellows. Whenever the dance grew violent, they quietly withdrew, and left others to pursue the diabolic revelry. After his interview with Lais, he resolved to have an understanding with Sempronia.

Sempronia was plying the distaff as he entered. She lifted her eyes, once bright as stars, but now sad with the water courses of tears. Her features once round and beautiful, were now spare and haggard; grief had been busily at work in her heart, and the once lovely Sempronia was but a storm tossed wreck on the ocean of life. Even the heart of Balbus smote him as he looked upon her, and if such a feeling were capable of penetrating his soul, remorse at that moment touched it.

"Thou lookest but poorly, Sempronia. Wilt thou not be persuaded to try another clime?"

"Could that clime bring forgetfulness, Balbus, then would I gladly seek it. But the Elysian fields would be Phlegathon with the vulture gnawing at my heart."

"Nay, Sempronia, let not this unavailing woe crush thy spirits. Credit me, change of scene would work a marvellous change. Why not try the sunny land of Greece. Who could know thee there?"

"Were I to walk the streets of Rome at the broad noontide, who would recognise in these wasted lineaments, a daughter of the Sempronii, the once beautiful priestess of the chaste Vesta?"

"Why recall the past. I have forgot it."

"Aye, doubtless," replied Sempronia, with scornful bitterness, "what is the past to thee, nothing. Dost thou believe in the vengeance of the outraged Vesta, or in the blasting curse of heaven?"

"Enough for the day is the evil thereof. When death comes then we will speak of the hereafter. I wish you Sempronia to leave Rome, money shall not be wanting, wealth sufficient to beggar your wishes."

"No, I leave not Rome. I leave not the place of my birth, where the urns of my ancestors lie. I know not but to surrender myself up to the cruel death they have doomed me, would be preferable to this horrible life: such a sacrifice might please the gods."

"And I, Sempronia," asked Balbus, in affright.

"Oh, rest easy," said Sempronia sombrely, "I have no desire to give myself up yet, or ruin you."

"Curse her," muttered Balbus, "can she be hatching some plot to ruin me. What evil spirit tempted me to link myself with her. I have told you," he said aloud, "I wish you to leave Rome. I am about to make some change in my household affairs."

Sempronia looked keenly at him, and then said quietly. "Do you intend to marry?"

"I do, and that is why I wish you hence."

"Aye," replied Sempronia, "the mistress must give place to the wife, perfectly just, and I acknowledge that my presence would be embarrassing. Let me however remain here till the last moment. Two days before you bring her home, tell me, and I shall go."

"Money in abundance shall go with you," said Balbus, delighted at her conduct, "as much money as you please. I shall have a ship with a faithful crew to accompany you."

"Good. I accept all your offers. Now leave me."

Balbus left the room with a jaunty satisfied air, and Sempronia gazed after him with a deadly eye.

"Go, go," she muttered, "in confidence, in security, but when the hour of thy triumph has come, and thou thinkest that life's wildest joys are spread out in a banquet before thee, then beware, for the time of my vengeance has arrived."

Balbus went jauntily towards the house of Murtius, and he thought how silly women were, how easily led by the nose—especially by one so clever as himself. Then the future stretched out before him with its mighty vista of greatness: the uncle of Caius, what might he not aspire to, the Consulship, perhaps the Praetorship, who knew, perhaps even a prouder honour than that. The Jewish blood swelled in his bosom, aye, the imperial diadem might be his—for was his wealth not fabulous; easy for him to buy the soldiery. What

an empress would Lais make, and his brow flushed with a passionate fire, as he thought of her. He laid his hand upon his heart to still its beatings, for the simple thought of that woman shook his soul to its depths. Strange power of love, for it was love, degraded, earthy still love, that he felt for her—a love that would have made him fling his wealth into the sea at her bidding, and kill himself to win a smile. A bad man's passion leads him to lengths that a good man would shudder at. His very wickedness makes his passion the stronger, and renders him a dupe, where he would have duped.

"Balbus," said Lais, as they sat together on the day in question, "hast thou no weeping maiden to settle with, no lady love to say farewell to before thou interest on the wedded life?"

"Everything is clear. I had only one bar to my happiness, it was removed to-day."

"Some fair one of the Suburra."

"No," replied Balbus, seriously, "it is a deadly matter if known in Rome. Better to let it rest in silence."

"Tell me, although thy destined bride, I will not scold thee. Come, let me know the length and breadth of thy wickedness."

"I tell thee it is deadly," replied Balbus, with a sigh.

"I must know it. Come, I must."

Balbus looked at her, and then said: "Thou hast heard of the Vestal Virgin, Sempronia?"

"She who disappeared so suddenly from Rome?"

"The same. She fled with me."

"With you?" cried Lais, staring at him with astonishment, "by the gods, Balbus, thou art a brave man,"

"That may be so, she has been ever since housed with me. Her present life has not brought her consolation for her past, so she leaves this for another land."

"A Vestal Virgin, a daughter of one of the proudest houses in Rome," murmured Lais to herself. "By the gods he is the man for me. Courage, audacity, wealth, perhaps he may do. Let us see. Well, Balbus, and she leaves Rome. You are foolish to permit her."

"I—how. She cannot remain in our house, and in a foreign land, who is to know that she is the lost Vestal, the runaway priestess."

"Err on the safe side, Balbus. Send her to a distant land from whence there is no return, and

where recognition cannot injure you. A few liquid drops will send her to charm's bark. No danger to you when she has crossed the Styx."

"Would you have me poison her?"

"I would have you make her safe, beyond a chance of discovery," said Lais coldly.

"I will think of it."

"You will do it," muttered Lais.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE FORMATION OF THE GRAND LODGE IN 1717.

I beg to submit the following quotations from my Masonic Memos. as they seem to bear upon the subject of the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1717, referred to by our esteemed Bro. W. J. Hughan in last week's issue.—JAMES FREDERICK SPURR.

"A.D. 1666. Thomas Savage, Earl Rivers succeeded the Earl of St. Albans as Grand Master, and in this year the greatest part of the City of London was consumed by fire, so that the Freemasons were encouraged to rebuild it again, and the Deputy Grand Master, Sir Christopher Wren, formed a noble design in order to render it the most regular and splendid city of the world; but his design in general proved abortive by the obstinacy of some private persons who would not be persuaded to part with their properties, though he gave us an elegant specimen of his workmanship in the rebuilding of St. Paul's.

"A.D. 1674. George Rivers, Duke of Buckingham, became Grand Master, and was succeeded in 1679 by Henry Bennett, Earl of Arlington, who being much engaged in state affairs could not attend to the welfare of the Craft, though during his Grand Mastership many persons of the first distinction were admitted.

"A.D. 1685. Upon the death of the Earl of Arlington the lodges met and chose Sir Christopher Wren Grand Master; but at this time particular lodges were chiefly occasional. Sir Robert Clayton had an occasional lodge of Masters who met at St. Thomas's Hospital in 1678.

"King William being privately made a Mason, approved of the choice of Sir Christopher Wren and greatly promoted the interests of the Craft; he likewise appointed the Palace of Greenwich to be a hospital for old and disabled seamen and ordered it to be finished after Inigo Jones's old design A.D. 1695.

"The same year, Charles, Duke of Richmond and Lenox, was chosen Grand Master at the annual assembly in London, and approved of by King William; and Sir Christopher Wren acted as his deputy and was again made Grand Master in 1698.

"In the beginning of Queen Ann's reign Masonry was rather neglected, which was occasioned through the carelessness of several Masters and Wardens in not chusing a Grand Master for some years, Sir Christopher being by age and bodily infirmities rendered incapable of presiding over them. But after the rebellion in the year 1715, the Masters and Wardens

of the lodges in London, viz., at the Goose and Gridiron, St. Paul's Churchyard; the Crown, in Parker's-lane, Drury-lane, the Apple Tree, in Charles Street, Covent Garden; the Rummer, in Channel Row, Westminster, held a quarterly communication, in order to consider of a proper person to preside over them, and on St. John's Day, 1717, at their annual feast, chose the oldest Master Mason from amongst themselves, which was Mr. Anthony Sayer, who was accordingly installed at the Goose and Gridiron.

"A.D. 1718, George Payne, Esq., was elected in the room of Mr. Sayer, and in the following year, John Theophilus Desaguliers, F.R.S., was appointed; and after him, in 1720, Mr. George Payne was re-elected. The Brotherhood were now requested to bring to the Grand Lodge any ancient writings or records they might have in their possession that respected Masonry, and they were revised and ordered to be carefully transcribed for the use of the lodges then in being, and the Grand Master had the power given him of appointing his own Deputy Grand and also his Grand Wardens agreeable to ancient custom.

"A.D. 1721, at the Grand Lodge held in due and ample form on Ladyday, 1720, the Craft had the satisfaction of seeing Masonry flourish in a most extraordinary degree, and the then Grand Master Payne, proposed the Most Noble John Montague, for his successor who was accordingly elected on the 24th of June, 1721, at the Queen's Arms, in St. Paul's Churchyard, when several eminent and noble personages were admitted, and among the rest the Earl of Chesterfield. Dr. Desaguliers spoke an eloquent oration in praise of the Craft; and they then marched in procession to Stationer's Hall, where a grand entertainment was provided, and the whole was conducted with great brotherly love and decorum. His Grace the Duke of Montague caused several communications to be held in all which he endeavoured to encourage the Craft; and their constitutions and laws were collected into one body by his order and printed for the edification of future lodges."

BURNING A MASONIC APRON.

At page 401 of your MAGAZINE is recorded a striking incident mentioned by our indefatigable Brother Hughan in his "Sketches of Freemasonry in Cornwall," namely the burning in open lodge of the Masonic apron of an unworthy brother. I think that in his accompanying remarks is implied an approval of the course pursued by the Falmouth Lodge, and I presume that Kappa, who, at page 433, made a few observations on the subject, agrees with him, as I know do others whom I have heard speak on the point.

Those who have perused a series of articles published in your pages in the course of the last year, bearing the same signature as this, will, doubtless, expect me to be of the same opinion; since I have spoken very strongly as to the want of moral courage on the part of lodges and individual Masons, when they have had constantly before them, not as a brother merely, but as a ruler, one who they admit has shown himself to be morally, socially, and intellectually unfit for so eminent a post, without joining the few who have made an effort to be rid of the stain;

moreover, I have commented on the unwillingness of those at the head of the Craft to take cognizance of disreputable proceedings, which have in various ways been formally set before them.

It appears to me, however, that the burning of the apron is not a dignified proceeding on the part of the lodge, and that the infliction of disgrace and a refusal of the privileges of brotherhood might be attained in a preferable manner. Moreover, I cannot see what right a lodge has to take and to destroy an apron more than any other article of property, which has been paid for by the individual, and over which, therefore, no one but himself has legally any control. Were a person in such a position, smarting under what he would feel to be indignities and insults, and probably caring little for the Craft, to complain to a magistrate, I fancy he would have no difficulty in obtaining redress, in a form which might involve those guilty of such an act in some trouble. Undoubtedly the principle is good, and much benefit might arise if it were more frequently acted upon, but the manner of carrying it out seems to me so objectionable that it should not be adopted without serious consideration.—P.M.

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,—Under the above heading a letter appeared in your last week's issue, to the writer of which I beg to tender my individual and personal thanks, without committing to my views any member of committee, or either of the brethren alluded to by name, though I cannot think I should much err if I ventured to return thanks on behalf of all. As regards that portion of your correspondent "W. N. Kim's" letter having general reference to our Charities, it appears to me there cannot be two opinions. The great end I have striven hard for five years to attain is to induce each lodge in its corporate capacity to make our Charities the leading subject of interest. By judicious management—by a curtailment of expenses without sensible interference with social enjoyment—by legitimate stimulants to special contributions for charitable purposes—there is no reason why every lodge throughout the Craft should not annually devote to the support of our Charities an average sum of twenty guineas. This organisation would not interfere with individual donations or subscriptions from those whose means enable them to gratify their inclinations, but would have the effect of enlisting support from a very large number of willing contributors to a lodge fund, who would not care to see their names appear separately as donors of small sums—their hearts large, but their resources limited—and who are desirous of fulfilling their Masonic obligations to the extent permitted by a legitimate regard to the wants of themselves and families.

I confidently echo your correspondent's assertion. I know "there is in England, especially amongst Masons, money to be got for the asking." I have repeated well nigh to weariness that, noble as are the contributions to our Charities, the support now

received is nothing compared to what it might be if all did their duty, and to what I firmly believe it will be, when time and circumstances shall have permitted all to be awakened to a sense of their duty, and when the discharge of that duty shall be regarded as the highest and holiest enjoyment of which a Mason can be susceptible.

Your correspondent says, "But our brethren the three Secretaries in London should combine to render the plan effectual." In answer to this, I think I can say with confidence that combined propositions have been from time to time submitted—that my colleagues and myself work most harmoniously together—that the members of the various committees act in unison, and are actuated by singleness of purpose and oneness of motive. The cry from our Macedon is, "Who will come over and help us, who?" and this cry is raised until we sometimes fear we will nigh weary our friends, and occasionally risk giving offence to those who do not feel quite so warmly as your correspondent.

On the subject of rewards I entirely concur with "W. N. Kim," and do not anticipate any great difficulty in providing a suitable recognition of valuable services. In reference to that portion of the letter having special allusion to the Boys' School, I can only say that the accomplishment of what is therein desired is one of the cherished objects of my life. To show that this subject has not been lost sight of, let me quote from the report issued at the anniversary festival in March last. "The second subject referred to is the admission of from twenty to thirty boys on payment annually of, say £25 or £30, to be educated, clothed, and maintained, and treated in every respect in the same manner as those boys admitted by election. There is a very large class of brethren upon whom the burden of the education of a large family presses most severely, but whose children would not be properly qualified candidates for the ordinary benefits of the institution; and it is thought that a proposition for the admission of this class of pupils would meet with the approval of the great bulk of the governors and subscribers."

I forbear from trespassing further upon your space this week. Let this suffice for the present. With twenty additional boys admitted this year,—a new and increased staff of masters,—breathing time is necessary. Only let our friends not relax. Let Stewards for our Festival in March next, and in each succeeding year, multiply in numbers and in the amounts resulting from their exertions, and results yet undreamed of shall be accomplished through the agency of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys—a first-class middle school. Yours fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE YARBOROUGH LODGE, No. 554.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Referring to the report which I sent you of our last meeting, and which appears in your issue of the 15th inst., I have to apologise for my having inadvertently omitted to state that the chair of K.S. was occupied by our much esteemed and worthy retiring W.M., Bro. W.

JOSIAH GREEN, Sec. 554.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

REMOVAL OF THE DORIC LODGE (No. 933).—The meetings of this lodge which have hitherto been held at Bow, will, in future, as announced in our advertising columns, be held at the Masons hall, Masons Avenue, Basinghall-street.

WINCHESTER MASONIC HALL COMPANY.—The prospectus has been issued of the Winchester Masonic Hall Company Limited, with a capital of £1,000 in 200 shares of £5 each. We notice amongst the provisional directors the names of several brethren standing high in the estimation of the Craft: Such as Bro. G. Naish, F. Prov. G.W., chairman; Bros. J. Rankin Stebbing, Past Grand Deacon; Charles Sherry, P. Prov. G.W., &c. The Hon. Sec. is Bro. Alfred Smith, of Winchester, P. Prov. G. Reg. We will allude in our next to the features detailed in the prospectus. In the meantime we will only add that the scheme has our best wishes for its success.

MASONIC INSTRUCTION.—The fifteen sections will be worked by Bro. J. Thomas, P.M., 507, &c, and W.M., in the United Pilgrim's Lodge of Instruction (No. 507), at the Durham Arms, Harleyford-road, Kennington, on Friday, the 4th prox., as announced in our advertising columns. We trust the brethren will muster in force upon the occasion, out of respect to our esteemed Bro. Thomas. The United Pilgrim's Lodge, though not one of the oldest lodges, has produced many excellent and accomplished working Masons, among whom not the least is Bro. John Thomas, who is well deserving the support of the brethren, not only on account of his virtues as a man,—benevolence being his distinguishing characteristic,—but also on account of his excellence as a Mason whether Craft, Arch, or Mark.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—This distinguished old prosperous lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 19th, at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark. The lodge was opened by Bro. Frederick Walters, P.M., assisted by Bros. G. Morris, S.W.; D. Rose, as J.V.; E. Harris, P.M., Treas.; J. Donkin, P.M., Sec.; F. H. Ebsworth, S.D.; D. Rose, J.D.; M. A. Loewenstark, I.G.; A. P. Steadman, D.C.; G. Free, W.S.; R. Stevens, Chipperfield, E. Prince, Retzbach, Gunnell, Croxford, Jackson, Hide, Harman, Billington, Duseck, Marshall, Williams, Knott, Baker, Delaney, Burke, and others too numerous to mention. Amongst a large number of visitors were Bros. James Stevenson, of the *Freemasons Magazine*, Roberts, Williams, and others whose names we were unable to ascertain. The minutes of the last and an emergency meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. Ballots were taken for Messrs. Skeens, Saunders, and Waller, which were declared to be unanimous in favour of their admission. Messrs. W. H. Cook and D. Waller being in attendance, were introduced separately, and initiated into ancient Freemasonry. Bros. Williams, Knott, and Baker were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft Freemasons. All these ceremonies were impressively and ably given by the presiding W.M. Bro. J. C. Goody, W.M., then took the chair, having unavoidably been detained through the train being late. The election by ballot resulted in Bro. Geo. Morris, S.W., being unanimously elected W.M., and Bro. E. Harris, P.M., Treas., was unanimously re-elected Treas. for the third time. Bro. Wm. Aldhouse was re-elected Tyler, and Bro. W. J. Laing, P.M. 45, was unanimously re-elected Assistant Tyler. The audit meeting was appointed to be held on Monday, December 31st, at seven o'clock p.m., at the lodge house, and all the P.M.'s were unanimously elected auditors.

In consequence of the great number of applications for initiation, it was agreed to hold an emergency meeting on Friday, December 28th, at half-past six o'clock p.m., so as to lessen the work on the installation night. The lodge was duly closed.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 177).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Friday evening, the 14th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, and was very numerously attended. Bro. J. Simpson, W.M., presided, supported by Bro. W. F. Smith, S.W.; Pryor, J.W., and the rest of the officers, besides the following P.M.'s, Bros. J. Smith, Treas.; Elmes, Sec.; Carpenter, Marshall, Brett, Haydon, Wilson, Thompson, and Osborne. There was a numerous body of visitors, including Bros. Stevens, W.M. Albion Lodge; Sissons, P.M. Temple Lodge; Laing, P.M. Strong Man Lodge; Buss, P.M. Egyptian Lodge; Emmens, G. Purst.; Beard, P.M. Temple Lodge; Nicholson, P.M. Old Concord Lodge; &c. The lodge having been opened, the following gentlemen were introduced and initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry: Messrs. Green, Giles, Crusoe, Silverton, and Wallace. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Hodges was passed to the degree of a F.C. Bro. Simpson, the W.M., then vacated the chair, which was taken by Bro. Brett, P.M., and Bro. Marshall, P.M., presented Bro. Smith, the W.M. elect, to receive from him the benefit of installation. The lodge was afterwards advanced to the third degree, and afterwards resolved into a Board of Installed Masters, eighteen being present, when Bro. Smith was duly installed into the chair of K.S., as W.M. of the Domatic Lodge for the ensuing year. The brethren were then admitted and the W.M. was saluted in the three degrees, and the usual addresses delivered by the Installing Master. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follow: Bros. Pryor, S.W.; Wolfe, J.W.; Foulger, S.D.; Tanner, J.D.; Margenson, I.G.; and Bradley, Tyler. Bro. Pulsford was appointed as Dir. of Cers. A vote of thanks was proposed by Bro. Thompson, P.M., to Bro. Brett for the able manner in which he had performed the ceremony of installation, which was seconded and carried unanimously, and Bro. Brett returned thanks for the mark of favour the brethren had shown towards him. After some business had been disposed of, the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren then adjourned to the large dining hall for refreshment, and nearly one hundred brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, prepared in Bro. Clemow's best style. After the cloth was drawn the W.M. proposed the usual loyal and formal toasts. Bro. Emmens, P.M., of the Old Concord Lodge, and G. Purst., returned thanks for the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers; and Bro. J. Smith returned thanks for the Past Grand Officers, asking the brethren to support him on the occasion of the festival for Aged Freemasons and their widows, when he would represent the Domatic Lodge as its Steward, and a very liberal subscription was the result. "The Health of their brother Initiates," was the next toast, for which Bros. Silverton, Green, Crusoe, Wallace, and Giles, severally returned thanks. The W.M. in giving "The Health of the Visitors," said he was pleased to see many of them present that evening, and gave them a hearty welcome. Bros. Stevens, W.M. Albion Lodge; and T. Beard, P.M. Temple Lodge, returned thanks. Bro. Simpson, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," and enlarged on his many excellent qualities. The W.M. in returning thanks, thanked the members of the lodge for placing him in such an elevated position, and he could assure them that he would do his duty to the best of his ability, and if he could only do it half so well as his predecessor, he should be happy indeed. The W.M. next gave "The Health of the Past Masters of the Lodge," and said he could say without fear of contradiction that the P.M.'s of the Domatic Lodge were as efficient as any in the Craft, and they were willing at any time to do any duty that might be required of them. As regarded their I.P.M., Bro. Simpson, he had great pleasure in placing on his breast the handsome jewel which the brethren had voted to him, and wished him health and long life to wear it. Bros. Simpson and Carpenter severally returned thanks, the latter in his usual characteristic and facetious manner. "The Officers of the Lodge," was next given for which Bros. Pryor, Tanner, and others returned thanks. Some other toasts were given, and some excellent songs sung by Bro. Green and other brethren, rendered the evening one of unmix'd pleasure, which was brought to a close at eleven o'clock.

MERCHANT NAVY LODGE (No. 781).—This flourishing lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse, on Wednesday, the 12th inst. Present:—Bros. C. R. Killick, W.M.; Davis, S.W.; Bracebridge, J.W.; Helps, S.D. *pro tem.*; Daniell, P.M., J.D. *pro tem.*; Bradbury, I.G.;

E. T. Read, Hon. Sec., P.M.; Bro. Wright and many other brethren; also Bro. Moore, of Lodge Temperance, No. 169, as a visitor. The lodge was opened at 6 o'clock precisely and the minutes of the last regular lodge read and confirmed. Bro. Holt and Scheerboon being candidates for the second degree, and after satisfactorily answering the usual questions were entrusted and withdrew. Lodge opened in the second degree and these brethren respectively passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. At the request of the Secretary, Bro. Read, Bro. Potts, P.M., kindly gave a lecture on the Tracing Board in this degree, which elicited the warm approval of the brethren present. The lodge was resumed in the first degree and the proposition for a joining member having been made and duly seconded was ordered to stand over till the ensuing month. Nothing further being offered lodge as customary closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been given and duly responded to, Bro. Wright, P.M., gave "Our Masonic Charities," a toast, he felt assured the brethren of Merchant Navy Lodge would receive as it deserved. He had asked permission of the W.M. to allow him to give this toast thus early, as he had frequently seen that, by giving this toast at an advanced hour, many of the brethren had retired, and by that means it was not responded to as it ought to be. He felt highly gratified that this lodge would be ably represented at the Festival in January next, by Bro. Bracebridge, their J.W., and he flattered himself that all the brethren would on this occasion contribute to one or more of the charities. The health of the W.M. was then given, and after some very flattering encomiums passed upon him by the P.M. Bro. Wright, the W.M. replied very briefly that during his tenure of office he had endeavoured conscientiously to do his duty, and thanked the brethren sincerely for their uniform kindness to him. The health of the Visitor Bro. Moore, P.M., Temperance Lodge No. 169, was then given, and the W.M. took occasion to observe that it always afforded the brethren of Merchant Navy Lodge much pleasure in welcoming any Bros. who would honour them with their presence. Bro. Moore, in reply, thanked the W.M. and the brethren for the kindly welcome they had accorded him that evening, and if he might be permitted he would allude, firstly, to the Masonic Charities that had been spoken of by Bro. Wright. He was pleased to find that a steward would be sent from that lodge, and he hoped that a liberal sum would be collected. In a lodge of instruction which he belonged to it was the custom with every member to contribute one shilling weekly, and when it amounted to a sum sufficient to purchase a life governorship it was balloted for. By this means, with the small outlay of one shilling a week, every brother in the course of time would be in possession of a life governorship, and he felt assured, if all lodges adopted that course, many more poor brethren, widows, and orphans would be benefited by those noble institutions. He was glad to find that the lodge of instruction of Merchant Navy Lodge had been resuscitated, and he hoped the brethren all would give his suggestion their serious consideration. He concluded by thanking the brethren, and he hoped that some of them would pay him a compliment by visiting him at his lodge. The W.M. then gave the health of his officers, and in doing so made special allusion to Bro. Read, their indefatigable Sec., who had proved himself in every respect a most efficient officer. He need not remind the brethren how necessary it was to the lodge and its Master to have a good Secretary—one who understood his duties, and was always willing to fulfil them. Such was their position with reference to Bro. Read, and he felt assured that the brethren all would accord him that praise which he so justly deserved. Bro. Davis, S.W., in replying on behalf of the officers, assured the W.M. and brethren that they all felt a pleasure in conducting to the welfare of the lodge by their exertions, and should leave it to Bro. Read to reply to that portion of the toast which had special reference to himself. Bro. Read thanked the W.M. for the kind manner in which he had spoken of his officers, and particularly with regard to himself, as Secretary. He certainly had endeavoured to fulfil the duties pertaining to the office conscientiously, and, he was highly gratified to hear, with such satisfaction to the brethren. He congratulated them upon their continued prosperity, and the great increase to their numbers, and he hoped that the same kind and genial feeling among the brethren might long continue. The Tyler's toast brought the meeting to a close. Some excellent songs were rendered by Bros. Wright, Potts, Killick, Read, Bradbury, Reeves, and Michaelson.

ROYAL ALBERT LODGE (No. 907).—This lodge held its usual meeting on Monday the 17th inst., at Freemasons' Hall. The lodge was opened by Bro. J. Smith, P.M. and Treas., assisted by Bros. W. H. Farnfield, S.W.; C. Chard, J.W.; R. W. Little, P.M. and Sec.; H. J. Lewis, S.D.; Rev. J. M. Vaughan, J.D.; E. Terry, I.G.; T. R. Lewis, P.A.G. Purst.; W. Watson, P.G. Steward; J. A. Farnfield, P.M.; Rev. P. M. Holden, J. Dennis, R. Briant, C. T. Chard, G. G. Hepburn, A. E. T. Worley, T. Morton, C. Vidler, H. Ravaisson, W. Nugent, S. Frankenstein, Captain E. Little, &c. The minutes were duly confirmed, and Bro. Frankenstein was passed to the second degree. Bro. T. Lewis, P.M., brought forward a motion of which he had given notice relative to a proposition fee, and the same being seconded, was carried unanimously. The lodge was then closed and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, under the presidency of Bro. T. Peters, W.M. The arrangements of the manager, Bro. Gosden, for the comfort of the brethren gave general satisfaction. Amongst the visitors present were Bros. Mason, G.S.B., Peck, P.M., 834; Fox, P.M., 19; Turner, S.W., 1056; Taylor; 29; Gee and Elliott, 186.

DORIC LODGE (No. 933).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Wednesday the 12th inst., at the Earl of Eglinton, North Bow. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. Gilchrist, through illness, Bro. Scurr, P.M., presided assisted by Bro. Robottom, S.W., Bro. Barnes, J.W., and a large attendance of brethren and visitors. The business of the evening consisted in passing Bros. Griffin and Paterson to the degree of Fellow Craft and initiating Mr. Samuel Thompson into the mysteries of the Order, both ceremonies being performed by Bro. Scurr in his usual impressive and faultless manner. Bro. Austin of the Crystal Palace Lodge was proposed a joining member and after three brethren were appointed to audit the accounts for the past year the lodge was closed and adjourned until the second Wednesday in January to the Masons Hall, Masons Avenue, Basinghall-street, City, where the future meetings of the lodge will be held as announced in our advertising columns.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

EAST STONEHOUSE.—Lodge of Sincerity (No. 189).—This lodge held its usual meeting for the transaction of business on the 10th inst. Among the intended business was that of passing Bro. Noel to that of a Fellow Craft, he having been initiated into the Order at the previous meeting. Unhappily, however, that gentleman had in the meantime fallen a victim to his professional duties, having taken scarlet fever while attending a child, and he was then lying dead. A great deal of sympathy was felt and expressed at his sad decease by several brethren present, to whom he had been previously known, and it was determined that the fee of six guineas which had been paid at the previous meeting by the deceased, should be repaid to his bereaved mother. It was also further determined that a letter of condolence to Mrs. Noel should be sent from the lodge, expressive of its deep sympathy for her great affliction, in the loss of so worthy and excellent a son. Bro. W. H. Maddock, W.M., invited such of the officers and brethren as could find it convenient to be present at the funeral of their deceased brother on the following morning. Two candidates were advanced to the degree of Fellow Craft, and it was determined to hold the winter banquet of the lodge on Thursday, the 3rd of January next, at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel.

LANCASHIRE WEST.

LIVERPOOL, TEMPLE LODGE, 109A.—PRESENTATION TO BRO. THOMAS MARSH, P.M., P.G.S., AND TO BRO. TUBB, ORG.

The usual meeting of this lodge was held on the 12th inst., at the Masonic Temple, Hope-street. The lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. Dr. R. H. D. Johnson, W.M., assisted by Bro. James Mercer Johnson, S.W., M.D.; Bro. Dr. J. K. Smith; J. W. Marsh, Sec.; Wood, Treas.; Sheldon, S.D.; Hendry, S.D.; Crane, P.M.; Dyke, I.G.; Winstanley and Pearson, Stewards; Tubb, Org.; Williams, D.C.; Visitors, Bros. W. Laidlaw, P.M., P.G.S.; John Porter, W.M. 667; Buxendale, P.M.; Ormskirk, W. J. Priest, 220, &c., &c.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for the initiation of Messrs. E. Gilbert,

H. Tyrer, John Taylor, and A. M. Jaeger, and the ballot having proved unanimous in their favour, they were initiated into Freemasonry, the working tools being given by Bro. J. K. Smith, J.W. Bros. Caridia, Balli, and Demetercoppo wishing to pass the 2nd degree, were examined and found good.

The lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, when Bros. Balli, Caridia, and Demetercoppo were duly passed to the degree of Fellow Crafts, the working tools in this degree being given by Bro. J. M. Johnson, S.W., in a very impressive way.

A gentleman was proposed for initiation, after which the lodge was called from labour to refreshment.

On the removal of the cloth the usual formal toasts were given.

Bro. JAMES HAMER, P.G.T., returned thanks on behalf of the P.G. officers.

The W.M., in proposing the next toast, "The health of their newly-initiated brethren," congratulated them on being enrolled amongst Freemasons, and he believed they would do honour to the Craft.

The newly-initiated brethren severally returned thanks for being received into the Order, and trusted they would prove good members of it.

The W. MASTER next gave "The Visitors," expressing the gratification he felt at seeing them present, and hoped they would soon visit them again. He gave them all a hearty and cordial welcome. The toast was drunk with all Masonic honours.

Bro. W. LAIDLAW, P.M., returned thanks on behalf of the visiting brethren, and said he was much pleased with the truly Masonic welcome they had received, and said it would be to them a source of great gratification to again have the opportunity of mixing with the brethren of the Temple Lodge.

The W. MASTER addressing Bro. Marsh, said: Bro. Secretary Marsh, during your absence the brethren present have passed a proposition to this effect, that you should have presented to you a special mark of their appreciation for your earnest and arduous labours in connection with the formation of the Temple Lodge. Your assistance to the original promoters not only in its formation, but in the purchase of jewels and ornaments, has been most valuable, and whilst it has saved us a large amount of expense, it has proved to us the great love you have for the institution in general, and this lodge in particular. We wish it to be distinctly understood that although we are highly pleased and feel ourselves indebted to you, for the manner in which you perform your duties as Secretary, still that has nothing whatever to do with the present testimonial. The brethren of the Temple Lodge through me, as their W.M., desire to prove to you that your untiring exertions have been noticed and esteemed by them, and it gives me a great amount of pleasure to be the medium of presenting you with this beautiful and elaborate silver inkstand. It will be both ornamental and useful and I am sure it would be superfluous to wish, while you retain it, that a pen may never be dipped there for a dishonourable purpose, nor that the ink it may contain, shall never foul or sully a page. You have obtained high honours in the Craft, and we congratulate you as W.M., P.M., and an officer of the Provincial Grand Lodge, you have fulfilled your duties honourably and well. As Secretary to the relief committee, your punctual attendance and great perseverance have become specially remarked, and we beg to express our esteem for those great and good qualities you possess, and not only possess but cause to shine forth most prominently. May the Great Architect of the Universe give you for many many years, health, power, and disposition to exert yourself for the Masonic cause, and may the Most High, who observes and records all thoughts, words, and actions, enable, and dispose you to so walk through this world, that you may be deemed worthy of being received into the Grand Lodge, when you shall be called hence.

Bro. MARSH having received the very beautiful gift said:—I am sure you will pardon any defects in expression of my sincere and heartfelt appreciation of the unbounded kindness and confidence which has been expressed not only in so substantial a form, but also through the eloquent speech of the W.M. To be connected with such a body of gentlemen and Masons forming the Temple Lodge is of great pleasure to me, and I am sure this evening will be one of the brightness pictures which will hang on memory's wall. To each and all of you I would respectfully offer my grateful acknowledgement for the great forbearance you have showed to my many faults and shortcomings. I again thank you for so noble and beautiful a momento of your confidence, a confidence which I hope will never be forfeited by me.

The W. MASTER then addressed Bro. Tubb as follows:—Bro. Tubb, the brethren of the Temple Lodge this night assembled together, have unanimously passed a resolution to the effect that you should have an address presented to you, and I have the honour and esteem it a pleasure of being the instrument through which this their desire is conveyed. Before placing this elegantly executed address into your hands, it is first my duty to state to you and the visiting brethren here present the reasons which have induced us to act in this manner towards you. They are because you kindly on the formation of this lodge undertook the arduous and at times not pleasant office of Organist, arduous in that you are not only expected to be at the lodge punctually to the moment when opened, but that during the entire lodge hours you are called upon to exercise yourself both physically and mentally; and not pleasant in that you are to a great extent prevented from mixing intimately with your brethren and unable to see much of our ceremonies (being altogether in the back ground. Because you have performed those duties ably and to our entire satisfaction, and because you have considered it proper to resign your office when you yourself found another brother, who you, in your own modest manner, state is gifted with greater professional skill than yourself, and who is willing to undertake the office which you have vacated. These are some of the reasons which have induced us to present to you this address, but not all. I do not wish to hurt your too susceptible feelings by enlarging upon your merits, and the tangible proofs you have given to us of your zeal for Masonry, and your love of the Temple Lodge, they are patent to almost all, but I cannot allow this present opportunity to pass by without adding, from my own individual experiences and acquaintance with you, a few remarks upon what I consider to be your great merits. Kindness, courtesy, affability, a readiness at all times to undertake any duty within the compass of your attainments, brotherly love and truly Masonic conduct, not only in but without the lodge, those virtues shine most conspicuously forth in your character, and have endeared you to us all. You have shown your interest in the Craft, by at a great amount of labour and expense, rendering our organ able, when properly handled, to give much superior music than it could before. You have proved your interest and love for this our lodge, by presenting to it one of the most elegant ornaments any lodge in England possesses, in the shape of a ballot box; but it is not for these gifts, although great and valuable, that we this night take the present mode of showing to you our high appreciation, no, it is rather that we find in you a true brother Mason, one who not only professes but practices those duties and virtues which we all ought, but I am sorry to say, do not follow and act according to. The violet is not less sweet and beautiful because it is modest and retiring, neither is a man to be less admired and esteemed because he is possessed of these qualities. Although, Bro. Tubb, we lose you as our Organist, still you will be one amongst us, and so long as we have a Tubb in the lodge, I am sure we shall never be at any loss for a Stave. That you may live long to be an ornament to the lodge and a pattern to the brethren, is my, and I am sure, the desire of all the brethren attached to the Temple Lodge.

Bro. TUBB, in reply to the address presented to him, said: W.M., S. and J.W., and brethren all,—You have conferred upon me a very anxious duty, and, at the same time, a very pleasing one, in presenting me with the very handsome address which you have done in this lodge. In joining Freemasonry I had no personal motives to serve, and after my initiation so impressed was I with the duties of the Craft, that I at once determined that whatever might lay in my power to do for the benefit of the Order I would do it. What has been contributed to the lodge by me has been more than repaid by the handsome, very handsome address which you, Worshipful Master and brethren, have been pleased to present to me in this lodge. I do, and always did, feel it a very high honour to preside as your Organist, and in resigning that office, which I do with regret, it is a pleasure to me to know that in my successor you will find an able and a worthy brother. Although I shall not be with you for the future as your Organist, I hope and trust to be amongst you for many, many years to come, and that our regard for each other may never be diminished. Your presentation to me this evening makes me glad to find that I have met with your esteem, and I trust that my conduct will always be such as to merit its continuance.

Bro. Pagano presented to the lodge a very beautiful stand for the ballot-box; Bro. Corica also presented to the lodge a very beautiful cover for the same. Bro. James Hamer, P.G.T., pre-

sented to the lodge a very handsome *guard de vin*; Bro. C. Campion presented to the lodge a very beautiful silver-mounted snuff-box.

The best thanks of the lodge was presented to Bros. Pagano, Corica, Campion, and Hamer.

The following was the inscription on the ink-stand:—

“Presented to Bro. Secretary Marsh, P.M., by the officers and members of the Temple Lodge, 1,094, as a mark of their approbation of his valuable assistance rendered to the promoters of the above.

“Dec. 1866.”

Moved by the W.M. and seconded by Bro. Johnson, S.W., to Bro. Richard Tubb, Organist of the Temple Lodge, No. 1,094, of the ancient fraternity of free and accepted Masons of England,—“Dear Sir and Bro., in common with the brethren of the Temple Lodge, we beg respectfully to offer you our heartfelt thanks your zeal and many acts of kindness to the members of this lodge, particularly in putting the stop in the organ, and hydraulic power to the same. Your kind conduct and brotherly regard to us commands the intellectual respect of your brethren, and create towards you their warmest feelings of personal regard. May you enjoy many long years of unalloyed happiness, enhanced by every domestic blessing in health and prosperity, and may you ever be surrounded by brethren as sincere and affectionate as those of the Temple Lodge.

On behalf of the members,

R. H. D. JOHNSON, W.M.
J. MERCER JOHNSON, S.W.
Js. K. SMITH, J.W.”

“THOMAS MARSH, Sec.
Dec. 1866.”

SOUTH WALES (WESTERN DIVISION).

ABERYSTWITH.—*Aberystwith Lodge* (No. 1072).

The installation meeting of this lodge took place at the lodge room, Bellevue Royal Hotel, on Wednesday, the 5th instant. There were present Bros. J. D. Perrott, W.M. (F.M. and W.M. 651, P. Prov. G.S. of Works); John Jones, S.W.; G. T. Smith, J.W.; E. L. Cole, J.D.; Gorman Clark, I.G.; John Davies, Treas.; Stanley J. Balcombe, Hon. Sec.; Lieut.-Col. Pryse, T. J. Stooke, G. B. Cumberland, E. M. Vaughan, Theodore Paul, J. Williams, J. Boundy, J. Garland, C. R. Williams, J. Paul, J. Beroon, C. Raw, C. E. Longcroft, N. Bray, H. S. Richardes, J. Vaughan, and J. W. Szlumper, Stewards; R. de la Hoyde, Octavius Rowe, F. R. Roberts, Jonathan Pell, R. Selby, and many others whose names we have not been able to gather.

The lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., and after the minutes of the previous lodge had been read and confirmed, ballots were taken for W.M. and Treas. for the ensuing year. Bro. G. T. Smith was unanimously chosen W.M., and Bro. John Davies Treas. Bros. Rowe and Raw were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. G. Lodge certificates were handed to eight brethren.

Bro. Lieut.-Col. PRYSE (Lord Lieutenant of Cardiganshire), then rose, and said he had been entrusted with a pleasing duty, viz., to present to the W.M. of the lodge a testimonial of the esteem in which he was held by the brethren, and thanked him, both personally and generally, for the very great courtesy, patience, and kind feeling he had always shown to the members of No. 1072.

The testimonial, consisting of a silver inkstand, bearing a suitable inscription, Col. Pryse then handed to Bro. Perrott, expressing the hope that he might be spared for many years to aid in diffusing the light of our noble Order, and assuring him that he would ever be held in the highest esteem by his brothers of 1,072.

Bro. PERROTT replied in a most feeling manner, thanking the brethren for the gift, and expressing his pleasure that his services had been appreciated by them, and further assuring them that, whenever he could be of any use to the lodge, he should be only too happy to attend. He concluded by expressing his opinion that he left the lodge in good hands, and that he believed the brethren had made choice of a most fit and able Master in Bro. G. T. Smith.

Bros. Cumberland and Longcroft were passed to the F.C. degree.

Bro. G. T. Smith was then presented to the W.M. as the W.M. elect, and all below the rank of P.M. having retired, Bro. Perrott as installing Master duly installed Bro. Smith in the chair of K.S. in a most impressive manner; (an attempt to praise

the working of any ceremony by such an able Mason as Bro. Perrott, would be only to "paint the lily and gild refined gold," so we will content ourselves by saying the installation could not have been better performed, we have before had the pleasure of drawing attention to Bro. Perrott's great labours for the good of the Craft, on this occasion he eclipsed himself. The members were then readmitted, and having saluted the W.M. in the three degrees, he proceeded to appoint and invest his officers for the ensuing year—viz.: Bros. J. D. Perrott, I.P.M.; F. R. Roberts, S.W.; E. M. Vaughan, J.W.; John Davies, Treas.; J. W. Szlumper, Hon. Sec.; E. L. Cole, S.D.; Gowan Clark, J.D.; John Jones Dir. of Cers.; J. Vaughan and T. Paul, Stewards; C. R. Williams, I.G.

Mr. B. P. Jordan who had been previously balloted for was then introduced and initiated by the W.M., Bro. G. T. Smith, in a manner that would not have disgraced a Master if that was the concluding ceremony of his year of office, instead of the inaugural one, and we congratulate the brethren upon having secured the services of a brother evidently so well skilled in the Craft, and who moreover so fully acts up to the grand principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. We augur a prosperous career to this lodge during the second year of its existence, and wish it every success with so good a Master at the helm.

The lodge was then closed with solemn prayer and in perfect harmony, and at half-past six p.m., the brethren sat down to a banquet served up in the best style, the table was covered with all the delicacies of the season, and the entire arrangements reflected great credit upon Bro. Pell. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly given, honoured, and responded to by the brethren, and the proceedings were enlivened by some capital songs, rendered in good style by Bros. the W.M., Jesse Baker, Octavius Rowe, and others.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

SUPREME GRAND CONCLAVE.

The following Agenda was issued to the members of Grand Conclave, summoned for the 14th inst., upon the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master taking the throne:—The Grand Conclave will be opened in ample form. The Grand Registrar will call the muster-roll. The minutes of the last Grand Conclave will be read. The report of the Committee will be read.

Motion to confirm the report will be made, pursuant to notice given.

Sir Knt. W. J. Meymott, P.G. Captain, C.D.C., will propose the following resolution:—

That the following addition be made to the statutes, under the head "Grand Master"—"The Grand Master may, if he think proper, by the advice and with the consent of a majority of the Committee at any meeting specially summoned to hear the complaint against any member of the Order, or at any adjourned meeting of such Committee, suspend any member of the Order for such time as he may think fit, or may fine any member of the Order in such sum of money as he may think fit, or may dismiss any member of the Order from any office which may then be held by him, or may pass such other sentence on any member of the Order as he may think fit, such judgment being approved by a majority of the members present at any such meeting of the Committee."

And in like manner Sir Knight Binckes will propose that the following addition be made:—

"That in the case of any Encampment of Knights Templar holding a warrant granted prior to 1791, and which warrant gives power to confer degrees not connected with the Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta, such degrees being now under the jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, a warrant of confirmation shall on proper application be granted by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, assuring to each Encampment all the powers it possessed under the original warrant so far as the Orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta are concerned, leaving to the members holding such original warrant the discretionary exercise of the powers therein contained, so long as they are kept separate and distinct in every respect from the Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta."

Incidental business may be spoken to.

The Grand Master will be nominated and elected in manner as of ancient rite accustomed, for the three years next ensuing.

The Grand Master will present his portrait to the Grand Conclave.

The Grand Chancellor will move an address and thanks to the Grand Master.

The Grand Almoner will collect the alms.

The first payment to the Benevolent Fund of the Order will be made.

The Grand Conclave will be closed in ample form.

NOTICE.

GRAND PRIORY OF THE ORDER OF MALTA.

A Priory of the Order of Malta will be held under the auspices of the Observance Priory, when any Knight Templar, who has given due notice to that effect, will be admitted into the Order, and none but K.K.M.M., will be allowed to remain.

Every Knight of Malta must wear the Jewel of the Order, but Templars' robes will be admissible *pro hac vice*.

The Observance Priory having been closed, a Grand Priory of Malta will be opened in ample form by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master.

The report of the Committee will be read.

A motion will be made to confirm the report.

Incidental business may be spoken to.

The Grand Priory will be closed in ample form.

By order, M. H. SHUTTLEWORTH,
Grand Vice-Chancellor.

At the Half-yearly Grand Conclave of Knights Templar, held at the Masonic Hall, Bedford-row, on Friday, the 14th December, 1866, the following Sir Knights were present:—The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, William Stuart, on the throne, supported by the Very High and Eminent Deputy Grand Master, Colonel Vernon, and by the Rev. Edward Moore, the Grand Prelate of the Order; and the Very Eminent Prov. G. Commanders—for Devonshire, the Rev. John Huyshe; Dorsetshire, Charles J. Vigne; Worcester-shire, Henry J. Vernon; Nottingham, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle; Hampshire, W. W. Beach, M.P.; Oxfordshire, Colonel Bowyer; Essex, Major Burney; Gloucester, Dr. Bryant; Northumberland, Rev. J. C. Ogle; Lancashire, Albert Hudson Royds; Hertfordshire, Geo. Francis; Norfolk, B. B. Cabell; Yorkshire (North and East), the Right Honorable Lord Louderborough; Surrey, Dr. Harcourt; Somerset, Dr. Falconer; Yorkshire (West), Rev. Dr. Senior; Kent, Colonel Clerk and China C. Rawson, or their Deputies. The Grand Seneschal, Lord Skelmersdale; the Grand Prior, the Hon. F. Walpole; the Grand Sub-Prior, the Right Honorable the Earl of Limerick; the 1st Grand Captain, George Cornwall Legh, M.P.; 2nd Grand Captain, J. M. P. Montague; the Grand Chancellor, Sir Patrick Colquhoun D. C. L.; Grand Vice-Chancellor, M. H. Shuttleworth; Grand Registrar, Joseph Lavender; Treasurer, Charles Golden, M.A.; the Grand Chamberlain, Colonel Birchall; the Grand Hospitaller, Frederick M. Williams, M.P.; the Grand Dir. of Cers., William J. Meymott; Assistant G. Dir. of Cers., James B. Thomson; Grand Superintendent, Robert Mercer; Grand Constable, S. R. P. Shilton; the Grand Provost, C. Chandos Pole; the Grand Almoner, the Rev. J. H. Grice; the Grand Warden, George Lambert; Grand 1st Expert, Rev. R. Sanderson; Grand 2nd Expert, W. E. Gumbleton (for R. Ridley); Grand 1st Standard Bearer, E. Turner Payne; 2nd Standard Bearer, Edward S. Stillwell (for the Rev. J. B. Phillips); 3rd Standard Bearer, T. Wilton; 4th Standard Bearer, J. Bolderson; 1st Aide de Camp, E. Turner (for J. Freeman); 2nd Aide de Camp, Capt. Hastie (for W. H. Wood); 1st Capt. of Lines, C. Greenwood; R. Radcliffe, 2nd Capt. of Lines; J. J. Forrester, 1st Herald; W. R. Maby, 2nd Herald; W. Ganz, G. Organist; H. Mulliner, Sword Bearer; W. S. Salting, G. Banner Bearer; Captain Philips, P. G. Sub-Prior; Captain Boyle, P. G. Sub-Prior; R. Costa, P. 1st Captain; Colonel Goddard, P. 1st Captain; W. A. Powell, P.G. Expert; R. J. Spiers, P. G. Captain; H. H. Burchell-Herne, D. Prov. G.C. Hertfordshire; L. Newall, D. Prov. G.C. Lancashire; W. H. Wright, Prov. G. Chancellor, Lancashire; C. C. W. Griffiths, Prov. G. Chancellor, Worcester; T. Coombs, Prov. G.S.B. Dorset; W. Smith, C.E., P.G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; F. Binckes, P.G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; J. W. Figg, P.G.B.B.; W. Blenkin, P.G. Chamberlain; R. Woolf, P.G. Chamberlain; R. Spencer, P.G.S.B.; and members from the following encampments: London encampments—Observance, Mount Calvary, Faith and Fidelity, The Frederick, St. Georges. In the province of Surrey, from the Harcourt, Sir Knts. W.

Blenkin, Dr. Willet, A. D. Clark, W. F. Harrison; from the Grove, Sir Knts. C. E. Amos, T. A. Smith, J. L. Allan, J. Gower, C. C. Dumas, W. Fish, Captain Hastie, J. Hart, W. Stuart, J. C. Sharp. In the province of Hertfordshire, from the Stuart, Sir Knts. J. A. Copeland, H. Finch, Captain Birchall, H. H. Burchell-Herne, T. F. Halsey. In the province of Kent, from the Kemys Tynte, Sir Knts. G. Cockie, Captain Dadson, J. J. Forrester, J. Forrester, Colonel Clerk, Captain Boyle, Captain Philips, Captain Saudeman; W. Smith, P.E.C.; J. W. Figg, G. Lambert. In the province of Essex, from the Temple Crossing, Sir Knts. R. Farren, Dr. Lilley, H. F. Smith, P. W. Mitchell, W. N. Rudge, G. Fraser. In the province of Oxford, the Cœur de Lion, Sir Knts. R. J. Spiers, A. B. Fraser, R. Palmer, the Rev. W. F. Short, G. H. Rainy, R. P. Palmer. In the province of Hampshire, from the Royal Naval, Sir Knts. W. Brignall, Major Jackson, Dr. Bogg. In the province of Suffolk, from the Royal Plantagenet, C. T. Townsend, F. B. Jennings, E. G. W. Rands, J. W. Whitbread, J. T. Helms, E. Dorling; from the Cabbell, the Hon. F. Walpole. In the province of Lancashire, from the Albert, Sir Knt. R. Hutchinson; from the Hugh de Payens, J. Hornby, R. Radcliffe; from the Hope, Learoyd Tour; from the Faith, J. Geruldsen; from the Jerusalem, J. M. Wilke, J. Bolderson; from the United, Colonel Birchall, W. H. Wright; from St. Michael, Lieut. Seymour; from the St. Salem, James Hampson, Major Brabazon Lowther. In the province of Gloucestershire; from the Bladud, Sir Knts. H. Lee, J. Lawson, J. Starkie; from the Baldwin, W. F. Taylor, W. A. Powell. In the province of Worcestershire, from the St. Amand, Sir Knts. H. Guff, C. C. W. Griffiths, W. H. Wood. In the province of Warwickshire, from the Howe, Sir Knts. the Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, J. B. Hibbert, H. J. Edwards, J. Gundry, F. Jennings, H. Mitchell, and many other knights, who omitted to sign their names, notwithstanding the great and extra precautions taken by Sir Knt. Meymott. There were at least 130 present.

The grand officers entered about a quarter past three, when after the opening of the Grand Conclave in ample form, the muster roll was called over, the minutes of the last Grand Conclave were read, and then the following report:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GRAND CONCLAVE.

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master:—The state of the Order of the Temple, over which you preside, has been so fully set forth in the preceding reports, that little remains this semester but to report the progress of the last six months.

It has pleased you, most eminent and supreme sir, to appoint Sir Knight Thomas Clarke Marshall, Provincial Grand Commander for the West Indies, vice Sir Knight Delamere, resigned, and to grant warrants for holding encampments at Cape Town, under the style and title of the Southern Cross, and in Canada West, to be holden at St. Catherine's Town, under the style and title of the Plantagenet. These bring the total number of commanderies ranging under your banner up to 106, and increases, together with additions to other camps, the estimated number of the Knights by 400.

Two provincial grand commanderies are at present vacant, that of Cheshire, and of Staffordshire and Warwickshire, which you will doubtless fill so soon as eligible Grand Officers can be found.

The complaint of the Provincial Grand Commander for Devon, made at the last conclave, having been fully discussed by the committee, in accordance with a motion to that effect, a decision has been arrived at which that officer declared would, in his opinion, satisfactorily settle the question at issue, and therefore, the committee recommend that a statute be passed to obviate any doubts which might arise in the future.

Since the last grand conclave was held, appeals against the judgments of that body have been received from the provinces of Victoria, South Australia, and Bombay. These having been duly submitted to the Grand Chancellor, as the judicial officer of the grand conclave, he decided *in genere*, that no review can be held of the judgments or sentences of grand conclave, the decrees of which, as the last court of appeal, are final, and cannot be impeached, in consequence of which they were dismissed.

There have been no other appeals during the last semester.

The negotiations for a convention with Scotland, on the basis of reciprocity, have been conducted by the Grand Chancellor, who proceeded to Edinburgh for the purpose, intrusted with your full powers.

This convention will be laid on the table of the grand conclave so soon as it shall have received the formal ratification of both the contracting parties.

It is trusted that you will now turn your attention to Ireland with the view of concluding a convention with that country on the same basis, and containing like stipulations, the reciprocal advantage of which to all three countries cannot for a moment be questioned.

The Order of Malta does not at present exist in Scotland. The Grand Chancellor assured the Scotch plenipotentiary of your willingness to render any assistance in your power with a view to introducing this distinguished Order again into the sister kingdom.

The Grand Almoner's fund amounts to £26 3s. 5d.

Your committee is happy to state that the financial resources of the Order have been able to meet the heavy outlay to which the Grand Conclave has been exposed, and trusts confidently that with care and economy the report may be more satisfactory in the future.

Lastly, your Committee has every reason to congratulate you and the Grand Conclave on the general state of the Order, but more especially on your having consented to continue the administration of the office you have so long held with such credit to yourself, and advantage to all those who range under your banner.

By order of the Committee of Grand Conclave,

P. MAC. C. de COLQUHOUN, Grand Chancellor.

This report was confirmed upon the motion of Sir Knight Gumbleton and seconded by Sir Knt. Boyle. Sir Knt. Meymott then moved, pursuant to notice, the following resolution:—

That the following addition be made to the statutes, under the head "Grand Master."

"The Grand Master may, if he think proper, by the advice and with the consent of a majority of the Committee at any meeting specially summoned to hear the complaint against any member of the Order, or at any adjourned meeting of such Committee, suspend any member of the Order for such time as he may think fit, or may fine any member of the Order in such sum of money as he may think fit, or may dismiss any member of the Order from any office which may then be held by him, or may pass such other sentence on any member of the Order as he may think fit, such judgment being approved by a majority of the members present at any such meeting of the Committee."

He gave reasons showing the necessity for the additional statute and explained that the Committee coincided with the views he himself held and then asked the Grand Conclave to allow the statute to be added.

The Deputy Grand Master cheerfully seconded the proposed motion, feeling it necessary to give this great power to the Grand Master and the Committee.

The Earl of Linlithgow did not object to the very great power now proposed, but hoped Sir Knt. Meymott would add to the statute, or at any rate not object to his proposed amendment to the sentence the following words, "such member may, however, appeal against any such judgment to the next Grand Conclave, provided he at the time of appeal pays into the hands of the Grand Treasurer the sum of £5 as a security, together with the sum, if any, that he is ordered to pay as a fine, such sum or sums to be returned, should the judgment be reversed on appeal, but otherwise or if the appeal is not made to the next Grand Conclave, the sum or sums are to be paid to the Fund of Benevolence."

Sir Knt. Meymott, with the D.G. Master, consented to the amendment. Another statute in that form was added.

Sir Knt. F. Binckes then moved, pursuant to leave of the Committee, that the following statute be passed by Grand Conclave:—

"That in the case of any Encampment of Knights Templar holding a Warrant granted prior to 1791, and which Warrant gives power to confer degrees not connected with the Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta, such degrees being now under the jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, a Warrant of Confirmation shall on proper application be granted by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, assuring to each Encampment all the powers it possessed under the original Warrant so far as the Orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta are concerned, leaving to the members holding such original Warrant the discretionary exercise of the power therein contained, so long as they are kept separate and distinct in every respect from the Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta."

He stated that this proposed statute was agreed to at the

last meeting of the committee, in consequence of the discussion that had taken place about the Provincial Grand Commander for Devonshire acting as the head of a chapter of Rose Croix, and in which proposal Sir Knt. Huyshe quite concurred. Sir Knt. Huyshe had no objection to second the proposal to add the statute. He desired that the two orders should be kept separate and distinct from all degrees of Freemasonry, and he was quite satisfied with the result of the discussion in the committee. Sir Knts. W. A. Powell and the Earl of Limerick both desired a slight amendment to this statute. Their chapter, the Baldwin of Rose Croix, and some others, did not range under the authority of the Supreme Grand Council. They had no objection to the statute if the proposer would omit the words, "such degrees being now under the jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Rite."

After some discussion the statute, as amended, was allowed to be added.

The G. Chancellor then stated the next business—the election of a Grand Master of the Order for the ensuing three years.

The D.G. MASTER at once rose, and begged the M.E. and S.G. Master not to exercise his prerogative, and act as, perhaps, his usual kind sympathies would induce him to do, namely, to leave the hall, so that their opinion and votes might be left unfettered by his presence. He then made some most felicitous and touching remarks, alluding mysteriously to the hidden secret behind yonder crimson silk curtain, and begged to move the re-election of the M.E. and S.G. Master for the ensuing three years.

Almost every one present at once rose from his seat, and held aloft his sword; no, one, in fact, could be heard for the hearty cheer.

Sir Knt. HUYSHÉ formally seconded the proposal, which was put and carried, not only unanimously, but clamorously.

The G. MASTER spoke very feelingly, and said, how he had quite wished to retire—how he had prepared to leave behind him a speaking momento of himself—how he had been over-ruled and over-persuaded—and how he had reluctantly, and yet somehow willingly, consented to continue his seat and his rule, and then he begged the acceptance by Grand Conclave of his portrait, painted by Sir Knt. Rosenthal.

At a signal from the Dir. of Cers. a crimson silk curtain was withdrawn, and a life-like portrait of the M.E. and S.G.M. was exposed to view.

The G. Chancellor, Sir P. COLQUHOUN then advanced, and asked if the G. Conclave would allow him, as its mouth-piece, to express the feeling of the members present. He then read an address written on a roll of vellum, made a most feeling address, and concluded by moving a resolution of thanks, and that it should be emblazoned on vellum and framed, and presented to the G. Master.

ADDRESS TO THE GRAND MASTER.

Most Eminent and Supreme Sir,—The Grand Conclave has deputed to me the agreeable duty of offering to you the thanks of that body for the portrait of yourself which you have been pleased to present to Grand Conclave. I am also charged to congratulate you on your re-election for the third time to the high and honourable post you have so long and so worthily filled. I have it in charge to assure you of the devotion and deep esteem in which you are held by the Grand Conclave, which has endeavoured, by the unanimity of its choice, to testify its appreciation of those eminent qualities by which you have endeared yourself, individually as well as collectively, to the members of the Order. You have been pleased to present your portrait to the Grand Conclave, and I am also desired to assure you that it will ever be a cherished memorial of your presence amongst us—*absens a nobis presens ut sis*—though it needs not this tangible materiality, this outward and visible sign, to reveal you to our recollection. We trust you will be long spared to wield your baton of office, and that, as a true and faithful Knight, you will not desert us while health and strength is your own, but, true to the last, like the blind monarch, who, with his bridle interlaced between that of his knights on either side, died fighting, will abide among us so long as the Most High will permit, and quit us only at His stern command. To multiply words would be but to adulterate the sentiments which we wish to convey. Your presidency over the Order will be marked by many salient facts. You assumed the conduct of the Order as an infant struggling into life; you have brought it to stalwart manhood. The Convention with Scotland will be remembered your work, and the effect of this measure will unite us in

close bonds with that country, from whose royal line you derive your origin as they were first politically united under James VI. The appropriate hall in which we now meet we owe principally to your munificence, though we, at the same time, must deplore the circumstance which necessitated its establishment. Your gifts to this Conclave have been multifarious, and over-well selected; the more appreciated as emanating from yourself. Your liberality has been extended to all in want, nor has your left hand known what your right hand did. In conclusion, allow me to convey to you, most Eminent and Supreme Sir, the sincere hope of this Grand Conclave, that although, *tempora labuntur tacitis que senes cumus annis*, you will be long spared to those who are near and dear to you, and to those Orders whose affection you have so justly deserved."

After the reading of this address, which was received with long continued acclamation, the Grand Chancellor concluded with the following motion:—

"That the sincere cordial and heartfelt thanks of the Grand Conclave be presented to the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master for his kind and courteous gift of a portrait of himself in his full robes as Grand Master of the Order, presented this day to Grand Conclave."

"That this resolution be not only entered on the minutes of Grand Conclave, but that a properly illuminated exemplification of it be executed on vellum and presented to the Grand Master, signed by the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Chancellor."

These motions having been put by the D.G.M., and adopted, by acclamation, the G.M. acknowledged the compliment as follows:—Sir Knights,—Being now considerably advanced in life it was my intention to have declined re-election to this important and honourable office, and but for the urgent wish expressed by its leading members, on whose sincerity I could rely as representing the feelings of the Order at large, I should have adhered to that determination. It was with this view that I directed my portrait to be painted as a remembrance of the past. As it is, you have chosen to retain the substance as well as the shadow. I sincerely thank the Grand Conclave for the flattering sentiments that that body has conveyed to me in so public a manner, and allow me to assure you that if my gifts have been acceptable to the Order, they have conferred far more pleasure on the giver than they can have done on the recipients.

Sir Knt. Wilson, Comp. of Antiquity Bath, brought under the notice of the Sir Knights assembled the case of Sir Knt. Firman, afflicted with a softening of the brain, with a view of inducing individuals to assist in getting a son into the Boy's School.

The G. Almoner then collected the alms, which was announced:—

Balance in hand	26	10	5
Received this day	11	8	6

Total..... £37 18 11

The Grand Conclave was then closed.

The G. Master stated that in about ten minutes the meeting would be constituted into a meeting of a Priory of the Order of Malta, under the auspices of the Observance Priory. The G.D.C. asked those who desired to be admitted to the Order of Malta, and had previously submitted their names, to retire to the room prepared for the purpose.

The great and splendidly decorated hall was in about a quarter of an hour quite transformed as it now was into a Priory of the Order of Malta, at least a third of the Knights changed their dress into the proper and appropriate dress of a Knight of Malta. On the admission of the candidates—who underwent the preliminary stage of the administration of the Mediterranean Pass, given to them in the large ante-room, now fitted up as a chapel, &c., we found the Grand Priors all arranged at the east table. Sir Knts. J. Huyshe the E. Prior; Cap. Philips, Captain General; Col. Clerk, Lieutenant-General; Earl of Limerick, 2nd Lieutenant; Col. Derring, 3rd Lieutenant; at the west table, Sir P. Colquhoun, G. Chancellor; C. Goddon, G. Treasurer; J. Lavender, G. Hospitaller; Capt. Boyle, G. Marshal; R. J. Spiers, G. Admiral; Rev. C. R. Davey, G. Conservator; C. Chandos Pole, G. Baillie; L. Newall, and others; at the altar, J. Binckes, G. Cap. of Outposts; M. H. Shuttleworth, G. Vice-Chancellor.

Sir Knts. Captain Sanderman, Guard of the Banner of B.; S. Rosenthal, Guard of the Banner of L.; W. H. Wright,

Guard of the Banner of D.; Rev. J. Saunderson, Guard of the Banner of R.; W. S. Salting, Grand Banner of A.

The following members of the Knights Templar Order then were duly passed and impressively admitted to the Order of Knights of Malta: Sir Knts. J. M. Montague, P.G. 2nd Capt.; Dr. Harcourt, P.G.C. Surrey; Hon. F. Walpole, G. Prior; F. M. Williams, M.P., G. Hospitaller; Colonel Birchall, G. Chamberlain; J. J. Forrester, G. Herald; R. Radcliff, G. Capt. of Lines; Rev. W. H. P. Besford, Captain Hastie, W. Fish, W. Blerikin, J. V. Morgan, R. Spencer, W. Smith, C.E., J. Jamieson, J. L. Sim, J. M. Wike, Colonel Goddard, Dr. Willett, W. F. Harrison, E. Turner, J. Hughes, G. Noel Money, Colonel Jackson, H. S. Edwards, A. J. Copleland, Major Smith, W. N. Rudge, Dr. Bogg. C. C. Pole, J. L. Allen, W. Brignall, F. Jennings, W. C. Leymow, At the conclusion of the ceremony the E. Prior left his seat, which had been placed in front of the throne, and resumed his stall, the chair was resumed, and thus the Grand Master on his throne was seated at the head of the priory. The meeting was then declared to be a duly constituted Grand Priory in England of the Order of Malta. The G. Chancellor read the following report:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE GRAND PRIORY OF
MALTA.

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,—With reference to the allusion made to the Order of the Knights of Malta last year, an Order which has been in abeyance for a long series of years, your committee has the honour to report, that with the view of introducing an uniform system of working which should emanate from competent authority, you appointed last autumn a special commission, composed of the Grand Master of Ceremonies, Sir Knt. Captain Boyle, and the Grand Vice-Chancellor, to examine into and report on the order, and submit a plan which should meet the exigencies of the case.

That commission having terminated its labours submitted the result to you in committee on the first of last month, and obtained the requisite sanction for its adoption. The result appears from the working of the Observance Priory this afternoon in the presence of many of the Grand Officers, and which cannot but be considered as satisfactory, and to reflect great credit on the care and assiduity of the commission.

With the view of investing the Order with greater solemnity, it is strongly recommended that Priors be not held on the same day as Encampments.

Your Committee trusts that the working of the Order to which sanction has been given will be found to be satisfactory, and suggests that the thanks of the Grand Priory to the commission may be added to those which it has already received from yourself, but more especially to the Grand Master of the Ceremonies for the trouble he has taken, and the taste he has displayed in the details of the ceremonial.

By order of the Committee of the Grand Priory,
P. Mac. C. de COLQUHOUN, Grand Chancellor.

This was adopted. The Grand Priory was closed in ample form, and the knights adjourned.

The hall presented a truly magnificent appearance, every stall was occupied, and each knight arranged under his banner, and many of the representatives of Provincial Encampments had floating aloft their own or the banner of their Prov. G. Encampment. The whole forming a magnificent *coup d'œil* unsurpassed by any meeting of Grand Conclave at which we have been present in Great Britain or elsewhere. Nearly the entire area of the magnificent hall was occupied by the Sir Knights, in addition to those occupying the stalls, and every office of honour was filled by Sir Knights in appropriate costumes; even the Heralds were correctly clothed according to heraldic precedent. The entire proceedings were marked by the utmost order and regularity, for which the thanks of Grand Conclave are due to Sir Knt. Meymott, in which he was supported by his able co-adjutors.

Grand as was the appearance of the hall during the meeting of Grand Conclave, it was materially enhanced when the Priory of the Order of Malta was opened; and the various auxiliary appliances employed during that ceremony, greatly added to the grand effect and the interest attaching to the meeting. Both meetings went off with great *clat*, and reflected great credit upon the prevision exercised by the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Vice-Chancellor, and assistants. About forty of the Sir Knights remained to dine with the Grand Master,

who was supported by the representatives of the Kemys Tynte' Observance, and Grove Encampments.

[We are not responsible for the Latin.—Fd. F.M.]

RED CROSS KNIGHTS.

SURREY.

BARNES.—*Rose of Denmark Conclave* (No. 3).—An influential meeting of the founders and promoters of the above conclave was held at the private residence of Dr. Clarke, St. Leonards, Mortlake, on the 14th inst. The following brethren to be the first officers, E. Sir Knt. Fredk. Walters, M.P.S.; G. H. Oliver, V.E.; S. B. Clarke, S.G.; Robert Ord, J.G. and Treas.; W. Dold, Recorder; Rev. J. Sydney Darvell, H.P.; Richard Gurney, Prefect, J. M. Graham, Standard Bearer; the office of Herald being left open for the present. The by-laws of the Plantagenet Conclave were adopted as the basis of those intended for the government of the new conclave. Sir Knt. Little, G.R., undertook, at the request of the Knights Companions to perform the ceremony of consecration and enthrone the M.P.S. The knights then adjourned to a capital repast, hospitably provided by Dr. Clarke, and the healths of that gentleman, Sir Knts. Walters, Little, Ord, etc., were cordially proposed and warmly received in the course of the evening.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

GUERNSEY.

DOYLE'S LODGE (No. 84).—The ordinary monthly meeting was held on Wednesday December 12th. The lodge was opened at eight o'clock by Bro. Guilbert, W.M., supported by Bro. Gallienne, D.P.G.M.; Bros. Churchouse, Hutchinison, Sparrow, Smithard, Collinette, Wilcocks, and Sarchet, P.M.'s; Coles, S.W.; Martin, J.W.; Turton, S.D.; Gardner, J.D.; and the I.G. There were also present as visitors, Bro. the Rev. True-man, No. 814, and Past Provincial Grand Chaplain for Somersetshire; Major Dawson, No. 243; Thurston, J.W., 243; Dr. Hopkins, P.M., 43, and 958, &c., and Bro. Naish. Besides these there were only one or two members of the lodge in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. On a ballot being taken, Bro. Guilbert was re-elected W.M.; Bro. Hutchinison, Treas.; and Bro. Mauger, Tyler. It was determined to have the installation and annual banquet on the usual lodge day in January, instead of December 27th, and a committee was appointed to make the arrangements. On the proposition of Bro. Dr. Collinette, seconded by Bro. Smithard, the regulation as to the method of taking the ballot in the election of W.M., was made more definite. Bro. Sneath was proposed as a joining member of the lodge. Bro. Dr. Hopkins read to the brethren a translation he had been recently called upon to make of an extract from the writings of Mons Heuri Martin, the French historian, on the character and antiquity of Freemasonry, with especial reference to an attempt made not long ago on the continent, to discard the volume of the Sacred Law and the name of the G.A.O.T.U. from use in Masonic lodges. The reading was listened to with much interest, as it had been previously in the Césarée Lodge, Jersey, when given in the original language by Bro. Schmitt, a translation of Mons Martins' article is given on another page of our present issue. The lodge was closed at a quarter past nine, and the brethren adjourned to the refreshment room.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—Continuing our report of the meeting given in our last; upon the close of Bro. Schmitt's admirable address—which is given in another page—it was proposed by the W.M., seconded by the I.P.M. and carried unanimously, "that the address of the Secretary Bro. Schmitt be entered on the minutes of the lodge." The Secretary then read to the lodge a highly instructive article "A few words on Freemasonry," copied from *Le Siècle*, the writer, Mons. Henri Martin, though not a Freemason, is one of the most celebrated historians of the day; Mons. Martin, it may be here stated, was a candidate for a vacant chair in L'Academie Française, the number of whose savants is strictly limited to

erty, he was defeated by a young competitor, Mons. Prevost Paradot, who obtained his seat in that august assembly by a small majority, owing to political influence. We have given the article in another page, there are points in it which amply entitle it to the careful perusal and attention of the Craft. The Secretary having concluded the reading of this article, Bros. E. Jaboneau and Capt. Ph. Le Jeune were proposed as joining members. Several matters of routine were disposed of, and the lodge was closed at half past nine in love and perfect harmony. We must not omit to add that for the translation of Mons. Martin's paper, as also of the address delivered by Bro. Schmitt, we are indebted to our excellent brother and esteemed correspondent Dr. H. Hopkins.

ISLE OF MAN.

RAMSEY.—*S. Manghold Lodge* (No. 1,075).—A lodge of emergency was held in the rooms of this lodge, Waterloo-road, on Wednesday, the 20th ult. Bro. Rothwell, W.M., occupied the east, whilst the west and south were occupied by Bros. J. McWhannell, and W. Hunter. The other officers and brethren present being Bros. the Rev. Kermode, Chap.; W. Laughlin, Sec.; G. H. Walker as J.W.; R. B. Henperson, I.G.; F. Tellet, Rev. T. Henry, Rev. J. E. Pattison, J. J. Cleator, A. B. Skeoch, J. Higgins, R. Yeare, J. Vondy. The lodge having been opened in due form, the business of the evening was stated to be to initiate three gentlemen who had already been ballotted for and accepted. The W.M. then, in his usual impressive manner, initiated Mr. T. Kneale, Dr. Thompson, and Mr. R. J. Kelly. The brethren then adjourned to the ante-room, when after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, "The Health of the Newly Initiated Brethren." was proposed. The Rev. Chaplain complimented the lodge on the acquisition of such useful members as had been that night initiated. Bro. Thomson had done good service to his country abroad, and since his return had, by his gratuitous services to the poor and needy, shown that he was well fitted to become a Mason; indeed, one of whom Masonry might well be proud. He also spoke in complimentary terms of the other gentlemen who had just received their first degrees, to which the brethren duly responded. After the closing toast the brethren separated in love and harmony.

Poetry.

CHRISTMAS DAY—AN ACROSTIC.

C heerful Masons! greet the season,
H eaven-sent joys are thine or "ours" to-day;
R ugg'd as may be the footpath
I n life's ordinary way.
S weet it is to welcome yearly—
T hink of, perhaps, for weeks before;
M any pure endearing pleasures,
A ll may hope to have in store.
S eldom are we disappointed.

D o as Masons should—our best—
A ll around to render happy,
Y outh and age will both be blest.

L. TWINING.

THE WEEK.

¶ **THE COURT.**—The Queen drove out on the afternoon of the 12th inst., accompanied by Princess Louise, and her Majesty walked in the grounds on the morning of the 13th inst., accompanied by her Royal Highness. The Queen walked out in the afternoon, attended by the Marchioness of Ely. It being the anniversary of the Queen's great sorrow, her Majesty, accompanied by the Royal Family, went to the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, and remained there some time. The Dean of Wind-

sor attended, and read prayers and portions of Scripture selected for the occasion. After the Queen's return to the Castle, the Mausoleum was, by her Majesty's command, opened for all the members of the household, including the servants, residents within the Castle, and most of her Majesty's tradesmen in Windsor, to visit it. The Queen, with their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold Princess Beatrice, and Prince Henry of Prussia, left the Castle on the morning of the 15th inst., at five minutes past eleven o'clock for Osborne. The Queen, their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Henry of Prussia arrived at Osborne at ten minutes before three o'clock. Her Majesty crossed over from Gosport in the Royal yacht Alberta, Captain his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen. The Queen and Princess Louise walked and drove in the grounds on the morning of the 17th inst. The Queen went out in the afternoon with Princess Beatrice, and her Majesty walked and rode in the grounds on the morning of the 18th inst. with Princess Louise. The Queen drove out in the afternoon, accompanied by Princess Christian; and her Majesty walked and rode in the grounds on the morning of the 19th inst., with Princess Louise.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The weekly return as to the health of London, published by the Registrar-General, is again favourable, so far as comparison with the number of deaths compared with the average of past years will give any indication. The deaths from all causes registered were 1389, 80 less than the average. Amongst them were 2 from cholera and 25 from diarrhoea. The annual rates of mortality for the week ending Dec. 10th, in thirteen of the largest towns, per 1,000, are reported as follows:—Hull 19, Bristol 20, Birmingham 21, London and Leeds 24, Dublin 26, Salford 27, Manchester 28, Sheffield 29, Glasgow 31, Liverpool 32, Edinburgh 33, and Newcastle-on-Tyne 41.—The second colliery explosion, which took place about four miles from Tunstall, although not so calamitous as the Barnsley catastrophe, is the most serious that has yet occurred in the North Staffordshire coal-field. It is believed that one hundred and thirty-seven persons have perished. The Talk-o'-the Hill Colliery descended to a depth of three hundred yards, and a seam of gas coal had lately been reached, the working of which was known to be dangerous. A Birmingham contemporary forcibly remarks that, "Never, since the battle of Culloden, have so many lives been lost by violence within so short a period in Great Britain."—The heroism disclosed in the reports of the second explosion at the Oaks Colliery has never been surpassed in the history of human self-sacrifice or self-devotion. Mr. Jeffcock, the engineer, for example, was repeatedly urged to make good his escape, but he would not desert his companions, and took his chance with the rest, the result being that immediately after the cage into which he might have entered had reached the pit's mouth, he and many other brave men perished in the last explosion. One man, named Brown, was on the 14th inst. rescued from the pit. He was one of the volunteer searchers. How he escaped is a marvel. He seems to have wandered about the pit through the night, stumbling over the dead, and finding his way at last to the mouth of the pit, where, fortunately, he succeeded in making himself heard.—A breach of promise of marriage case, *Nicholls v. Fox*, was tried in the Court of Queen's Bench. The plaintiff, Miss Nicholls, was thirty-eight or thirty-nine years of age, and the defendant, a publican, forty-one or forty-two. There was no particular interest in the case. The jury assessed the damage done to Miss Nicholls's feelings at £250.—At Bow-street a young man, calling himself Henry

Philip Dashwood Arthy, was brought up charged with obtaining £100 from the Royal Bounty Fund under false pretences. He had written to Lord Derby in the name of Mrs. Caroline Chisholm, asking for a grant, and his lordship made the grant. The necessary documents were sent to the address given by the prisoner, and he obtained the money. Subsequently he was arrested on another charge of obtaining money under false pretences, and is undergoing a term of imprisonment in Canterbury Gaol, whence he was brought by *habeas corpus*. He was committed for trial on the new charge.—A deputation from the Central Chamber of Agricultural waited, on the 17th inst., upon the Duke of Buckingham relative to the cattle plague restrictions. The deputation urged that a most unwise step had been taken in permitting anywhere the holding of markets and fairs. The Duke of Buckingham said it was merely a question between cattle being moved and sold under license and proper regulations and a profession of total stoppage which led to gross evasions. The deputation next urged that fat cattle coming from abroad should be slaughtered on landing, and that store stock should be subjected to twenty-eight days' quarantine. After a long conversation, his Grace said the matter would probably come before Parliament. The prizes competed for by the members of the North Middlesex Rifles have been distributed at the St. Pancras Vestry Hall by Mr. Thomas Chambers, Q.C., M.P. Mr. Harvey Lewis, M.P., and Lord Ranelagh were among those present. His lordship said the volunteer force was not in that state of organisation which it should be, and it was "a farce" for the Government to ignore the fact any longer. Let them boldly face the difficulty, and come forward with some scheme which would place the great volunteer regiments of this country in a proper state of organisation.—At Leeds, on the 15th inst., a poetic offender excited the sympathy of an appreciative judge. While in the lock-up he wrote a number of verses, in which he set forth how the Devil tempted him to commit the robbery, how chance gave him the opportunity, and how conscience at last prevented the completion of his guilty design. After his conviction, he handed a poetic appeal to Mr. Justice Lush, who read a portion of it to the jury. The prisoner, after making various piteous appeals for mercy, promised if they were responded to he would embalm both judge and jury in immortal verse. The judge complimented him on his talents, and sentenced him to twelve months hard labour.—There have been several more explosions at Barnsley, and these are expected to continue unless the pit is inundated. The bodies that have been recovered were buried on the 15th inst. The Bishop of Ripon was one of the officiating clergymen.—Moses Moses, the receiver of stolen goods, upon whose premises in Houndsditch so much valuable property was recently found, was tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 17th inst. He was convicted in several cases of receiving stolen goods, and was sentenced to 20 years' penal servitude.—The polling at Guildford took place on the 18th inst. The Liberal party had good hopes of the return of Mr. Poccock, and at ten o'clock he was well ahead. By twelve, however, Mr. Garth headed the poll by a considerable majority, and maintained his lead to the end.—The cause of the Staffordshire explosion has been discovered. The blacksmith's safety-lamp was found with its top off, and the flame of course at once ignited the gas. The blacksmith usually does his work close to the shaft, where there is no danger of explosion, and he is therefore enabled to use a common lamp. In this case the unfortunate man seems to have strolled into the workings with his lamp, and thus caused the explosion.—Lawyers, like other hard

worked men, look forward to Christmas as eagerly as schoolboys anticipate the vacation. The Solicitor-General represented the feeling of the profession generally when, on the 18th inst., he prayed the Lord Chief Justice to allow the sittings to terminate on the Saturday before Christmas Day, instead of on the Monday. His lordship graciously acceded to the request, and no doubt judges, counsels, and jurors are all equally satisfied with an arrangement which adds another day to their Christmas holiday.—A ceremony of much interest and of no small amount of social and political importance has been gone through at Blackwall. Through the instrumentality of the benevolent gentlemen who constitute the committee of the Refuge for Homeless and Destitute Boys, what may now be called an ex-fifty gun frigate, the *Chichester*, has been converted into a training ship for the homeless boys of London, and the 18th inst. witnessed the inauguration of the vessel. It appears that this is only a portion of the good work sought to be accomplished. The entire scheme is to provide for 400 of the same class of boys. It is proposed to retain 100 boys in the Refuge in Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, keep 200 on board the training ship, where they are to be educated for a seafaring life, and establish what is to be called a "country house," with about 100 acres of land, where 100 more boys may be trained to agricultural pursuits. The sum required for fitting up and furnishing the *Chichester* for the reception of the boys is £3,000, and the annual expense of each boy is estimated at £15. Surely this is a movement worthy of the practical sympathy of the charitably disposed.—The boy Gabbites, who murdered his fellow-apprentice so savagely at Sheffield a short time since, has been tried at Leeds. The jury, without much hesitation, found him guilty, but recommended him to mercy. The judge, who was very much affected, passed sentence of death, and promised to forward the recommendation of the jury to the proper quarter.—On the 17th instant an inquest was held on the body of a surgeon, named Vale, who was not in practice, but enjoyed a comfortable income derived from house property and an annuity. The deceased may literally be said to have committed suicide by drink. He drank away all the proceeds of the property he could sell, and for a long time before his death he demeaned himself more like a savage than a civilised being. Ultimately he died from effusion on the brain.—An inquiry, presided over by Dr. Lankester, has brought to light some startling facts connected with the means by which a large class of London workpeople get a living. A man named Honey, and his four children, following the occupation of artificial flower-makers for one of the forthcoming pantomimes. Night and day for ninety-six hours had these poor people stuck to their work, so as to have it ready in time; and this, the father states, he has been frequently compelled to do, in order to earn bread for his family. At the close of the fourth day their labours were suddenly put a stop to by the upsetting of a candle, which simple accident resulted in the burning to death of one of the unfortunate man's children, and the destruction of the whole fruits of the ninety-six hours' constant work.—It

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Several letters, lodge reports, &c., have reached us, which we are prevented, from want of space, inserting in our present issue. S. L. and I. U. M. W.—We have answered your queries by letter. A MARK MASTER.—Our issue of last Saturday contains the report of the proceedings at the winter half-yearly convocation held on the 4th inst. You will find your queries answered therein, and we feel assured if you address yourself to Bro. Binckes, the Mark G. Sec., that he will afford you any further information you may require.