

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1867.

THE BI-CENTENARY JUBILEE OF THE
GRAND MASTER OF THE NETHER-
LANDS.

ON November 27th, 1866, there was celebrated, as briefly announced in previous numbers of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, in Amsterdam, a festival altogether unique and unparalleled in the annals of Freemasonry; it was the fiftieth anniversary of the assumption of the Grand Mastership of the Netherlands by Bro. Prince Frederick.* Several reports of the proceedings at this gathering have reached us, but we naturally give the preference to that drawn up by a brother holding a high position under the Grand Lodge of Holland, and, although our space is too limited to admit of our giving it in full, we gladly find room for laying before our readers the substance of it, and we need hardly apologise for adhering in the main to the reporter's own terse language.

The celebration of the festival, originally appointed to take place in May, had necessarily to be postponed, owing to the cholera epidemic then raging in the Netherlands, and the scourge of war threatening at the time to devastate the whole of Central Europe; and there being at the Hague, the official seat of the Grand Orient, no assembly room spacious enough to hold the large number of brethren who were expected to join in the gathering, it was determined that the latter should take place on the 27th of November, at the Palace of Industry, Amsterdam, being an edifice particularly appropriate for a purpose of this kind. The nave of this magnificent building was divided in two parts; two-fifths were allotted to the celebration of the festival; the remaining three-fifths to serve as banquet room, and both parts were splendidly decorated with Masonic emblems, arms, banners, and tapestry, and such flowers and arbusts as could be provided.

Eleven o'clock in the morning was the hour appointed for the beginning of the feast. Long before that time, the rooms adjoining the hall were crowded by brethren from all parts of the country, the delegates from lodges and chapters being accommodated with rooms separated from those of the other visitors. At half-past nine the

Prince arrived at Amsterdam by a special train, and was met at the station by the Grand Directors of Ceremonies of the Grand Orient, of the Grand Chapter Rose Croix, and of the higher Master degrees, who conducted his Royal Highness to the Palace of Industry, where he was received by the Grand Officers, the representatives of foreign Grand Lodges, and some more deputations from the same, and led to a private room elegantly furnished for his accommodation. At eleven precisely the deputations of lodges and chapters were conducted into the nave, and took the seats appointed for them on both sides, the deputations on the first row, the Masters, Fellow Crafts, and Apprentices behind them. When all were seated, the Grand Officers and representatives entered in procession from the opposite side, and took their places under the dais.

In the Netherlands, not more than three kinds of Masonry are recognised, viz.—1st, the St. John's Masonry, including the degrees of Master, Fellow Craft, and Apprentice; 2nd, the Rose Croix degree; 3rd, the degree of Master elect. The Prince is Grand Master of all three classes. Now, it had been agreed that the feast should be celebrated by the three degrees combined, the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orient in the chair, and the Grand Wardens of the Rose Croix, and of the degree of Master elect, acting as Senior and Junior Wardens. Everybody being seated, a deputation was formed, and sent forth to marshal in the hero of the day. After a short lapse of time he made his appearance, which was greeted by flourishes and music, and he was welcomed on the throne by his deputy. After a brilliant musical overture, composed and conducted by Bro. Dunkler, the able band-master of the regiment of chasseurs, the first part of a *cantate* was sung, the words being written by Bro. Ter Gould, the music by Bro. Nicolai, principal of the Royal Academy of Music of the Hague. In the meantime, Bro. Jacob van Lennep, Grand Orator, had proceeded to a kind of pulpit erected for the occasion in the centre of the nave, and, after the termination of the musical performance, he delivered an address, of which we here give the main passages. After some introductory words, Bro. van Lennep went on as follows:—

"On the 20th of June, 1816, at six o'clock in the evening, three knocks at the door of the Grand National Mother Lodge *Zu den drey Weltkugeln* at Berlin, meeting in the first degree, Bro. de Guionneau, National Grand Master, in the chair, announced that a profane was standing outside, who wished to be received in the Order of Freemasonry. The usual

* Prince William Frederick Charles was born 28th February, 1797; he is a son of King William I. and Princess Frederica of Prussia, and uncle to the present King of the Netherlands.

question being put to him, he answered that he was called William Frederick Charles, Prince of the Netherlands, aged nineteen, of the Christian reformed religion, born at Berlin, Lieutenant-General by calling, having his ordinary residence at Berlin, and being then a temporary resident of Berlin. The Orator then inquired what could have induced this youth to present himself as a candidate for initiation into Masonry, and having mentioned the various reasons given under ordinary circumstances, he showed how, in addition to these, there was a special ground for his application, viz., that it was the wish of his royal father, and that eighteen days previous to that of his application, the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands had elected him their Grand Master."

Having given an account of the state of Masonry in the Netherlands at that time, how the glorious revolution of 1813, while breaking the yoke of France and placing the dynasty of Orange on the throne of the Netherlands, did at the same time deliver the Dutch lodges of the danger of being compelled to recognise the Grand Orient of France as their head, the Orator stated that, after the union of Belgium and Holland into one kingdom, it had been thought desirable to elect as the head of the Freemasons of both countries one who, from his exalted position, would be acceptable to both, and, therefore, could only be found in the royal family, it being considered that that family could never give the preference to one section of the country above the other. This, the speaker said, was the means chosen and carried into effect by some of the most eminent Masons of the day, especially Bros. Falck (then Secretary of State, afterwards Minister at the British Court) and Byleveld, Past Grand Master :—

"The Prince having been passed on the 2nd of July, and raised on the 25th of the same month, sent, on the 28th, a favourable answer to the Grand Lodge, and his installation as Grand Master took place on the 13th of October, 1816. On this occasion he solemnly promised that he would strive, to the best of his ability, to advance the prosperity and glory of the Order, and to foster and maintain concord, peace, and harmony amongst the brethren. At that time there was, perhaps, amidst those who heard him pronounce this solemn vow, more than one who asked himself how that youth of nineteen should ever be able, even if animated with the best intentions, to fulfil the hopes entertained by the brethren, and respond to the task laid that day upon his shoulders. That question has now been answered. It has been answered by fifty years, during which no single day has been allowed by the Prince to elapse without his giving proofs of his attachment to the brotherhood. It has been answered by the test of all that has been accomplished by the Prince in his capacity of National Grand Master; but the most eloquent reply is given by the hearts of most of those present."

The speaker next gave a succinct account of the principal reforms which had been effected in the working of the order during the Prince's tenure of office. He then mentioned two instances out of many of the material services rendered by him to the Craft in the Netherlands, viz. :—

1st. On the twenty-fifth anniversary of his Grand Mastership, he presented the Order with a large gift, to remain intact for a certain number of years, and afterwards to be appropriated by the Grand Orient towards the realisation of some object of

charity.* 2nd. In 1856, upon the celebration of the centenary festival in commemoration of the institution of Masonry in the Netherlands, he made to the Grand Orient a free donation of the mansion at the Hague in which they are accustomed to meet.

Here the speaker paused, and the second part of the *cantate* was sung. He then resumed his discourse, when he did full justice to Prince Frederick's merits as Prince, as husband and father, as subject and citizen; by the combination of which virtues he proved himself to be an excellent Mason. He closed his speech by an exhortation to the brethren to follow the good example of the revered Grand Master, and with a prayer for his welfare. After this the third part of the *cantate* was given.

The Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Van Rappard, then, addressing the Prince, presented him with a memorial signed by the Grand Officers and all the brethren present, and expressing the feelings of the Dutch Masons on this occasion. This document, a masterpiece of calligraphy, was enclosed in a magnificent octagonal case of silver inlaid with gold, the front bearing the Prince's sign manual in diamonds, surmounted with a crown ornamented with pearls, esmeralds and rubies; the back bearing the seals of the three grand Masonic bodies, the two other opposite sides the dates, 1816 and 1866, and the four smaller sides different Masonic emblems, while on the edges eight cariatides supported the lid of the box, on the top of which stands the Angel of Light holding in the left arm the palm of victory, and trampling upon a dragon. This present was much admired, and does great honour to the maker, Bro. Brauer, of Utrecht.

After this Count de Saltza addressed the Prince in the name of the King and Craft of Sweden. Bro. Leykam, Grand Master of the Concordia Grand Lodge of Darmstadt, presented H.R.H. with a patent of honorary member of the said lodge, and the representatives of the different Grand Lodges, each in turn, with letters of congratulation from these bodies. The members of the Lodge *L'Union Royale* at the Hague, of which the Prince is honorary member, next presented him with a fine casing, surmounted by a beautiful statue representing Masonry, and holding an album, at the same time Bro. Mensing, W.M. of that lodge, delivered an appropriate address to the Prince. The delegates from the lodges of

* This fund will now be used for the erection of a school for children of deceased Masons.

Java and Sumatra, likewise presented a suitable offering. The Prince was visibly affected by all these tokens of affection, and repeatedly his eye was seen dimmed with a tear. The last gift which was presented by Bro. Van Reppard was a small box, containing three specimens in gold, silver, and brass of a medal struck for this occasion, having on its front the Prince's portrait, with the legend GUL (ielmus) FREDERICUS CAR (olas) L ANN (os) M (agnus) AP (ud) CAEM (entarios) BAT (avos) MAG (ister), and various Masonic emblems on its back. The maker's name is Bro. Elion, of Amsterdam.

A brilliant finale by Bro. Dunkler having been performed, four verses of which were sung in chorus, in the tune of Psalm lxi., the brethren marched in two files before the throne, each in turn saluting the Grand Master in passing. When all had again resumed their seats, the Prince said he felt the necessity of once more thanking them for their affection for him, especially those who had by their compositions (either poetical or musical) contributed to the solemnity. Then turning to the Grand Orator, he expressed the pleasure he had felt in hearing his Masonic career recorded by him from its beginning, and said that if he could find any fault in Bro. Van Lennep's speeches, it was that he had given him more praise than he deserved; that, nevertheless, he knew that his words were the true expression of the feelings of his heart, and hoped the Grand Orator would continue the friendship and affection he had always met on his part. He then left the throne with the Grand Officers, was marshalled out by the Director of Ceremonies, and betook himself to a waiting-room, where he remained with the Grand Officers and deputies till dinner was announced.

The ceremony had lasted till half-past four, and the banquet was opened at six, the Prince and the high authorities being seated on a platform under the cupola, and the other brethren at some twenty tables. The hall being now lighted up with gas, the whole presented a magnificent sight. The following toasts were proposed, and heartily responded to: "The King," by Bro. Van Rappard; "Bro. Prince Frederick," by Bro. Van Doorn, D.G.M. of the Rose Croix; "The Prince's Consort and Children," by Bro. Van Rockveld; "The Delegates of Sweden and Darmstadt," by Bro. Van Lennep; "The Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges," by Bro. Wierdsoma,

J.G. Warden. Thanks were returned by the parties concerned.

At eleven o'clock the last toast for the welfare of the Order was given by Bro. Willekes MacDonald, 1st. G. Deacon, and soon after the proceedings were brought to a close. Special trains were despatched to take the Prince and other brethren residing in the country to their respective homes.

Thus ended a festival which will be long remembered by all those who joined in it, on account not only of the prominence of the hero and the importance of the event, but also the remarkable exhibition of true Masonic feelings and cosmopolitan spirit, of which it offered the most unquestionable testimony.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LXXXV.

XII.—NEPTUNE AND FEBRUARY.

Poseidon, or Neptune, is represented in coloured statuary, or in person, with black hair, blue eyes, a manly form, and arrayed in a gorgeously bright flowing azure mantle. In his right hand he holds a three-tined sceptre. With his left hand he clasps the heart-side of the waist of his queen, the fair Amphithrite. His chariot, in which they stand upright, is formed like or is a superbly large and polished scalop-shell, drawn by sea-horses, and attended by his son Triton, and a guard of marine gods.

It would appear, according to some, that the Monarch of the Sea derives his name from no word of the Greek or Latin. On the other hand there has been a contest about its root. Tully thinks it was from *nato*, to swim, that is, he may have meant *neo* (νέω), but on our part we think he might just as wisely have asserted from *nipito* (νίπτω), to wash. Be it as it may, he did not boast in names, but besides Amphithrite, Neptune had two other wives, the one called Salacia, from *Salum*, the sea; the other named Venilia, from *veniendo*, because the sea ebbs and flows. This is also far-fetched. We are told that Saturn had a son named Picus, one of the kings of the Latins, father of Faunus (Nat. Comes, lib. 5), who married Fauna, or Fatua, whence the Fauni; she was possessed of the gift of prophecy after he had consecrated or made her a priestess. We are further told, Aeneid VII., that "Latinus, old and mild, had long possessed the Latian sceptre, and his people blessed his father, Faunus; a Lauren-

tian dame his mother—fair Marica was her name. But Faunus came from Picus; Picus drew his birth from Saturn, if records be true.” Certainly some records do mention that Faunus or Fatuellus had in marriage Venilia, and that the word of itself signifies the flowing of the sea. We might almost now again find cause to speak of Italy in the words of the poet just quoted, without becoming very ambiguous:—

“Now, Erato, thy poetic mind inspire,
And fill his soul with thy celestial fire;
Relate what Latium was; her ancient kings;
Declare the past and present state of things;
When first the Trojan fleet Ausonia sought,
And how the rivals loved and how they fought.
These were my theme, and how the war began,
And how concluded by the God-like man.
For I shall sing of battles, blood, and rage,
Which princes and their people did engage;
And haughty souls, which moved with mutual hate,
In fighting fields pursued and found their fate,
That roused the Tyrrhene realms with loud alarms,
And peaceful Italy involved in arms,
A larger scene of action is display’d,
And rising hence a greater work is weigh’d.
The priest on skins of offerings takes his ease,
And nightly visions in his slumber sees.
A swarm of thin aerial shapes appears,
Floats round his temples, deafening his ears.
These he consults the future fate to know,
From powers above, and from the friends below.”

When Neptune, or rather Jupiter, came of age, he divested his father, Saturn, of regality, and divided the kingdom, which must have comprised the four principal elements, or otherwise heaven and earth, between himself, his wife, Juno, Pluto, and Neptune.

It is to be observed that those sons of Ops, otherwise called Cybele, and also named *Magna Deorum Mater*, “the Great Mother of the Gods,” i.e., the earth, must have been born, according to received chronology, which we doubt not, like many other things, is liable to err, sometime long after the Deluge. Furthermore, the Jupiter of whom we treat was the third, or, as we take it, a thrice-born, Jupiter; for, it is said that the learned in heathen theology have concluded that there were three principal Jupiters; that the first and second were born in Arcadia, of which the father of the one was *Æther*, from whom Proserpine and Liber descended. The father of the other was Calus, who it is computed begot Minerva; the third being as supposed, the son of Saturn, and born in the Isle of Crete. But it is in this manner that it is to be understood. At the birth of Zeus, to prevent Kronus destroying him, Cybele, or Rhea, sent Hera, his twin-sister, to her father and had the immortal babe, or *pneuma* (*πνεῦμα*) conveyed to the nymphs on

Mount Ida to be educated and befitted by them for man’s estate. On arriving at some such stage of pubescence, Zeus was not long in discovering the secret of his birth. He may have entered into man’s estate in two ways consistently with the ancient Greek or Pelasgian, and other ancient doctrines, and in one way or the other it must have been, if we are to comprehend him as the king of Crete, or as the Kronides, Zeus, joined with Poseidon, and Hades, triumphantly defeating their father, Kronus and the united Uranides, or Titans, and dividing the sovereignty of the world between them. It was heaven and earth that Zeus claimed; Poseidon, the rulership of the sea; Hades, the government of hell. The admixture of different organisations of religion has ever ended in confounding by such a course a national hierarchy. It has engendered dreadful superstitions, extravagant suppositions, and exaggerated fables. Through such adaption and heresy the sacred systems of Greece and Rome became disorganised and abused, the more and more they approached to hybridism and fell from their legitimacy. In this respect especially we may point to Rome; she has with special unsteady worship introduced a multitude of idol gods, with their borrowed Grecian feast-days and fast-days and ceremonies into her temple. She has, in like manner, introduced a multitude of idol-saints, with their borrowed Roman feast-days and fast-days and ceremonies into her Church. Long, indeed, there has been a den of thieves to be driven out. And here then, at last, in this respect, we may well rejoice to see the progressive success of that King, Emanuel, whose good sense and good sword has achieved for Italy so glorious a service.

The erudite ancients for the most believed a wide-world kingdom was in a state of creation before time, that is, before the birth of Kronus, when there existed an universal whole and soul in one amalgamated body, out of which proceeded, to make use of Greek names, Tartarus, Nyx, Hemera, and Eros (Hell, Night, Day, and Love), Gaia and Uranus (Earth and Heaven), whence, from the union of these two, creation now being complete, sprang Kronos (Time), the youngest of the twelve Titans; the Cyclops, and the hundred-handed Giants. These all grew so hateful to Uranus, that he imprisoned them in the centre of the earth. This act of harshness exciting the compassion of Gaia, she furnished them with iron and the means of its use, wherewith they manu-

factured a weapon very similar to an olden reaping knife. Armed with this weapon, they determined to attack their obdurate father, but at the moment of action the courage of the mighty band of brothers, with the exception of the youngest, failed them. Kronos, however, by a secret blow, deposed Uranus, and confined him in hell; nevertheless, eventually and similarly to be himself deposed, and cast out of heaven by his son Zeus.

THE NEMESIS: A TALE OF THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

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(Continued from page 68.)

CHAPTER XIX.

CENNA'S LEGACY.

"Yes, Sir, he is dead, but he has left a very pretty legacy behind him. Look, you, it is a small book but curious; a devil's book and may bring some to destruction."

To that fatal banquet, which swept him from life, the unfortunate Cenna had brought his magnum opus, the account of the Cloaca Maxima, as well as other papers of equal importance. Balbus fell heir to them by right of might, Murena and the others being too horror struck by the fell tragedy played out before their eyes to pay much attention to the robbing of the dead. Balbus, while destroying all trace of their existence, by the death of the informer, struck a death blow at the existence of the Bacchanalian society. Murena buried himself in his own house, seldom appearing in public, while the others who had been present at Cenna's murder fled from Rome in terror of the consequences. Without leaders, the society dissolved, and the other members sought their pleasures in other channels. Balbus, with the deed accomplished passed it from his mind. It had been successful, and that was all he cared for. But most eagerly did he examine the papers of his victim, in them he found a rich mine of wealth of fame and he saw before him a grand vista open of literary renown. Not alone had Cenna devoted his attention to the Cloaca Maxima and the early buildings of Rome, he had been a frequent visitor to the catacombs, and had prepared a sketch of certain portions he had explored. This paper rivetted Balbus's attention.

Cenna had entered the catacombs one day near the city, while examining the arches of the Aqua Claudia. His attention had long been given to them, but the dangers which were supposed to exist in them, had deterred him from their exploration. This time however curiosity mastered fear, and he resolved to commence their exploration. The entrance by which he gained admittance was one by which the Christians were accustomed to descend to their chapels. Cenna, with caution examined the entrance, and letting himself down found before him a long low passage, through which he passed, till he came upon a kind of square from whence three other roads branched off. He had a lamp with him, which he now lighted, and examined the passages. At the entrance to one of them, he found cut in the wall, a carefully cut cross, from which ran a deep groove the whole length of the passage, and at the other end it was stopped by another deep cut cross. Carefully noting the passage by which he had gained entrance, he extinguished his lamp, and placing his hand in the groove marched along the branch, until he emerged upon another square, with four galleries running off from it. One of these bore a similar cross and groove, and following it, and others of a like character, he was stopped at length by the chapel.

Cenna, a keen intellect, saw something extremely suspicious in this, and although there was little to be discovered in the chapel itself, without he found many of the roads marked with crosses and with grooves running along the sides, branching off in all directions. Ultimately he examined each passage, taking them day by day, noting from whence they came, and where they stopped. Before however he could make any particular discovery, death stepped in, and Balbus heired this fruits of his discovery. Balbus was well read in the past history, both of Rome and Judea, if he had an inclination at all in religious matters, it was to the Jewish faith, the faith of his fathers, for Balbus, who could trace his pedigree up to the days of Adam, looked down in secret upon the Romans, who were to his race but a people of yesterday. Sceptic as he was on the matter of an after life, he believed firmly in the pre-eminence of the Jews, and his dreams of ambition were coloured with bright hopes that he might be the chieftain to raise the fallen banner of Israel, and found a new Jerusalem on the Roman Empire. But it was politically, not spiritually he dreamed;

the new empire would require a religion, and he would leave that to be settled by the priests. He was on intimate terms with many of the leading Jews, through whose agency he invested his money to profit. The mark of the cross was the first light thrown upon the chart of the catacombs, Cenna knew not that it was the badge of the Christian faith, but Balbus did, and he hugged himself as he saw from this discovery, the grandest results arising to himself.

A debauchee, a lawless tyrant in his way, an alien to every honourable feeling, Balbus was yet brave, not the courage of mere animal force, but that courage which springs from a reckless spirit, resolute in bearing down all obstacles, which come in its path. That very day, he verified the truth of Cenna's sketch, and then set out to Cassius' house, resolved to make the High Priest his friend. Cassius and Balbus had much in common, they were fond of power, wealth and pleasure, for despite his appearance of piety, the High Priest was at heart a debauchee. His pleasures however were stolen; to the people, he was austere and rigidly virtuous. Balbus had a suspicion of this, and he desired to link himself with Cassius, who, in the prosecution of his schemes, would prove an invaluable tool. Money beyond his desires could be placed in the High Priest's hands, and all that ambition could prompt would be his, if Balbus succeeded. Balbus only wanted the opportunity to make himself acquainted in an intimate degree with Cassius to twist him round his little finger. Balbus made one mistake. He forgot that Cassius with all his failings was still a Roman, proud of his country, and hating aliens.

The High Priest was surprised to have Balbus for a visitor, he knew him only by name and reputation, and had not a very high opinion of him from the latter. However he received his visitor blandly, politely passed the compliments of gentlemen, and pointing to a seat, asked his business.

"You are anxious to discover something concerning the death of Cenna, the author, are you not?"

"Certainly, can you throw any light upon that mystery?"

"Not much, except by inference. Whom do you suspect of having an interest in the unfortunate's death?"

"That is a question which answered might put the suspected upon their guard."

"What! do you suspect me?"

"No, no, you misunderstand me, but affairs of state had better always be confined to as few breasts as possible."

"True, but my suspicions lie against the Christians."

"The Christians," cried Cassius, "it is the Bacchanals," and then he stopped suddenly, but not before he had committed himself. Balbus smiled quietly to himself—the High Priest was not equal to him in cunning.

"You supposed the Bacchanals had done it? I heard that too, that he had made some revelations regarding them."

"Who told you that?" asked the High Priest sharply.

"Faith, I forget, Lycus, Clodio, Sempronius, Caius Fabius, or some other court butterfly. It was gossip, but let it pass. I do not believe that such a society ever existed in Rome at the present day. Such a notion is absurd."

"My impression too," said the High Priest, "for we scoured the Suburra after his death but could find no trace of them."

"You must look to the Christians for his murderers."

"It is curious, but I do not agree with you there."

"Yet, you say, you do not believe the Bacchanals ever were in Rome as Cenna would have had you believe."

"Listen, Balbus. There was a council held by Trajan, to consider what was to be done with three different societies, each hostile to the state, the Stoics, the Bacchanals and the Christians. Cossus denounced the Stoics, Cenna the Bacchanals, the Emperor alone knows who denounced the Christians. What was the consequence. Cossus has disappeared, left no trace behind him, in all probability he has been murdered. Cenna too has been found, drowned in the Tiber according to public opinion, poisoned according to mine. The only one of the three alive, so far as I know, for he may be dead too, is the secret denouncer of the Christians. The Stoics are not Bacchanals, neither are the Bacchanals Stoics."

"Your reasoning is correct so far, but yet I can prove in some manner that Cenna's death lies at the Christians' door. I have already told you that I do not believe in the existence of Bacchanals at all."

"You have said so," answered Cassius looking

at him searchingly. "Let them pass. Now for the Christians."

"Shortly before Cenna's death, I had employed him to make certain examinations of the ancient buildings of Rome, and in accordance with his directions, he entered the catacombs. From his accounts I suspected that the Christians held their meetings there, and accompanying him on one occasion, I satisfied myself that there are entrances all over Rome to them, with marked galleries leading to different chambers, where they celebrate their rites. Cenna told me one day in a jesting tone that he intended being present at a Christian meeting. I paid little attention to this, but on hearing of his death, I made little doubt that he had carried out his rash threat, been discovered, and suffered therefor. That is, in my opinion, the true cause."

"But why expose the body of their victim? Could they not have hidden it, out of sight?"

"Perhaps, only they would reason in this way. Cossus has disappeared after denouncing the Stoics, suppose we let Cenna's body be found, suspicion will fall upon the Bacchanals whom he has denounced, so that no danger will befall us. There is something more to be considered. Perhaps the Bacchanals really did exist in the persons of these Christians. What if they had the house which Cenna protested so earnestly that they possessed."

"You put the matter in a new light. You are convinced then that the Christians killed Cenna?"

"Undoubtedly. The facts are clear."

"You know their haunt in the catacombs?"

"One at least. Here is a sketch of the galleries."

Cassius carefully perused the sketch, and raising his head suddenly asked: "Would you accompany a centurion and myself to the spot?"

"With the utmost pleasure," replied Balbus, I came here to propose it to you."

"Very good. Wait here for an instant."

The High Priest went out and despatched a slave for Sempronius and four soldiers, who speedily made their appearance. Cassius swore them to silence regarding their explorations, and then, led by Balbus, they descended by a secret entrance into the catacombs. Cassius satisfied himself of the truth of Balbus' report. The chapel, the marked passages all were there.

"Could you place your men so?" asked Cassius of Sempronius, "that they could command the passages leading out of this chamber."

"There are four," answered Sempronius, "I have the men who could place themselves, where not even a bat could see them—they would let all go in, none out."

"In fact make it a decent mousetrap."

"Yes. By the gods! and a very decent mousetrap too."

"That is so far good, we only want an opportunity—but that will come as a matter of course. We have nothing further to do here, so get you to your quarters, Sempronius, and see that the men do not blab."

"No fears of that, Cassius. My men are tongueless at my command. A wine skin will silence them."

Balbus and Sempronius had not exchanged a word. Sempronius had been thunderstruck at the march to the catacombs, and he was at first afraid that his own society had been the object of search. However much he was overjoyed to find his alarm groundless, he feared that a further search might lead to the discovery of their chamber, distant as it was. True the marks on the passages were more difficult of discovery, but the catacombs once broken in upon, they too might have been discovered. What surprised him most was the presence of another condemned body in the place, which must have existed there for a long while, unknown even to him and his companions. A brief consideration showed him that on his part alarm was needless, for so intricate was the labyrinth of windings, with which the Stoics had surrounded their chamber that only treachery could reveal it. The distance too from the scene of the Christians' operations rendered such a discovery almost impossible, whereas the Christian chapel being placed under Rome, might easily have been discovered—theirs on the other hand was a long distance from the city. Sempronius never liked Balbus, he could not tell why, and this discovery only deepened his dislike. A spy, he looked upon as the basest of mortals.

Balbus, on his part, did not covet the attention of the Centurion. She, whom he had at home, was an ugly bar to any close acquaintanceship. Every moment since Laïs had promised to marry him, was fraught with danger in his eyes, he longed to get rid of Sempronius, that out of his sight, out of Italy, he might pursue without fear his grand

schemes, Till she was gone, he felt as if he stood on the edge of a precipice, where every breath of heaven was sufficient to blow him to destruction. He therefore had no relish for the company of Sempronius, and although, in company, fond enough of calling him "my friend," he rather shirked the words in his presence. But conscience makes cowards of us all, especially when we are villains.

On leaving the catacombs, Cassius went direct to the palace, and sought an interview with Trajan, which was at once granted him.

"I have at length discovered the haunts of the Christians," he said as he entered the apartment, bursting in upon a council composed of the chief priests and the great officers of Rome. Caius was not present, being at the moment with Phryne, while Lycus was still abroad. The consequence was that this important meeting passed without either of them being aware of what transpired, and the other officers did not care to speak of it. Cassius looked surlily around at such a meeting being called without his being invited to attend, but it appeared it had been summoned in a hurry, and the messengers sent for him had not found him in, he being at the time engaged in searching the catacombs.

The meeting had been summoned by Trajan, after the receipt of certain letters from provincial governors, detailing the rapid spread of Christianity, which had aroused the wrath of the priests, who called out for the destruction of its professors. This combined with the sudden and strange disappearance of Cossus, and the death of Cenna alarmed Trajan, and called upon him for urgent despatch. The Bacchanalian orgies, in a special manner, were obnoxious to the Emperor, who determined, at all hazards, to extirpate these obscene rites from Rome. The council trembling for their power, denounced all the three sects with malignant hatred.

"How say you," asked the Emperor, "you have discovered the haunts of these reptiles. Where are they, that we may at once crush and extirpate them from the land?"

"Beneath Rome, there exist, as doubtless you are all aware, huge excavations, known only to certain persons, and so exceedingly dangerous that many parties, in an idle hour, seeking to penetrate their mazes, have lost their ways therein and most miserably perished. It now appears that the Christians have a key to these mazes,

and there celebrate their infamous rites. I have their secret?"

"Ha! how came you in possession of it?"

"There is a person, called Balbus," began the priest.

"Balbus, the Jew. Is he a Christian?" asked the Emperor testifying the liveliest surprise.

"No," replied Cassius, "he is a dandy."

Trajan exchanged a meaning smile with an old captain, named Dentatus, whom he much affected.

"I have learned as much," said the Emperor, "relative to the Christians. Among some old charts which a trusty friend bought, was a plan of the catacombs, marked with strange characters. These have been discovered to be the writing of the Jews, and give minute directions for the finding out of various chambers cut out of the earth, and carefully concealed. As yet these chambers have escaped discovery, as the passages are very dangerous from the cause you have mentioned Cassius. One thing we have however learned, that they set apart one day of the week for the celebration of their rites in a peculiar way, probably they eat or crucify children, which they call Sabbath, and it corresponds with our Dies Solis."

"I have the key to the catacombs," said Cassius, and he detailed to the Emperor the conversation with Balbus, and his subsequent descent himself."

"It will be easy you say to march upon them while so engaged, and entrap them all."

"Perfectly easy, there is no means of escape by other passages, when we barricade these."

"Are you certain of the correctness of the plan?"

"Yes, I examined the ground myself."

"That is satisfactory. Dentatus, place yourself and your troops at the disposal of this venerable father, and obey him in all things. Sempronius has not a silent enough tongue for the carrying out of a great purpose. Have you discovered anything of the Bacchanals?"

"I do not think any such exist."

"You do not. Well, that may do for an after thought."

The council broke up, and followed by Dentatus, Trajan entered a private chamber.

"What think you of this new quarry, Dentatus?"

"It bids fair, but somewhat crosses your intentions towards Balbus."

"How?" asked the Emperor.

"Having performed this service for the state, you must reward, not punish him."

"I never thought of doing one or other. Anonymous letters should never be attended to."

"Still it points out Balbus, Maremma, and their associates as the murderers of Cenna, and leaders of the Bacchanals. That is sufficient."

"Not for me. If there is any truth in the charges, more will come out of it. If Balbus has been, or is a Bacchanal, an usurer, and a murderer, he must have committed some other crimes, which will put him at our mercy. I know the character of the animal. If we can prove him to be a Bacchanal, for he is the least important of the accused, and an example is required, so he will be the victim."

"Lais had written the letter to the Emperor—but she had made one mistake—she accused, but could give no proof further than the accusation—she had forgotten one fearful proof—in time she remembered it—but at present the lightning flashed far away from Balbus."

(To be continued.)

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MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE RELIGION OF MASONRY.

I have read with much interest the various contributions by Bro. C. P. Cooper to your Notes and Queries department touching upon similar subjects to that headed above.

I find in a transatlantic Masonic contemporary the following, by Bro. De Witte Clinton, extracted from an address delivered by him, and which I submit as a parallel to some of Bro. C. P. Cooper's notes. I should be glad to know the opinion of that esteemed brother upon the quotation appended:—"As Christian Masons, acknowledging the divinity of Christ, we have introduced the Bible into our lodges, to manifest our belief in the doctrines which it inculcates. In like manner the followers of Moses, Mahomet and Burmah may introduce into their Masonic assemblies their Pentateuch, their Alcoran, and their Vedan; and yet the unity of Masonry would remain—the essential principles on which she moves would be the same; she would still declare to her votaries, I regard not to what sect you attach yourselves; venerate the popular religion of your respective countries; follow the light of your understanding; forget not, however, the doctrines of the religion of nature; adore the Great Architect of the Universe, acknowledge the immortal soul, and look forward to a state of future retribution when the virtuous of all religions and countries shall meet together, and enjoy never-fading bliss.—STUDENS.

HELVETIUS.

The manuscript list of celebrated Frenchmen, members of our Institution, which a brother saw some years ago in the library at Denton Court is still in existence. Helvetius, author of the book "De l'Esprit" is of course in the list. He was, as my brother has been told, the founder of a famous lodge, (see my communication "Voltaire's Initiation," p. 186 of the last volume.) The favour with which he was regarded by Frederick the Great is shown by the following passage taken from the "Biographie Universelle," En 1764, sur les instances de Frédéric il partit pour la Prusse. Le monarque le logea dans son palais, et l'admit à sa table. Il aimait la personne d'Helvetius et estimait son admirable caractère." Madame Helvetius, his wife, is said to have been an active promoter of Adoptive Freemasonry.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

MASONIC ARCHÆOLOGY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I am glad your brief notice of the 109th Anniversary of my mother lodge, the Lodge of Glasgow, St. John, No. 3 bis, should have awakened the interest of "Historicus." The following grounds on which that lodge rests her antiquity may interest him further:—

1st. The possession of a charter from Malcolm Canmore, dated 1057. I may add that I have seen this charter, that it has been submitted to the scrutiny of several distinguished antiquarians, and that it has been sustained in the Court of Session as genuine and a question decided chiefly on the evidence which it afforded.

2nd. A special charter, granted by William the Lion, about the year 1192. I have not seen this charter, but a copy is published in the Appendix to "Hamilton of Wishaw's description of the Sherifdoms of Lanark and Renfrew."

3rd. A third charter from the Town Council, dated 1551, which I have seen.

4th. The subscription of the Masters and Wardens of that lodge to the charter, granted by the Masons of Scotland to Sir William St. Clair, in the year 1628.

There is a sketch of the history of the lodge, prefixed to the By-laws, written by Mr. Cruikshank, P.M. and D. Prov. G.M., of Glasgow, and his little work might be made the nucleus of a larger tome. I am persuaded if any brother, possessing the requisite time and talent should write a History of the Lodge of Glasgow, St. John, it would vie in interest with anything that Masonic literature has yet produced.

Yours fraternally,
JUVENIS.

Glasgow, Jan. 22nd, 1867.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

THE MASONIC BALL.—This ball, which had been looked forward to with considerable interest, came off on Monday evening last at Willis's Rooms, the whole extent of that magnificent establishment having been placed at the disposal of the committee. Dancing commenced at ten o'clock to the enlivening strains of Mons. Rivieri's band, and was continued until five o'clock on the following morning. Bro. Gardner, P.M., officiated with his usual graceful efficiency as M.C., and the numerous body of stewards ably seconded his efforts to secure the comfort of the company. At half-past twelve, between 200 and 300 ladies and gentlemen sat down to an elegant supper, served in the most *recherché* style. Bro. Hodges, P.M., P. Prov. G. Sec., and W.M. of Lodge 720, under whose auspices the ball was originally contemplated, presided, being supported by a number of distinguished ladies and brethren. After the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," the chairman, in a highly complimentary speech, proposed "The Ladies," which toast elicited the most rapturous applause. Bro. Captain Dampier responded in a speech full of "Crafty" allusions to the grace and beauty of his fair constituents, and a Spanish brother, Don V. Carrios, also addressed the company in a brief speech, in which he displayed that gallantry for which his nation are so justly celebrated. "The Health of the Visitors" was next given and responded to by his excellency Bro. Marthin, the diplomatic representative and consul-general of the United States of Columbia. Bro. Billington (of the Adelphi) also responded to the toast. The toast of "The Stewards" was next given, the chairman remarking that they were a formidable number (nearly forty), and instancing the great services specially rendered by Bros. Anson, Oswin, Hare, Thomas, Stevens, Taylor, Gates, Ramsay, Bowles, Harvey, Perrot, Dampier, Mothersill, and Toole. All of them would, however, he was sure unite in opinion that to Bro. Anson the greatest merit was due, and with that toast he, therefore, coupled the name of that brother. Bro. Anson replied in a very felicitous speech, in which he congratulated all present on the remarkable and brilliant success of the ball, and predicted that from that success, there would be seen in future years, on a scale of even greater magnificence, a Grand Metropolitan Masonic Ball which would be a glory to the Craft and a benefit to its Charities, and at the same time an honour and credit to its promoters. The company shortly after returned to the ball room. Before separating, the executive committee and a few stewards proceeded by arrangement to a private room, when mutual congratulations were exchanged. The health of the Messrs. Willis was also proposed, who had done everything in their power to aid the stewards, and who had enhanced their already widespread reputation by the splendour and excellence of all their arrangements. They were also complimented upon the superior quality of their wines, which had been highly commended. Bro. Chas. Willis and Bro. Dolby severally responded on behalf of their firm, and expressed their delight at the success which had attended the efforts of all concerned. We understand that the committee have already received guarantees for 400 guests for next year's Ball.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.—The Quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter will be held at the Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 6th inst., at 8 p.m.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—By the kind invitation of Bro. F. B. Chatterton, lessee of Drury-lane Theatre, the pupils of this institution attended the morning performance of the pantomime on Monday last. Accompanied by the secretary, with the head and two assistant-masters, they reached the entrance to the theatre in Wellington-street by 1.20, where they were met by Bros. H. Browne, W. Young, W. Paas, A. H. Hewlett, and R. W. Stewart, members of the House Committee; Bros. Saml. May, Fredk. Ledger, and other friends of the institution, including several ladies. They were admitted immediately on their arrival, the three front rows in the pit having been specially reserved for their accommodation. It need hardly be said that the young "Lewises" thoroughly enjoyed the treat that had been provided for them, and returned to their beautiful suburban home delighted with their trip, and full of gratitude to Bros. Chatterton and May for the invitation given, and the trouble taken in providing for their amusement—their creature comforts, at the same time, not having been forgotten. The appearance and behaviour of the boys afforded the most entire gratification to the friends of the institution, many of whom were amongst the audience assembled.

MRS. R. LANE FREER'S MEMORIAL VOLUME.—In our short notice last week of Mrs. R. L. Freer's beautiful memorial volume of our late Bro. the Venerable Archdeacon R. L. Freer, D. Prov. G.M. of Herefordshire, we omitted to state that it is published only for private circulation "among his Masonic and other lay friends."

THE BRITISH, IRISH, AND COLONIAL MASONIC CALENDAR AND POCKET BOOK FOR 1867.—The publishers of this useful Masonic Calendar and Pocket Book will, we understand, be enabled to issue the edition for the present year in the course of a week.

FREEMASONRY IN CANADA.—The two scarlet chapters and six blue lodges of Quebec have elected their officers for the present year. We will give the appointments in the several lodges and chapters in our next.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The annual festival for the benefit of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, was celebrated on Wednesday evening, the 30th ult., at Freemasons' Hall. The Right Hon. Lord de Tabley, Prov. G.M. for Cheshire, presided.

As this is the first Masonic festival of the year, it necessarily excites a vast amount of interest amongst the members of the Craft, there being a growing desire amongst all that an increase in numbers shall bring with it a corresponding increase of contributions towards this important institution of the Order. For some years since the festival for aged Freemasons has assumed an annual character; this has happily been the case with the exception of last year, each succeeding year's contribution being larger than its predecessor. In 1864 the subscriptions announced at the festival (there being then several lists to come in) were £2,376 3s. 6d., the largest amount up to that time ever received on any similar occasion. On the following year the chair was taken by the Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, upon which occasion, in advocating the claims of this charity, he made use of the most argumentative and eloquent appeals ever delivered within the walls of the hall, pointing out to them, as Masons, the duty they owed to their poorer brethren. In his own words he said, "In the battle of life, when the strong are so free, and the

competition is so active, men who are rapidly marching towards the goal of success in the struggle of life, little heed those they pass by, and they are often knocked down and trampled upon in their march. At such a time as this it is fitting that some one should step aside from this fierce contest, and aid those who are forced out of the crowd, weary and wounded, having failed in the journey to obtain the moderate comforts of life; and in their old age build up for them, in some quiet corner, a small refuge wherein they may end in tranquillity and peace the few days that are yet left to them upon earth." The worthy brother, however, after reviewing what had been done towards this noble object during the time the institution had been in existence, declared emphatically that, looking at the increasing wealth and number of the Order, he was struck with the inadequacy of the results as compared with the demands of their poorer brethren. This heart-stirring appeal produced the magnificent contribution of £3,548 16s. 6d. The following year, however, instead of there being an advance upon this sum, the contributions fell to £2,992, but that might in some degree be accounted for in the double festival held on behalf of the Boys' School. It was, therefore, ardently hoped this year that a progressive advance would take place, as upon former occasions.

This year there was a list of sixty-seven Stewards, of which Bro. M'Intyre, G. Reg., was president, and Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst. (representing the Domestic Lodge as Steward), was Treasurer.

A procession was formed and at six o'clock Lord De Tabley entered the hall and took his seat, supported on the dais by the following brethren:—Bros. Col. Adair, P.G.M., for Somersetshire; Tomkins, G. Treas.; Aeneas M'Intyre, President of the Board of General Purposes; Udell, P.G.D.; A. W. Wood, Dir. of Cers.; Bradford, G.D. of Cers.; H. Brydges, P.G.S.B.; Potter, P.G.D.; Hopgood, P.G.D.; Head, P.G.D.; George Cox, P.G.D.; Cope, P.G.S.B.; George Cockley, G.S.; Trimmer, G.S.; Harris, G.S.; Farnfield, Secretary to the Aged Freemasons' Asylum; T. Lewis, Assist. G. Purst.; J. M. White, Prov. G.D. for East Lancashire; H. J. Strong, Surgeon to the Benevolent Institution; Dorling, Prov. G.S., &c.

The dinner was served in the best style of the Freemasons' Tavern, it was abundant and choice in quality, and gave unanimous satisfaction. It was the common remark that Bro. Gosden was entitled to the highest credit for the efforts he had made on this occasion to give satisfaction.

The cloth having been drawn and grace sung by the professional singers,

The noble CHAIRMAN said the first toast he rose to propose was the first given in all assemblies of Englishmen, and particularly amongst Freemasons. He did not speak of the illustrious lady who swayed the sceptre of these realms merely as their Sovereign, but as one who in the hour of misfortune attended at the bedside of those who were stricken down by disease, and administered to them condolence in the hour of their afflictions. He with all cordiality and from the bottom of his heart gave "The Health of her Majesty the Queen." Which was drunk with enthusiastic cheers, followed by the National Anthem, the solo parts by Miss Rose Hersee, and Miss Eyles. There was an additional verse anthem by Bro. James Mason on the occasion of the birth of the Prince of Wales.

The CHAIRMAN said he had then the honour to give "Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." He said he knew that they all had watched the progress of the Royal Family with an affectionate and living regard. Some of them had already entered on the active discharge of the duties of life, and others were still

young. In fact, they were all young, and they had health, strength and all the pleasant pastures of life before them, but when the time should come, and that they would be called upon to take their station in life, they would remember the education they had received, and prove themselves worthy members of the Royal Family.

Quintett La Villanelle (Marie Stuart), introducing "Auld Lang Syne," which was duly applauded and unanimously encored.

The CHAIRMAN said: Brethren, having gratified ourselves by drinking the health of our constitutional Sovereign and the rest of the royal family, I have now the honour to propose "The Health of our Masonic Sovereign, the Earl of Zetland, that monarch who by universal election now occupies for the twenty-fourth time the throne of Masonry in this country, and let me tell you that the throne of Masonry, however high and honourable it is, is not lightly to be borne were it not for the courtesy, tact, and earnestness of Lord Zetland. I regret that the Earl of Zetland is not present on this occasion, but he has met with so many misfortunes one after another in family affairs, that he is almost bowed down to the ground, but I hope the Great Architect of the Universe will give him strength to support him under all his difficulties, and therefore I ask you to fill your glasses and do all the honours you can to the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons.

The toast was drunk with enthusiastic cheering, followed by a song by Miss Eyles, "I wandered by the Brookside."

The CHAIRMAN next gave, "The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master the Earl de Grey and Ripon and the present and past Grand Officers." In proposing this toast he adverted particularly to the Earl de Grey and Ripon, who amongst his multifarious public duties, did not forget his duty as a Freemason.

This toast was drunk with loud cheers.

Bro. M'INTYRE, G. Reg., said he considered it to be a high privilege to have to return thanks for the Deputy G. Master and the Officers of the Grand Lodge, past and present. It had been truly said by the noble lord their chairman that all who knew the Deputy G. Master knew how well he had discharged his important duties to his country, and how he had set them a glorious example, by showing them how a man might discharge his duties to the public, and, at the same time, discharge those he owed to the Craft. As regarded the officers of the Grand Lodge, as he had said, the G. Master and the Deputy G. Master had set them a noble example, and it could not be better exemplified than they found that evening, when they came forward and rallied round the noble lord in the chair, in support of one of their charities. It was the earnest wish of the G. Officers to obtain their confidence, and if they had obtained it on this occasion they were more than satisfied.

The G. REGISTRAR proposed "The Provincial Grand Masters," and observed that he had great pleasure in coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Colonel Adair, Prov. G. Master for Somersetshire. He was a young but most excellent Prov. G. Master; but though young in office, he was a good member in Masonry, for he went from lodge to lodge and set them an example by attending our festivals, and was engaged in works of charity. The province of Somersetshire was for some time under his (Bro. M'Intyre's) direction, but since it had passed into Bro. Adair's hands its condition had very materially improved.

This toast was drunk with loud cheers.

Bro. Colonel ADAIR, Prov. G.M. for Somersetshire, said he begged to return his sincere thanks for the honour that had been done to the toast, and especially to his brother, the Grand

Registrar, for the kind terms in which he had proposed it. He regretted that there were not more Provincial Grand Masters present to do honour to this toast, but he was confident it arose from their inability to attend to their duties in their own provinces that he alone was present to return thanks for the toast. At the same time he might say that they were engaged in a great and solemn duty, and he felt confident that the Provincial Grand Masters could not so well discharge their duties in regard to the Charities by appearing in person at their festivals as by an earnest working and co-operation with brethren in their own provinces. On behalf of the Provincial Grand Masters, who were zealously attending to their duties, he begged to thank them for the honour that had been conferred upon them.

The CHAIRMAN said he hoped the brethren had obeyed the call of the toastmaster to have all their glasses charged, for he was about to give the toast of the evening. The toast he was about to give was, "Success to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows," in celebration of which anniversary they were now assembled. A variety of data and memoranda had been put into his hands, and he would make them as short as possible; but he thought it necessary, in justice to the toast he was about to propose, to enter into two or three particulars. The Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons was established in 1842, under the auspices of the late Duke of Sussex, and the fund for widows by the Earl of Zetland in 1850, and during that time 243 old men and 93 widows had been elected, at a joint expense of £34,116. The income of these establishments were derived in this way—£500 from the Grand Lodge, £100 from the Grand Chapter, and the interest on the funded property, nearly £700. For the support of the widows they received £300 from the Grand Lodge, £50 from the Grand Chapter, interest on funded property amounting to between £300 or £400, and the remainder was made up by annual subscriptions. The asylum was situate at Croydon, and it was only yesterday that he had visited it. He found that it was capable of containing thirty-four inhabitants, and there were now twenty-eight there, and he only wished every brother would go there and see the quiet and comfort their poorer brethren enjoyed in their old age, who had been shipwrecked in their passage through life. In their asylum he met with two or three cases in which he was particularly interested, and to hear the recitals of these cases was to him an ample reward. He saw there the widow of a man whom he had known, who belonged to a most expensive lodge in a town with which he (Lord de Tabley) was connected, who enjoyed great prosperity, but in time he was broken down by misfortune, eventually being carried away altogether by death, and his widow now found a comfortable home in their asylum at Croydon. Another he found there was a man who at one time was a celebrated artist, whose works were constantly exhibited in the Royal Academy; but stricken down by blindness, he now also found an asylum at Croydon. Those were instances of the brethren who received relief from their charities. On behalf of that asylum he now pleaded, but he knew he should not plead in vain, in the sacred cause of charity. No simple words of his were required to stimulate them to that, for it was impressed upon them at their initiation, and that they practised the support of their charities he felt assured by their presence there that night. He did not know a more worthy object than to extend the hand of assistance to a weary brother, lame and footsore, in passing over the tessellated pavement to gain the winding staircase of life. They could hold out the hand of relief and assistance, and if they could do that he was sure that he should not ask in vain. He need say no more, hoping that the lists that would be read by the Secre-

tary would show that charity lived in their hearts, for benevolence was the great object of their society. He proposed, "Success to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows," and he hoped they would drink the toast with all the cordiality and honours it deserved.

Song—Bro. Montem Smith, "Do life's duties manfully and never mind the rest," which was greatly applauded.

Bro. FARNFIELD, the Secretary, then read the lists of subscriptions, and amongst them were the following:—Bro. Meggy's list, W.M. of the Fitzroy Lodge, Honourable Artillery Company:—Fitzroy Lodge, £5; Grand Mark Lodge, £5; Bro. Meggy, W.M., 569, £20; Bro. Watson, I.P.M., 569, £5; Bro. Goulard, J.D., 569, £5; Bro. Johnson, 569, £5; St. John's Lodge, £4; making Bro. Meggy's list, £81; Frost, 228, £54 12s.; E. Cox, 657, £57 10s.; Lodge 144, £41; Provincial Grand Master of Somersetshire, £105 4s.; Bro. Dorling, Prov. G. Sec., Suffolk, £57 6s.; Bro. McIntyre, G. Reg., 81; Bro. S. May, 23, £170; Bro. Glaisher, 33, £49 6s.; Bro. Atkins 55, £53; Bro. Pendlebury, 1,056, £63 3s.; Bro. Rowlandson, 124, £77 10s.; besides several other smaller subscriptions.

The CHAIRMAN said he had the pleasure to announce the total amount of the subscriptions sent in was £2,584 11s. 6d., with several lists to come in.

Bro. Col. ADAIR, Prov. G.M. for Somersetshire, said their noble chairman had entrusted him to propose the next toast. He had given them what he was pleased to call the toast of the evening, and so no doubt it was, but all of them felt that there was another toast that might be called the other toast of the evening. The cause of charity and especially in the case of the Benevolent Institution, stood upon its own merits, but those merits were advanced when there was a due organisation to bring them to a successful termination. Freemasons all gladly contributed their charities, but when left to individual exertions they were not so successful as when they worked under a chief, who had he might say, guided them to victory. Their chief on the occasion had been Lord de Tabley, Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire. The way in which they had received his honoured name justified him in anything he might wish to say, but which he had not power to do justice to. When they saw one who bore his distinguished name which he had inherited from his forefathers, added to his own noble deeds in Masonry as well as in the outer world, taking the lead on that important occasion—when they saw him supported by a large and influential body, not only from different parts of the country, but from his own province, it showed that where he was best known he was most esteemed and he (Col. Adair) felt confident if he talked for half an hour he could not pass a higher compliment upon him. He therefore asked them with all their hearts to drink the health of Lord de Tabley, their chairman of that evening.

LORD DE TABLEY, in reply, said: If he felt at all his inability to fulfil the duties of his post in proposing the toast of the evening, still more did he feel inadequately his power to express his sense of gratitude for the way in which they had received his health, which had been too flatteringly proposed by the Provincial Grand Master for Somersetshire. He had simply endeavoured to do his duty, and to promote the great cause of charity, and nobly had they responded. Two years ago he took charge of the province of Cheshire, and at that time the Provincial Grand Lodge subscribed nothing to the charities of their Order; but now, by their kindness, he stood there Vice-President of all their Charities, for the Provincial Grand Lodge voted £40 a year to those institutions. He believed up to that time that Cheshire was never represented amongst the stewards at their festivals, but he then saw eight of them present who had come up on purpose to support this charity. He did not say that to

glorify himself for his own province, but he merely mentioned it to show what might be done to obtain the support of their great charities. This charity was situated near to London, and half its support was obtained from the Masons of London alone, and it was only right that he should say that more than half the recipients were from the provinces. He was happy to be present on that occasion. He had presided twice for the Girls' School, once for the Boys' School, and he then presided for the Aged Freemasons, and on all occasions he was most grateful for the support he had received, considering the great commercial and financial distress that the country had passed through; and coming from the country, as he did, he knew the ravages of the cattle plague; he thought the sum of £2,584, with some other lists to come in was a very satisfactory subscription. He concluded by again thanking the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him.

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS, President of the Board of General Purposes, said he had been requested to propose the next toast, which was, "The Right Honourable Lord Southampton, Past President, the Trustees, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Committee, and Officers of the Institution." He coupled with the toast the health of its distinguished Treasurer, Bro. Tomkins. The toast was well received.

Bro. TOMKINS thanked the brethren on behalf of the officers for the kind notice that had been taken of him. He was happy to find that although there had been a financial difficulty, the funds of the charity were in a satisfactory state, and he hoped they would continue to increase. On behalf of the officers of the institution he begged to thank them.

Bro. HORWOOD said the duty of proposing the next toast had devolved upon him, which in their programme was stated to be "The other Masonic Charities." In a few minutes he should have something to say about them, but he could not refrain from offering a few remarks upon the charity they were met to celebrate. He was free to confess that he was a convert to this charity, for he was of opinion that the festivals for the Girls' School and the Boys' School were as much as the Craft could bear, and he was now very glad to confess his error, for while this charity was now firmly established, the income to the others had not diminished. He confessed that he should have been glad to have seen a larger amount of subscriptions than that announced that day, but as their noble chairman had said, they had passed through a period of great financial pressure, and therefore the result must be considered satisfactory. It must also be borne in mind that their charities were supported by Freemasons, and Freemasons alone, unless indeed they sometimes received assistance from the ladies they saw in the gallery, who belonged to them or they would not subscribe to their funds. As to the Girls' School, it was the most ancient of their Order. It was hardly necessary for him to say one word in order to obtain their support under all circumstances to that valuable institution, for the brethren felt that the Girls' School was the darling and pet of their institutions. As to the Boys' School, it was formerly inefficient for the purpose for which it was instituted, but it was now a perfect institution, in giving the boys an education that would fit them for any purpose that might be required. He felt sure that they would give their cheerful support to the Boys' Festival, that took place on the 13th of March, and that for the Girls' School, on the 8th of May. It was their duty as Masons to support these institutions, for they should bear in mind that the brightest jewel with which a Mason could adorn his breast was charity.

The toast was most cordially received and responded to.

Bro. BINCKES, Secretary to the Boys' School, said that he

was proud to find that while celebrating one charity the others were not forgotten; and he thanked the brethren for the kind way in which the toast had been responded to. One source of regret to him was, that through domestic affliction, Bro. Patten, the Secretary to the Girls' School, was prevented from being present there that evening. Had he been there, on behalf of the Girls' School, he would have addressed them far more feelingly and eloquently than he (Bro. Binckes) could do; but, at the same time, he hoped to interest them for the Girls' School so that the institution should not suffer from the absence of Bro. Patten.

An incident here occurred which, for the honour of Freemasonry, and to the disgrace of all parties concerned in it, we gladly draw a veil over, and the proceedings were brought to a premature close.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. W. J. Fielding, supported by Miss Rose Hersee, Miss Eyles, Bro. Wilbye Cooper, Bro. Montem Smith, Bro. W. Winn, and Bro. Lawler. Bro. Belmore presided at the pianoforte. Bro. Turner was the toastmaster.

METROPOLITAN.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 177).—On the 11th ult., a numerous and brilliant meeting of this lodge was held at Bro. Clemow's (Anderton's) Hotel, Fleet-street. Bro. Frederick Smith, W.M., presiding. The lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer, Messrs. G. Hooker, D. A. Chudley, R. Montague, and John Bouts were introduced and initiated into the secrets and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, and were much impressed with what they went through. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Messrs. Silverton, Green, Murray, Giles, and Cruss were passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, and Bro. Hodges was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., all three degrees being worked in an admirable and praiseworthy manner by the W.M. After an alteration had been proposed and carried in the amount of the visiting fee of the lodge, Bro. Tanner, J.D., said as the Domatic Lodge was one of the largest lodges in London in point of numbers, he thought there ought to be a corresponding amount of support given to their Masonic institutions, and he would therefore propose "That the sum of twenty guineas be voted from the funds of the lodge, to be placed in the hands of Bro. Brett, P.M., to represent this lodge as Steward at the next festival for the benefit of the Boys' School." The resolution was carried unanimously, and in the course of the evening a subscription was also commenced among the members for the same object. The lodge having been closed the brethren adjourned to the banquetting hall, where an excellent dinner was provided, to which they did full justice. The cloth having been removed, the usual loyal toasts were proposed and responded to in right good style. The W.M. proposed "The Health of the Newly-initiated Brethren," and said he hoped they would all become good and true Masons, and he was sure they would never regret the step they had taken that evening. The toast was enthusiastically responded to. Bro. Montague in returning thanks, said he hoped that by square conduct and upright intentions to merit their good opinion, and that if he served his master as he ought he had no doubt he should turn out a faithful and a good Mason. He thanked the brethren on behalf of himself and his brother initiates for the honour they had conferred upon them. Bro. Smith, P.M., in the absence of the W.M., proposed the toast of "The Health of the Worshipful Master." He was quite sure the brethren would drink the health of their Master with a great deal of pleasure. They had all seen the exemplary manner in which he had gone through his duties that evening, which reflected great credit upon him, especially as the duties were of so important a nature. The toast was very well received. The W.M. then briefly responded in suitable terms. The W.M. said the next toast he had to propose was "The Health of their Visiting Brethren," and he was very pleased to see so many present. Whenever they came to see the Domatic Lodge they might always reckon upon receiving a hearty welcome from its members. A

visitor, in returning thanks, said he had hitherto been a stranger to the hospitality of the Domestic Lodge, but he must say that he was exceedingly pleased at the manner in which the business had been transacted, and at the very able way in which the W.M. had gone through his duties. He was quite sure the Domestic Lodge would keep up their standard for hospitality. He was much gratified with their mode of working, and he hoped their W.M. would continue in good health to fulfil his duties. The W.M. said he thought the most pleasing toast of the evening was that of the Past Masters of the Lodge. Some one had said the Past Masters were of no use to the lodge but as ornaments, but that, he could most distinctly deny. The toast was duly honoured. Bro. Smith, in returning thanks, said the W.M. had said he had heard that the P.M.'s were ornaments, and he could attribute that only to their good looks. He was sure that if the Past Masters could be of any service to the Masters or officers of the lodge they were always glad to give them the benefit of their knowledge in the Craft, for they had the interests of Freemasonry at heart. Bro. P.M. Thompson said he was desirous of saying a few words which he had intended to have said at the last meeting, when the W.M. was installed in the chair of K.S., but was prevented from doing so on account of the other matters they had to dispose of. He was exceedingly pleased to hear from Bro. Smith (the Treasurer) that upon the entrance of the W.M. upon his duties he had taken his place at the Board of Benevolence, there to assist in dispensing aid to our poorer brethren who might require assistance in the hour of their misfortune, and he wished to take that opportunity of bearing his own testimony to the very punctual manner in which the W.M. had always discharged his other duties. While he (Bro. Thompson) was in the chair, he had been compelled, from circumstances to which he need not more particularly allude to, to all the brethren together, to attend at several extra meetings. At no ordinary meeting was the W.M. absent from his post, and even in the case of emergency meetings, which under ordinary circumstances might still have been considered sufficient ground for absence of the officers, the W.M. was always present, and on one or two occasions he came from either Manchester or Liverpool, no doubt at great inconvenience to himself, expressly for that purpose. These habits of punctuality he hoped the brethren would estimate, setting, as it did, an example for others to follow. A brother then sang, "O'er the hills, Jessie." The next toast was "The Officers of the Lodge," which was received with due honour, and having been responded to, a very pleasant and happy meeting was brought to a close.

LODGE OF INDUSTRY (No. 186).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Tuesday evening, the 22nd ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Bros. Bartlett, W.M., Cocking, S.W., Mann, J.W., and other brethren being present. The lodge having been opened in due form, and with solemn prayer, some regular business was then transacted. The ceremony of installing Bro. Bartlett, W.M., who had been unanimously re-elected to fill the chair of K.S., was then most impressively gone through by Bro. Berry, P.M. of St. Luke's Lodge, &c., and his exhortations were listened to with marked attention. Bro. Carpenter, the indefatigable Secretary, stated that he had received a letter from the Harlem Lodge, of New York City, which, with the permission of the lodge, he would read to them. The letter was as follows:—

"Harlem Lodge, No. 457 F. and A.M.,

New York City, May 9th, 1866.

"To the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of the Lodge of Industry, No. 186, London.

"Dear Sir and Brethren,—On the 26th of March last a man named Joseph Saunders Gates died of pneumonia on Ward's Island (which is a part of this city), in a public hospital. He was admitted into the hospital on the 2nd day of March last. Two days after his admission he lost the use of his voice, and in consequence thereof, and of his extreme illness, no trace of his former history was discovered, except that he arrived in this city from England about a year ago. On examination of his effects after his death the following certificates were found:—

"First—Certificate of his marriage to Frances Webb, dated Nov. 2, 1863; marriage solemnised in the registrar's office, George Chambers, then registrar; occupation of Gates, waiter, &c.; residence, both of himself and Frances Webb, No. 8, Fleet-street, London. His father's name was John Gates, a tailor. The name of Frances Webb's father was Robert, an innkeeper and farmer.

"Second—A diploma of membership of Lodge of Industry,

No. 219 F. and A.M., certifying that Joseph Saunders Gates was admitted to the third degree on the 28th day of February, 1858. Certificate countersigned by William Gray Clarke, Grand Secretary.

"Third—A certificate of membership of Thistle Lodge of Mark Masters, dated March 3rd, 1861, signed by William L. Collins, Grand Sec.

"He also left a Masonic apron, and a few memoranda, which are considered of no great value or importance. These evidences of his being a Master Mason in good standing, coming to the knowledge of Harlem Lodge, No. 457 F. and A.M., of the state of New York, shortly after his death, the lodge took possession of his body, and had the same decently and handsomely interred, with the usual formalities and ancient ceremonies of the fraternity, in the Episcopal Church Cemetery, corner of 4th Avenue, and 127th Street, in this city.

"Thinking that it might be gratifying to his friends and relatives to know that Bro. Gates received kind attention and care during his last illness, and that his body received a Christian burial at the hands of his Masonic brethren, I have deemed it advisable to address this communication to you, hoping that you will communicate with his friends and relatives, if such there be in England, and request you to acknowledge receipt of this letter, also advising us what disposition you would wish made of the certificates and papers above mentioned.

"Yours fraternally,

"THOMAS HENRY LONDON,

"Master of Harlem Lodge, No. 457 F. and A.M.,
"Room 13 City Hall, New York City, U.S.

"Attest—Robert Ogilvy, Sec."

The letter was sealed with the seal of the lodge. It was resolved that a proper recognition should be made of the really Masonic behaviour of the brethren of the Harlem Lodge, and that a letter of acknowledgment and thanks be sent to their Secretary. The W.M. then appointed his officers, and the lodge having been closed with prayer, the brethren adjourned to the great hall, where an excellent bill of fare was provided. The viands were of first-rate quality, and prepared in good style, to which the brethren did justice. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been disposed of, when it was discovered that a part of one of the imitation pillars was on fire. All the Masonic proceedings were of course at once stopped by the W.M., and it was some time before order was again restored. When the firemen came it was found to have originated from the overheating of a flue. It was acknowledged by all that if it had occurred in the middle of the night the building would have stood a very great chance of being burnt to ashes. The utmost praise is due to the W.M. for the manner in which he conducted the proceedings under the circumstances.

LODGE OF ISRAEL (No. 205).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on the 22nd ult., at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, when Bro. J. Lazarus, P.M., ably performed the ceremony of installing Bro. Wolf Littaur, in the presence of a very large concourse of the brethren and visitors. The W.M. then appointed the following brethren his officers:—Bros. Jones, S.W.; Chamberlain, J.W.; Joseph Isaacs, P.M., Treas.; E. Ladd, P.M., Sec.; M. J. Emanuel, S.D.; Henry Isaacs, J.D.; Turner, I.G.; Joseph Nathan, Dir. of Cers.; Moss Jackson, Assist. Dir. of Cers.; and M. Candish Tyler. The W.M. most impressively initiated Mr. Frederick Daniel Sutherland into the Order. The petition to the Board of Benevolence from the widow of a highly respected deceased P.M. was, by the exertions of the S.D., signed by every member of the lodge. Bro. Boss, late S.W., resigned his membership, and a special minute was ordered to be made that it be accepted with sincere and heartfelt regret; and a letter was read from Bro. J. Forrester, Secretary to the Limehouse Distress Fund, asking Masons to be present at Drury-lane Theatre on the 28th ult., when the boys from the Masonic Institution would attend. Five guineas were voted, with expressions of much sympathy, to a brother in distress, and the brethren were then called off to banquet. After the cloth had been removed, grace was said, and the usual toasts were given and honoured. In giving the "Initiate," the following admirable addresses was delivered by the W.M.:—In doing honour to the principal toast of the evening, allow me to say to our brother, before you drink his health, that although we are at the festive board he will find that we are, in addition to being a convivial body, an assembly of most intellectual and virtuous men. You, Brother, will find in your passage through life, that

the general aspect of society is ameliorated and improved by Freemasonry, and that to be a good Mason you must be ready honestly and conscientiously to help, to the best of your ability, the brethren who may need your assistance. You will also find, with regard to the mystic rites of the Order, that, whatever the world may say respecting them, there is not a secret in Masonry with which the sternest and strictest moralist can find fault. You will find everything in connection with it pure, everything beautiful, everything laudable; you will find Freemasonry to be a mystic bond of brotherly union, not confined to England, or to any station; not confined to this class or that creed, to this profession, or that calling. In Masonry we have no option; we must accept men as brothers if they are worthy, irrespective of station. But when they come to us they find that we teach virtue and practise it. For myself, I consider Masonry to be a mission given us by God to instruct the unlearned. You will find, brother, those that were ignorant are made wise. You will further find that all that is dearest in this life is made dearer to you, and that by adhering to Masonic principles you will be fitted for the life which is to come. You will also find that the greatest Masonic secret is to render every one the greatest amount of benevolence you can, and to extend to all your fellow-creatures succour in the time of adversity. Had I a hundred tongues I could not sufficiently dilate on the beauties of glorious Freemasonry; but before I conclude my few observations, suffice it to tell you that our great Masonic principles is glory to God. When you first saw the Masonic light your eyes looked upon the sacred volume, and that volume should guide you in all your actions. That volume will guide you if you obey the dictates of Freemasonry, and you will, while performing your duties and associating with the brethren, find that the end and aim of all Masons is the worship of that august Being who is better than good Masons, more mysterious than the unity of Masonry, and more bountiful than its benevolence. Bro. Sutherland, in thanking the brethren, said he had been so struck by the benevolence that the lodge had shown that evening in the cases of distress brought before it that he could go home and look on his family, and feel that, if they had no friends yesterday, when he was not a Mason, to-morrow they would have thousands. After other usual toasts, The W.M., in highly eulogistic terms, presented a magnificent P.M. jewel, accompanied by a massive silver tea service, to Bro. Charles Coote, I.P.M., as a token of the lodge's esteem and appreciation of his energetic and valuable services during the past year. Bro. C. Coote, in acknowledging the testimonial presented to him, said: I assure you I am not prepared with a set speech, and, therefore, you must take the few words I am about to utter with all their imperfections. It must be a proud moment for me when I am presented with a token of your satisfaction with my performance of the W. Master's duties. If the number of words were the depth of one's feelings, I am afraid I should keep you here so long thanking you that you would almost regret that you had subscribed for a testimonial to me. "I cannot express my gratitude to you," is a conventional term, but I know no other phrase which will convey my meaning. I am grateful for your kindness to me ever since I belonged to the lodge, both before and during the time I have been in office. I hope my exertions on behalf of the lodge have done good; but whether or not, they have emanated from my heart, and they have been my best. If they have tended to the benefit of the lodge, I am satisfied. It is an excellent custom which is observed, in putting the P.M. jewel nearest the heart, and I shall wear it with the liveliest and best recollections, and with thankfulness that I have belonged to the Lodge of Israel. This beautiful tea service as a present produces great satisfaction, because being for use by a wife it will destroy that repugnance which wives feel to Freemasonry. The reason they don't like it is they don't know what it is, but if they receive any of the fruits of it, depend upon it they will like it. Men's hearts are very good, but women's hearts are better; and, though Mrs. Coote has often wanted me to tell her what Freemasonry is, I think when I say, in answer to her inquiries, what this present is for, that it is made because the brethren think I have done some good to the lodge in my year of office in furtherance of charity, she will be quite satisfied that Masonry is a very good thing. The remainder of the toasts were then given, and the lodge was formally closed. The harmony prevailing amongst the brethren was promoted by some excellent singing on the part of Bros. Joseph Isaacs and Turner.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKS AND BUCKS.

WINDSOR.—*Etonian Lodge* (No. 209).—This old-established lodge held its annual banquet at the New Inn, on the 22nd ult., when the installation of Bro. J. H. Tilly, jun., W.M., and appointment of the following officers for the ensuing year took place, namely:—Bros. A. Wheeler, S.W.; Revout, J.W.; T. W. Shepherd, S.D.; A. Goodchild, J.D.; J. Cross, I.G.; Jos. Pullin, P.M., Treas.; R. H. Gibbons, P.M., Sec.; and G. Case. The lodge was crowded to excess in consequence of the unusually large assemblage of the brethren, as well as visitors from the Castle and Provincial Lodges, including the G.M. of the province of Somerset, Captain Adair (who, with his accustomed ability, addressed the brethren). Bro. Captain Farrar, Prov. J.G.W. of the province, was also present, and delighted the brethren with an excellent exposition on the beauties and advantages of Masonry. Bro. Devereux, P.M., Prov. G. Sec., was also present, and was much gratified at the whole of the proceedings; and Bro. Powell, P.M., displayed his usual ability in the manner in which he performed the ceremony of installation. All agreed in one admiration of the harmony and ability in which the business of the lodge was conducted by the respective officers. The proceedings were followed by an excellent banquet.

CHESHIRE.

CREWE.

LODGE OF THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES (No. 979)

This lodge met on Tuesday, the 15th ult, at five o'clock. Present, Bros. G. Lord, W.M.; W. J. Bullock, I.P.M.; Wilnot Eardley, S.W.; Rev. A. O'Neil, Prov. G. Chap. W. Lancashire, J.W. *pro tem.*; and a numerous attendance of brethren, members of the lodge, and visiting brethren. The W.M. initiated his friend, Mr. Walter Knox, traffic superintendent of northern division of the L. and N.W. Railway, who has recently received the highest railway appointment in Bombay, whither he will sail next month. Bro. Lord also passed Bro. Milles to the F.C. degree. Bro. Bullock gave the second degree to Bros. Fletcher and Kean, and raised Bro. Banks to the sublime degree of a M.M., in so admirable a manner as to excite the admiration of all present. The officers never were so perfect and harmonious in working any degree before; Bro. Gibson, played the musical arrangements of this degree, composed by the officiating Master, which, coupled with the vocal assistance of a full lodge, all increased the proper effect on the candidate, and he afterwards acknowledged that the impressions and lessons of that evening would never be effaced from his memory, and that he should never forget Bro. Bullock's admirable working. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, and some routine business transacted. The auditors reported that the books were admirably kept, and that the funds represented a good balance on the right side. A petition was signed on behalf of widow Douglass, to the Fund of Benevolence, the one having failed for want of marriage certificate, but now this had been obtained from Australia, by Bro. Rev. A. O'Neil.

The W. Master said: Brethren, I have now a duty to perform, which gives me sincere pleasure. It has been considered both by myself, the officers, and brethren, that our worthy and Worshipful Past Master, Bro. Bullock, is most richly deserving of some acknowledgment at our hands, for his very valuable services in this lodge, as its founder, instructor, and, for two years, the W.M. In fact we could have done nothing without him, and now as Past Master we equally require his assistance and great abilities, for without his aid I could not fulfil the great duties of this chair. Time compels me to be brief, but you will all, I know, take "the will for the deed." I therefore, Bro. Bullock, beg your acceptance of, on behalf of myself, brother officers, and brethren, this P.M.'s jewel as a mark of our sincere esteem and regard. May you long live to wear this jewel, and be blest with health and strength to devote those abilities with which God has enriched you, for the good of that cause, which I know you love so well, viz., Freemasonry.

Bro. Lord then read the inscription, "Presented as a Masonic memento of esteem by members of No. 979 to its founder, Bro. W. John Bullock, on the completion of his second year of Mastership.—Crewe, Jan. 1867." The jewel was of the finest coloured gold, supplied by Bro. Kennedy, Loveday-street, Birmingham, and reflected on him great credit. When it was fastened on the P.M.'s breast the brethren expressed their approval with enthusiastic applause, which only subsided when

Bro. Eardley, the S. Warden, rose and said: Brethren, I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing my entire and hearty concurrence in every sentiment advanced by our W.M., Bro. Lord. Personally, as a brother, I feel especially gratified at this presentation, because it will show to the brethren of our neighbouring lodges that we, the members of No. 979, know how to value and appreciate a brother who has rendered such valuable service to us as Masons, and brought the lodge to its present flourishing position, and also that it will disperse the idea that we regard him with any other feelings than those of pure Masonic love and esteem. When we know that Bro. Bullock is the father and the founder of this lodge, that we have to thank him, and him only, for our appearance here as Masons this evening,—that we are all, as it were, his pupils in Masonry and owe nearly all our Masonic knowledge to him. Surely you must all feel with myself, highly gratified that we have this opportunity of showing our Masonic gratitude. Having myself taken a somewhat active part in this presentation it must, I am sure, be highly pleasing to Bro. Bullock, when I assure him that not one member raised the smallest scruple when applied to for a subscription, but one and all not only declared their willingness to contribute, but also expressed their pleasure that such a testimonial was taken in hand. I will not detain you with further remarks, but must again express the great pleasure I feel at this presentation of our regard and esteem.

Bro. Bullock said: W. Master, Bro. Wardens, and Brethren,—The position which I now occupy is to me both novel and unexpected. Novel, because before I have never been the recipient of a public testimonial; and unexpected, because I know it is not customary in Cheshire lodges to make similar presentations to their Past Masters, and also because I did not expect to receive any further reward for my humble services for the last three years and a half in this lodge, than that greatest reward of knowing and believing that I have done my duty conscientiously, to the best of my ability, to the Craft in general and this lodge and its members in particular; but, let me assure you, that it has only been “a labour of love.” Brethren, it is little over three years ago when, at our lodge’s first meeting, I experienced that great pleasure of initiating my first candidate into Freemasonry, and that in the person of your present W.M., and giving his hand the first Masonic grip. Words therefore totally fail me now to give expression to my great joy and gratitude in receiving from that same hand of Bro. George Lord’s, through your great kindness and generosity, this chaste, elegant, and very valuable Past Master’s gold jewel, which I am sure will be always a highly prized heir-loom in my family. Brethren, my memory will lose its powers ere I shall forget your kind feelings which prompted this very pleasing Masonic memento of your esteem. The pulsations of my heart will have ceased when my gratitude will not recur to the donors. Though time and space may separate us, though fresh faces may surround me, yet whenever I shall append this beautiful jewel to my breast, my thoughts will travel through an electric cable in company with many pleasant associations, to you, brethren, who so kindly assisted me in founding the Lodge of the Four Cardinal Virtues, and in bringing it to its present highly successful and prosperous position. The good fruits it has already reaped will alone amply repay us if the son of its first W.M. be elected next April (which is very probable) to the Masonic Boys’ School, it will be through the establishment of this lodge; but who can calculate its future blessings, or the good that will be caused through already introducing more than twenty good men and true into our beloved Craft. Many of our members have left the town; our first J.W., Bro. Walter Scott is now in the Mauritius, and the initiate of this evening, Bro. Walter Knox, will soon carry with him, and we hope put it into practice, our “three grand principles and four cardinal virtues” in his new and highly important sphere of action in Bombay. I can promise him that he will receive such a fraternal welcome in India which only a brother Mason can obtain in a land of strangers. Brethren, you need no assurances from my lips to know that my heart is always warm in the cause of Freemasonry, and that “I love the good old Craft which hath for ages stood,” and this your present kind and pleasing approval of my past independent line of action, shall cause me to treble my steps in the directions pointed out by those finger posts of Freemasonry, the square, level, plumb, skirret, and other emblems of our Order, and especially the volume of the sacred law. One way of proving my sincerity shall be in my increased exertions to secure the election of our late dear old Bro. Mould’s little orphan boy, to the Royal Masonic Boy’s School, London,

next April. Brethren, the Lodge of the Four Cardinal Virtues has sprung like that ancient bird, the Phoenix, from the ashes of its predecessor, but with a far greater lustre and brilliancy. I have little or no hesitancy in asserting that it will prove itself a star of the first magnitude in the Cheshire constellation of Freemasonry; as regards a correct and duly impressive working of our beautiful ceremonies; the promotion of brotherly love and good feeling; and in giving its annual support to the great Masonic charities. Long may it prove itself worthy of that name, which I am proud to say, I had the honour of giving it. It has been wisely said, “There are tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything.” If this axiom be true to the general world, what ought it to be to us Masons, who possess such a lovely “system of morality, veiled in allegory, and so profusely illustrated by symbols.” What a text will this your jewel ever be to me. May the purity of its gold ever teach me purity of life and actions; may its elegance of design teach me the beauty of holiness; may its perfect square ever remind me of square and noble conduct to my fellow men; and may Euclid’s 47th proposition, inscribed thereon, and which has been the foundation of so many great mathematical problems ever point out for my guidance and instruction, that great foundation of our Order, the volume of the sacred law, which supports that emblematical ladder whose three greatest staves are Faith, Hope, and Charity, and may one and all of us remember in our daily social intercourse with the world, that the greatest of these is Charity. Brethren, before I sit down let me, as your only Past Master, remind you that the real and true Masonic lodge is not to be found within stone walls, but in the happy and purified bosoms of its members. Its altar is that of the heart, its incense sanctified affections, its shrine the regenerated soul. Once more, brethren, accept my best thanks, which a life of gratitude cannot even repay, but let me hope that when I shall have been “summoned from this sublunary abode” to that Grand Lodge above, one of my two boys will be then found eligible and worthy to wear this, your presentation jewel, which was the first public recognition of his father’s humble services, in that noble cause of Freemasonry. Long may our Craft continue to spread its blessings far and wide, and the Lodge of the Four Cardinal Virtues increase in prosperity, fulfilling its missions to the relief of distress, giving comfort and consolation to the widow; an education and home to the orphan, and in promoting brotherly love and good fellowship, aye, even until that great glorious day arrive, when the lodges of the world will be all merged into one number, under one Grand Master, even the Great Architect and Grand Geometrician of the Universe, even the Most High God.—A breathless silence pervaded the lodge during the delivery of this speech, which was most warmly applauded, the elocutionary powers of the speaker in no small degree producing such an effect.

Bro. Newton, who received his G.L. certificate last lodge although initiated twenty years ago, was proposed as a joining member by the W.M., and seconded by the I.P.M. Another proposition was received for a candidate for initiation, when the great labours of the evening were brought to a close in love, peace, and harmony, and solemn prayer. The brethren then retired to an excellent supper provided in Bro. Halsey’s best style, and which was heartily enjoyed after four hours’ labour.

The toasts given were the usual ones, including “The Initiate,” “The other Candidates,” “The Visitors,” “The Worshipful Master,” “The Immediate Past Master,” “The Wardens and Officers,” “Bro. Halsey,” and “Bro. Davies,” who is leaving Crewe for Enston. Some capital speeches and songs were given, and the brethren retired with the unanimous opinion that this was the pleasantest and most enjoyable evening yet experienced in this young but flourishing lodge.

CONSECRATION OF THE ASHTON LODGE (No. 1,140) CHEADLE.

On Wednesday, the 23rd ult., Bro. the Right Hon. Lord de Tabley, Prov. G.M., ably assisted by Bro. Henry T. Baldwin, Prov. G. Sword Bearer, acting as D. Prov. G.M., consecrated the Ashton Lodge (No. 1,140) at the George and Dragon Hotel. After the consecration Bro. H. T. Baldwin presented Bro. Peter Paterson to the Prov. G. Master as unanimously recommended by the brethren to be the first Worshipful Master, and forthwith proceeded with the time honoured ceremony of installation, at the conclusion of which Bro. Peter Paterson was inducted to the W.M.’s chair by Bro. Lord de Tabley, Prov. G. Master, and saluted by all the brethren in the three degrees.

Bro. Paterson then invested his officers as follows:—Bros. W. Ashton, S.W.; E. L. Grundy, J.W.; S. W. Wilkinson, S.D.; S

B. Kendall, J.D.; Charles Gibson, I.G.; W. Emmott, P.M., G. Warburton, P.M.; John Bradley, P.M., Treas.; James Sly, Tyler.

The following visitors were present:—Bros. Lord de Tabley, Prov. G.M.; the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. Francis Terry, Prov. G. Chap.; Rev. J. W. N. Tanner, P. Prov. G. Chap.; G. W. Latham, Prov. G. Reg.; E. H. Griffiths, Prov. G. Sec.; John Twiss, Prov. G. Org.; John Smith, P. Prov. G. Reg.; H. Howard, Prov. J.G.D.; S. Barlow, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Henry T. Baldwin, Prov. G.S.B.; Charles Marsland, Prov. S.G.D.; John Beresford, John Swindells, G. Backhouse, Prov. G. Stewards; John Chetham, P.M. 322; Isaac W. Petty, P.M. 1,009; T. Smith, W.M. 152; Daniel Percival, W.M. 1,030; Ralph Weston, S.W. 1,045; P. Bridgford, S.W. 1,054; A. Comp, J.W. 1,054; C. Heywood, J.W. 645; John Percival, 645; J. D. Walker, 645; E. Barlow, 964; Charles Lomax, 322; Robert Smith, 204; N. Dumville, 152; and W. Roscoe, 268.

After the business the brethren, about forty in number, sat down to a sumptuous banquet which had evidently been prepared with good taste, the tables were beautifully decorated and nothing was wanting to complete the comfort and enjoyment of the guests.

"Non nobis" having been sung by the choir the W. Master, with a neat and appropriate introduction to each, proposed the following toasts, beginning with "The Queen," which was received with the usual expressions of loyalty for which Freemasons are distinguished. Then "His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." Next followed "The Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Grand Officers."

The W. Master claimed the especial attention of the brethren for the next toast. After remarking as to the general respectability of the Order as evidenced by the nobility and high standing of its leading members, the W. Master, in a highly eulogistic speech, reminded the brethren of the honour of being presided over by a nobleman whose individual excellencies, no less than his Masonic zeal, had won the admiration and affection of the brethren of his province, and called upon each one who reciprocated these sentiments, to show his appreciation of them by draining a bumper to the health and long life of our R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Lord de Tabley. (Grand honours.)

The Prov. G. Master responded, and in very eloquent and impressive terms, complimented the lodges of Cheshire on their increasing devotedness and zeal, and their growing liberality in the support of the Masonic charities, and expressed himself assured that, judging from the tone and feeling evidenced by the members of the Ashton Lodge, he had, in consecrating it, laid the foundation for a means of future usefulness which would some day redound to the credit of the province over which he had the pleasure of presiding. He concluded by thanking the W.M. and the brethren, and took his seat amid the most enthusiastic cheers.

The next toast was proposed by Bro. Captain W. Ashton, whose love of Masonry and desire to render its privileges more extensively serviceable to his fellow-creatures, had moved him to become the proposer and founder of this new lodge. In an able speech he enlarged on the noble and philanthropic principles of the institution, and promised that every effort would be made by the members of the lodge to maintain the dignity and promote the usefulness of Masonry, and support the superior officers in the government of the Craft. He then asked them to drink with him to "The Health of the Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Viscount Combermere, and the Provincial Grand Officers," coupling Bro. the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton's name with the toast.

Bro. Egerton responded, and expressed great warmth of feeling and sympathy with the Ashton Lodge, its W. Master, and its officers, and wished them the fullest success.

The Prov. Grand Chaplain's health was then proposed by Bro. G. W. Latham, Prov. G. Reg., and Bro. Terry replied.

The Prov. G. Master having taken the gavel, called upon the brethren to fill "bumpers." It gave him much pleasure, he said, to perform the ceremony of consecration of a lodge, but more especially when that lodge afforded him such an assurance of its being respectable and permanent. He inferred from the unanimous nomination of the W.M., that he must be held by them in very high esteem, and he felt sure from what he had already seen and heard of him, that he would do honour to their choice, and was convinced that if well supported by his officers, the lodge would, under his management, become a perfect

success. In conclusion, he proposed "The Health of Bro. Paterson," their W. Master, which was drunk with the usual Masonic honours.

The W. Master, in responding, thanked the Prov. G. Master and the brethren for the honour they had done him. He felt deeply sensible of the importance and responsibility of his position, but gave his earnest assurance that nothing that he could do or contribute to the good and prosperity of the lodge, should be omitted by him, and if it should please the Prov. G. Master to be present at the end of his year of office, and be able to say half the flattering things he had said this day, it would make him (the W. Master) exceedingly glad.

"The Health of the Visitors" was next drunk.

The W. Master then called on the brethren to drink "The Health of Bro. Baldwin, the Installing Master," expressing his admiration of the able and efficient manner in which he had done that ceremony, which had elicited the highest praise from the Prov. G. Master himself.

Bro. Baldwin replied in his usually earnest and truly Masonic manner. This was followed by "The Health of the Officers," after which Bro. Henry Howard, Prov. J.G.D., in an eloquent speech, proposed "Success to the Ashton Lodge."

The Prov. G. Master then took his departure, the concluding toast was drunk, and the proceedings terminated after a very agreeable evening.

CORNWALL.

HELSTON.—*Lodge True and Faithful* (No. 318).—The annual festival of this lodge was celebrated on the 18th ult. The brethren having assembled at the Masonic Rooms, Bro. P. G. Hill, P. Prov. G.O. and P.M., was duly elected as W.M., and appointed the following as his officers:—Bros. Osler, S.W.; Lanyon, J.W.; Taylor, I.P.M.; Curry, P.M., Treas.; J. Q. James, Sec.; Blight, D.C.; Lampen, S.D.; Davey, J.D.; Betesta, I.G.; Vicarey and Adams, Stewards; Millar and R. James, Tylers. The brethren retired to the Angel Hotel, where they sat down to an excellent banquet, the W.M. presiding. The customary loyal and Masonic toasts having been proposed and responded to, the lodge was closed at an early hour.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

GARSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 220).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Wellington Hotel, on Monday, the 7th ult., Bro. C. Leedham, W.M., presiding, assisted by the Wardens, Bros. Baker and Cook. Visitors present, Bros. Morris, W.M. 897; J. Lazarus, 241; Devanes, 667; H. Kelly, and Edwards, 673. The lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Cook brought forward the motion, of which he had previously given notice, to alter the day of meeting from the first Monday in the month to the fourth Wednesday, which proposition was agreed to unanimously, as the day is far more suitable as regards the business occupation of the members generally, and it was also the original day of meeting of the lodge. Bro. Edwards, of Lodge No. 673, having produced a note from the W.M. of that lodge, requesting that the second degree might be given to that brother, was examined as to his proficiency, and having answered the necessary questions in a highly creditable manner, was entrusted and prepared. Bro. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas. for the western division of Lancashire, then took the chair, and Bro. Edwards was duly passed to the degree of F.C., Bro. Baker, S.W., explaining the working tools. Bro. Leedham having resumed his seat in the east, Bros. T. Gardiner, jun., Wagner, Prensland, and Morris, were examined as to their fitness for the third degree, and responded in a manner which elicited expressions of strong approbation from the brethren. The necessary preparations having been made, and the lodge being opened in the third degree, they were severally raised to the rank of Master Masons, in that quiet and impressive manner which we have previously remarked as Bro. Leedham's style. The lecture and working tools were also explained by the W.M. The lodge having been closed down to the first degree, on the proposition of Bro. Hamer, a sum of two guineas was voted to the widow of Bro. Sparing, who had been long known in connection with Masonry at Lodge No. 477, Birkenhead, and Ancient Union Lodge (No. 203), and Mariner's Lodge (No. 249) Liverpool, but who had shortly previous to his death been in trouble, and obliged to proceed abroad. Four brethren having been proposed for joining, and the business being concluded, the lodge was closed according to ancient custom, and the brethren

adjourned to the hospitable board of their excellent caterer, Bro. Woods, and we need only say, harmony reigned supreme, the lodge always having due regard to its name and reputation. The usual conveyances for town were announced about eleven o'clock, and hearty good wishes were exchanged and the brethren dispersed.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*Rutland Lodge* (No. 1,130).—The regular monthly meeting of this young lodge took place on Tuesday, the 15th ult. The W.M. was unavoidably absent from his post, which was most ably filled by Bro. Rev. J. Spittal, P.M. 523. There were present, Bros. Robinson, S.W.; Langley, J.W.; Douglas, S.D.; S. Weaver, J.D.; R. W. Johnson, Sec.; Adcock, R. Weaver, Oldham, Mann, Bright, and others. The lodge was opened up to the second degree by Bro. Spittal, when Bros. Markham, Leadbeater, and Lloyd were duly passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was then closed in the second degree, and Messrs. Wyles and Rippin were balloted for and initiated into Freemasonry, by the S.W. sitting at the right hand of the chair of K.S. Four raisings, which were due, were postponed for a lodge of emergency. Mr. Warren Sharman was proposed as a candidate for initiation, and after some private business the lodge was closed, and the brethren called to refreshment.

An emergency meeting of this lodge was also held on the 21st ult., when Bro. Brewer, P.M. 523, W.M. 1007, Prov. G. Treas., kindly represented the W.M. (who was unavoidably absent) being supported by all the officers. A ballot was then taken for Mr. Warren Sharman, as a candidate for initiation, and Bro. Captain W. Hartopp, of the Castle Lodge, Windsor, as a joining member. Bro. Brewer then proceeded in a most impressive manner to raise Bros. Wright, Mann, Oldham, and R. Weaver, to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was closed down to the first degree, when Mr. Sharman was admitted into light. This young lodge which has only held four regular meetings, now numbers twenty-five members, of which fourteen have been initiated since October last.

IRELAND.

TYRONE.

OMAGH.—*Cappagh Lodge* (No. 350 I.C.).—This old lodge which, having been dormant for several years, was restored by the Grand Lodge at its meeting on December 6th, 1866, on the petition of its three surviving members, Bros. W. McCullough, R. Denny, and A. Murdock, held its re-opening meeting in the Masonic Room, White Hart Hotel, on the 21st ult. Bro. Captain C. Scott, P.M., read the correspondence from the Grand Lodge, and the warrant, which is upwards of 106 years old, having been granted by Bro. the Earl of Charleville, Grand Master, 7th day of August, 1760. In the unavoidable absence of Bro. Charles Eccles, J.P., D.L., of Ecclesville, who is so deservedly popular in the county, the lodge was opened by Bro. Scott, assisted by Bros. Dr. West, S.W.; G. Quail, J.W.; Captain Crawford, S.D.; W. Beatty, J.D.; J. Clements, I.G. The old members having balloted for and accepted Messrs. J. Guy, James Cunningham, and Buchanan Scott, three gentlemen well known and respected in the parish of Cappagh, and who were in attendance, having been properly prepared, were initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The W.M. was ably assisted in the performance of the ceremonies by Bros. M. Delany, W.M. 331, and Dr. Love, P.M. 332, (who occupied seats on the dais) as well as all the brethren present. Seven gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation; and nine brethren as joining members from the other lodges to be balloted for at the next meeting. The W.M. gave notice that he would appoint his officers after the ballot. Bro. J. Arnold, P.M. 344 (S.C.), was elected as Secretary and Treasurer. A committee was appointed to draw up a set of by-laws, and also to prepare a petition to the Grand Lodge of Ireland to form a Provincial Grand Lodge in Tyrone. The lodge was then closed in peace and harmony. The W.M. having thanked the brethren for their assistance and attendance on this occasion, the J.W. called them to refreshment. The worthy proprietor of the White Hart Hotel, Bro. W. Mullin, had a sumptuous repast prepared; both the viands and wines were of that excellent quality for

which this hotel is so celebrated. About forty brethren were present at the banquet. After the cloth was removed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drank. The W.M. gave "The Past Masters and Officers who had so cheerfully assisted at the ceremonies." Bros. Love, D. Wilson, Dr. West, W. O. Orr, and T. C. Dickie ably responded, and stated that they would be happy again to do so if required. "The Healths of the Old Members," and "The Entered Apprentices," and several others were drank. Bros. West, C. Lundie, H. James, and James Cunningham, contributed to the harmony and enjoyment of the brethren by singing some capital songs. The Tyler's toast was then given and charity collected, after which the brethren separated, having enjoyed a very pleasant *r  union*. It was much regretted that the severe state of the weather (snow being nearly 2ft. deep), prevented many brethren from attending, who were very anxious to do so, and who reside at a distance from the town.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

CYRUS CHAPTER (No. 21).—The annual convocation for installation of Principals and investment of officers, was held on Tuesday, 22nd ult., at the London Coffee House, Ludgate-hill. The chapter was opened by Comps. Harrison, M.E.Z.; R. Churchill, H.; and Mohammed, J. The minutes having been read and confirmed, a conclave of installed First Principals was held, and Comp. Jeremiah How, P.P.Z., having assumed the chair, Comp. Harrison presented, in succession, Comps. Chmrohill as 1st Principal elect; Mohammed as 2nd Principal; and T. Williams as 3rd Principal; and they were severally duly installed in the respective chairs, according to the established rites and ceremonies. The other officers are Comps. Barringer, Treas.; T. R. White, Scribe E.; and A. Greatrex, P.S.; Smith, Janitor. The other elected officers were not present. The chapter was then duly closed, and the members adjourned to banquet. Comps. Patten, P.G.S.B., and Crisp, were present as visitors.

DOMATIC CHAPTER (No. 177).—A convocation of this chapter was held on the 24th ult., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. The chapter was duly opened by Comp. E. Sisson, M.E.Z.; Sutton H. Cottebrune, P.Z. as J.; Brett, Buss, and J. Smith, P.Z.'s, after which the companions were admitted and the minutes read and confirmed. Bros. Mill and J. Smith were then regularly exalted into Royal Arch Masonry; the ceremony being well rendered by the various officers. The following companions were elected to office for the ensuing year:—C. T. Sutton, Z.; C. B. Payne, H.; R. W. Little, J.; Buss, P.E.Z.; Hubbard, N.; Foulger, P.S.; J. Smith, P.Z., Treas. A donation was then voted to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, and the chapter was duly closed, when the companions adjourned to the usual banquet, under the presidency of Comp. Sisson, to whom a P.Z.'s jewel had been unanimously voted for his efficient services during the past year.

MARK MASONRY.

DURHAM.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—*Eclectic Lodge* (No. 39, E.C.).—The first regular meeting of this lodge since its resuscitation was held on Friday evening, the 25th ult., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. George Moore, when the following brethren were present, Bros. S. Armstrong, S.W.; W. W. Brunton, J.W.; Stonier Leigh, M.O.; R. B. Harpley, S.O.; Edward Hudson, S.O.; Samuel Gourley, S.D.; Geo. Carter, I.G.; M. Rickinson, Treas.; J. W. Cameron, Sec.; George Kirk, Reg. of Marks; John Miller, Steward; A. G. Dalziel and James Mowbray, Tyler. After the confirmation of the minutes of the resuscitation meeting, a report of which appeared in this Magazine, a ballot was taken for Bros. W. C. Ward-Jackson, J.P., S.W., Harbour of Refuge Lodge, No. 764; which proving clear in the East, he was admitted and advanced to the honourable degree of a Mark Master. Several motions on the by-laws, of which notice had been given, were then considered, and resolutions passed unanimously; the most important being to equalise and raise the subscriptions of the members; and to reduce the

number of black balls that should exclude a candidate from admission, from two to one. On a clause in the by-laws permitting a rejected candidate to be proposed again at the expiration of six months, a rather spirited discussion arose. A motion was made extending the period to twelve months; and an amendment extending it to two years. The latter of which was carried by the casting vote; all the brethren voting. No further business presenting, hearty good wishes were proposed, and the lodge was closed in harmony and good fellowship.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Ancient York Conclave of Redemption Time Immemorial.*—A meeting of this conclave was held in the hall of the Minerva Lodge, Prince-street, on the evening of the 21st ult. There were present Sir Knts. G. Wilkinson, E.C.; M. C. Peck, 1st Assist. Capt.; J. N. Scherling, 2nd Assist. Capt.; J. F. Holden, Assist. Prelate; W. Reynolds, P.E.C., Reg.; J. Brooke, Expert; W. R. Brown, Herald; G. Hardy, Capt. of Lines; W. Johnson, Frater, Equerry; J. Thompson, J. W. Woodall, H. H. Knocker, W. Scott, M. W. Cooper, &c. The conclave having been opened in ancient form, the ballot box was prepared for Comps. C. F. Smithson, and C. Pool, both of whom were accepted. Comps. Smithson and Thos. Cooper were then admitted and regularly installed, invested and proclaimed Knight Templar and members of this ancient conclave. Three companions were then proposed for ballot at the next meeting, and the conclave was closed in ancient form and with solemn prayer.

Obituary.

DEATH OF BRO. JOHN HENDERSON, OF BERRY, SHETLAND.

The late Bro. John Henderson; Barrister-at-Law, of Berry, Shetland, who died at his residence, in Green-street, Grosvenor-square, on the 31st December last, was the elder son of the late John Henderson, Esq., of Liverpool, by Mary, second daughter of Andrew Bolt, Esq., of Lerwick, Shetland. He was born at Liverpool, in the year 1798, and having been educated, under the care of Dr. Pulford, in that town, practised for several years as a special pleader, and was called to the bar at the Inner Temple in 1834, and joined the Northern Circuit.

He soon became known as a lawyer of that able and efficient class which has furnished the bench with many of its most distinguished occupants, the class of "pleading" barristers; and he obtained a fair amount of business, being much employed in cases that called for the skill and care of a scientific lawyer. Many learned and ingenious arguments of his are to be found in the reports. His manner was pleasing, and he spoke well; with a more pushing temperament he would certainly have made his way to a leading rank in his profession. His career, no doubt, was impeded in later years by the gradual advances of the illness to which he succumbed.

He was revising barrister for Cumberland and Westmoreland, from 1860 to 1863, and for Northumberland from 1863 to 1866. In the year 1864 he was appointed a member of the (unpaid) Indian Law Commission, in the proceedings, of which he took a lively interest. His acquaintance with literature was varied and extensive, and his personal character stood high, not only on the Northern Circuit, but in the estimation of the bar in general, while he attached to himself a large circle of intimate friends by his kindness of heart and his many winning personal qualities.

The deceased brother was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery

Bro. Henderson was a Past Master of the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2, and a Past Grand Registrar and Past Commander of the Encampment of Observance, &c.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL, who are now in America, gave their Entertainment recently at Washington before President Johnson and the Members of the Household. These very distinguished Artistes had a special invitation to the White House, which was a double compliment,—to England and to America—Mrs. Paul being an English lady, and Mr. Paul being an American.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEB. 9TH, 1867.

Monday, Feb. 4th.—ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION, at 8.30.

Tuesday, Feb. 5th.—INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.

Wednesday, Feb. 6th.—SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.

Wednesday, Feb. 6th.—GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen drove out in the afternoon of the 23rd ult., attended by the Dowager Duchess of Athole and Miss M'Gregor, and her Majesty walked in the grounds on the morning of the 24th ult., attended by Miss M'Gregor. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and the Duchess D'Aumale, drove out in the afternoon. Her Majesty walked and drove on the morning of the 25th ult., with Princess Louise. The Queen drove out in the afternoon, accompanied by Princess Christian and the Duchess D'Aumale. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice walked and rode on ponies on the morning of the 26th ult. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian, drove out in the afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Athole. Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service on the morning of the 27th ult., at Whippingham Church. The Queen drove out on the morning of the 28th ult., accompanied by Princess Christian. The Queen and Princess Louise drove out in the afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Athole and Miss M'Gregor; and her Majesty walked and drove on the morning of the 29th ult., accompanied by Princess Christian. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, walked and drove in the afternoon, attended by Lady Waterpark; and her Majesty walked in the grounds on the morning of the 30th ult., accompanied by Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The Registrar-General's return of the deaths in the metropolis in the week ending January 26 shows the very considerable excess of 239 beyond the estimated number. He attributes this without hesitation to the cold weather, and states in proof that while the deaths in the last three weeks were 5,485, those of the preceding three weeks were only 4,250, a difference of 1,235; and that because the average temperature of the latter period was 12 degrees colder than in the former. The annual rates of mortality last week were per 1,000 as follow:—Birmingham 28, Leeds 29, Hull

30, Sheffield 31, London and Edinburgh 32, Bristol 35, Salford 40, Liverpool 41, Glasgow 42, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Dublin 43, and Manchester 48.—On the 24th ult. a private in the 3rd Hussars, named Cornelius Kane, was brought before the magistrates at Kingston-on-Thames charged with attempting to murder a young woman named Agnes Adams, whom he looked upon as his sweetheart. It was proved clearly that the prisoner made a most determined attempt at cutting the poor girl's throat. Jealousy seems to have prompted the unfortunate man to the brutal act. The prisoner was committed for trial.—The crusade against the music halls goes on energetically.—On the 23rd ult. Mr. Hart, the proprietor of the Raglan Music Hall, had to appear before the Clerkenwell Police Court magistrate to answer a complaint brought against him somewhat similar to one lately brought against Mr. Strange, of the Alhambra. Mr. George Frederick Leicester was again the complainant. He admitted that he was paid by the theatrical managers to act in that capacity. Mr. Barker inflicted the full penalty of £20, including costs.—A curious case occupied the attention of the Divorce Court, and was not concluded when the court rose. It was a suit by the guardian of a lady for the dissolution of her marriage with the respondent, on the ground that she was insane when the marriage ceremony was performed. Some very singular evidence was given in support of this allegation.—A decision of the Lord Chancellor, given on the 26th ult., will in all probability put Mr. Hudson, the once famous Railway King, into easy circumstances. He has for years been engaged in litigation with the North Eastern Railway Company, in respect to certain mortgaged property, and the Lord Chancellor's decision is in Mr. Hudson's favour.—The extraordinary divorce case Hancock against Peaty, occupied the Judge Ordinary on the 26th ult., and had not concluded when the court rose. It is stated, we know not with what truth, that Mr. and Mrs. Peaty are living happily together; that Mrs. Peaty has no desire to leave her husband, and that he has no desire to be separated from her; that no question of money is involved in the case; but that the proceedings have been taken at the instance of Mrs. Peaty's relations.—The other day an eccentric old woman, well known for many years in the southern district of the metropolis as "Jenny, the cat skinner," but whose real name was Hannah Henson, was discovered lying dead, in a state of nudity, in a wretched, filthy room, in Harriett-street, Lower Marsh, Lambeth. At an inquest on the body, which was held on Saturday, it was proved that, although "Jenny, the cat skinner," had lived for many years apparently in the utmost state of destitution, she died worth £111 2s. 9d., the bank book for which was produced as well as sundry other sums of money said to have been hidden in her stays, but which were said to have been mysteriously abstracted. A will was also produced, leaving all the money to some Maria Kate Brown who cannot be found. The verdict of the Coroner's jury was to the effect that death had arisen from deceased having, by her penurious habits, neglected to provide herself with proper nourishment.—One day last week two men were charged at the Lambeth Police-court with assaulting two policemen named Barrett and Pratt. The policemen swore that they were not drinking in a public-house into which the defendants came. Three witnesses were called to disprove this statement, and it became clear that there was gross perjury on one side or the other. The magistrate under these circumstances intimated that he should probably send the case for trial. The case was to have come up for further hearing on the 27th ult., but an inspector of police informed the magistrate that the two policeman had been dismissed the force. The two defendants

in the case were therefore dismissed. Are the two ex-policemen to escape altogether from punishment?—A curious action was tried in the Court of Common Pleas on the 28th ult. It was an action brought by a Mrs. Watney against Mr. Lyne, the father of the eccentric Churchman who calls himself "Father Ignatius," for damages for injuries done to furniture in a house at Hambledon, let by her to the defendant. There was in the course of the case rather more than usual of that splendid forensic small wit the account of which it is very melancholy work to read, but which seems to tickle law court audiences. Mr. Justice Byles, however, seemed too obtuse to appreciate it, and urged that business should be proceeded with. The allegations of the plaintiff are in effect that Father Ignatius was very fond of birds, and kept an owl and a parrot in the drawing-room, and magpies in his bedroom. The owl broke a valuable vase, the parrot made holes in the curtains, and the magpies made dirt everywhere. The children of the family are charged also with damaging furniture. The defendant, Mr. Lyne, was called for the defence, and was very anxious to make a speech. The judge, however, repressed him with difficulty. The case was not concluded when the court adjourned.—The action Watney v. Lyne, in the Court of Common Pleas, ended on the 29th ult., in a verdict for £20 for the plaintiff.—Henry Philip Dashwood Arthy, the young gentleman who, by a forged letter, written in the name of Mrs. Chisholm, succeeded in obtaining one hundred pounds from the Royal Bounty Fund, was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. His career appears to have been one of rascality for several years past. Previously he had defrauded Mr. Gladstone when that gentleman was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and only escaped punishment by a great affectation of penitence. The Common Sergeant was quite right in designating him "a dangerous person."—The strange divorce case—Hancock, falsely called Peaty, v. Peaty, was resumed on the 30th ult., in the Divorce Court. Witnesses were called for the defence against the petition—the first of whom was Mr. Peaty himself. He emphatically denied that his wife was insane before marriage, and insisted that any irritability she might have shown was owing to the worry to which she was subjected by her six sisters. Other witnesses having been called, the judge again suggested a compromise, and, after a conference between the parties, the case was adjourned to allow time for an agreement to be come to.—An inquiry has been instituted by Dr. Lankester, into the circumstances attending the death of Alfred Tolkein, who had been acting as clown at Sadler's Wells Theatre for the previous four weeks. It was stated in evidence that on the first night of the performance the deceased had to leap through a window in one of the scenes; that there was no one to receive him on the other side; and that although the shock did not immediately incapacitate him from proceeding with his business, he had ever since been complaining. The medical gentleman who attended deceased considered that natural excitement was the cause of death, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.—An inquest held on the body of a child who died from exposure and want of food, revealed some passages in the life of a female casual. Anything more deplorable could not be imagined. The mother and her two children wandered about during the day selling cigar lights, and at night they sought a refuge in the casual ward of some workhouse. For the period of fifteen months they have been without a home and tramping about London. The Coroner suggested that there might be a case of manslaughter against the mother on the ground that she should have sought medical relief for the sick child in a workhouse. But, on the other hand, as it was possible that she might have been misled by the remark of a nurse to the effect that the boy was not ill enough to be admitted, the jury decided upon adjourning the inquest for further evidence.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

F.L. (King Williams Town)—Thanks for the particulars you have been good enough to send us. We shall always be pleased to hear from you.

S.L.—We are obliged by your letter and enclosures.

H.H.—Yours with enclosures duly to hand. Many thanks.