

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1868.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

(Continued from page 288).

BOOK IV.—CHAPTER V.—(contd.)

The examination at Paris commenced immediately after the 13th of October, and lasted all November. This was the most important, both on account of the number and the rank of the Templars. Imbert went first to Melun. He was accompanied by the nobles whom the King had named to assist, and be present at the interrogations. He read over to the assembled Templars the articles upon which they were accused, and on which they were to be examined. He then took their oaths to speak the truth after which they were examined separately. To this formality was added the unveiling of the instruments of torture, to be used against those who should maintain the innocence of the Order. What was understood as testimony or confession by Inquisitors was an affirmative answer by the accused to such questions as might be asked. The guilt of the accused was assumed, and no witness for the defence heard. It was a useless task on the part of the accused to attempt to reason with the Inquisitors. It only added to the crime with which they stood charged, and however absurd and unreasonable such charges might be, to impugn the sense and judgement of those who professed to believe in them, was a crime little less than those for which they were then examined. In the case of the Templars, it might have been thought that they would not have been confronted with each other. This was not done.

The sight of the torture had no effect upon the Templars. When asked to confess, they denied with indignation the charges, and the work of blood and agony commenced. The whole hundred and forty Templars were tortured, but in such a rude and violent manner that the members of many were dislocated, and the environs resounded with frightful cries. The strongest sustained these torments for a long time and confessed nothing, so that they were carried back to their prisons, bleeding and mangled. Thirty-six died under the hands of the torturers, protesting their innocence and the holiness of the Order. Some, after suffering for a long time, gave in to pain,

and confessed to a part of the facts imputed to them. But others, unable to bear the touch of such tortures, confessed at once, in the hopes of obtaining release.

We can hardly blame these confessions. The sufferers were confined in solitary dungeons, none near to console and cheer them; they felt abandoned by the world, even the consciousness of their innocence was of no avail, and their only hope was in the clemency of their judges. To add to their distresses, winter had set in with fearful rigour, and a dungeon of the Middle Ages was horrible beyond description. They were scarcely allowed the necessaries of life; they were stripped of the habit of the Order, and denied the consolations of religion, being in the light of heretics. This was sufficient, however, to overcome the fidelity of many, and Imbert descended to commit a fraud, exactly in keeping with his character. He forged a letter, purporting to emanate from the Grand Master, in which De Molai confessed the crimes of the Order, and called upon his brethren to do the same. Enthusiasts in religion or politics, says Lardner, are supported by the consciousness of rectitude, and bear up against privations or torture in firm reliance on the favour of the Divinity, or the praise and esteem of a grateful and admiring posterity. But many of the Templars, were far from being such characters. They were illiterate Knights, who had long lived in a luxurious indolence, and perhaps indulged in arrogance to their inferiors. The crimes of which they were accused, sundered the people from their cause, and their power was broken. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at, that many embraced the offers made to them, backed as these were by the forged letter of their Grand Master.

Such were the means employed to draw the truth from the accused. An Inquisitor of the Faith, a member of a holy order, forges a letter whereby men are led to commit a more deadly sins than even those of which they were accused; for it fixed in the popular mind that such abominable practices had been performed, and thus established a falsehood on the throne of truth, to the discredit of humanity, and the disgrace of all religious orders, for abuses existing in one might easily exist in all. There is no parallel to this in history, nor can we put much faith in depositions, however akin to truth, where the examination commences with torture.

The point which the Inquisitor was anxious to establish, was the denial of Christ. The Templars who confessed, acknowledged that upon their reception they denied Christ, and spat upon the Cross three times; but many of them qualified this by stating that they had been compelled to do so by the brethren.* Peter de Villars deposed that he had not denied Christ till after they had shut him up in a prison for a day and a night. Matthew de Quenoy stated that they had kept him imprisoned for three days on bread and water before he did so. Constantine de Biciac said, that to make him consent to it, the brethren dragged him with violence all over the apartment. John de Buvine declared that he had been imprisoned eight days; and Elias de Jotro, that upon his refusal he was beaten and imprisoned upon which violence he gave in, denied Christ and spat three times upon the Cross. These depositions were afterwards recalled by the Templars. The evidence produced with regard to the unmentionable crime is so trifling, the details so disgusting, and three of the accused only confessing to its actual committing, that we do not feel called upon to notice it further. Besides, this portion of the accusation was not so important in the eyes of Imbert as the others, and the Templars were not pressed very strongly on this point.

In regard to the charge of idolatry—in public estimation the most serious, since those who were guilty of it were no longer Christians—sixty-eight deposed to it. They acknowledged to the possession of the image, which was of a hideous shape, having four feet, two in front and two behind. They never saw it except at a Grand Chapter, when all the Templars adored it, taking off their caps and prostrating themselves at its feet. It did not appear, from the depositions, to be kept at any particular town, although several Knights named Montpellier. If it had only been kept there, the French brethren could have been accused of idolatry; but the depositions were carefully worded so as to obtain a general confession; nor do we find, although it would have formed valuable evidence, that the idol was ever sought for. In all probability, had it been required, the Inquisitor would have forged an idol as he had done a letter. Some of the witnesses had heard of such an idol, but had never seen it; others had seen it, but never adored it. Some

* Dupui.

deposed that on their reception, a cord was passed round their bodies, which had touched the idol, and this cord they were ordered constantly to wear. Some, however, had never heard of these cords. All was contradiction.

Many there were, however, who bravely maintained their innocence, and whose depositions are, strange enough, to be found among the records. John de Chateauville, Henry d'Hercigny, John de Paris, and many others, boldly denied that such crimes were committed at their reception, or that such abominations had ever existed. They stigmatised the charges as the device of the devil, who wished to overthrow one of the bulwarks of Christianity, so that he might the more readily turn away souls from the Cross. They stated that there was nothing proposed, nothing said, nothing done, but what was wise and honest, and the torture failed to change their depositions.

Matthew de Bosc Adhemar made a charge against a preceptor, which might have been true, but is easily explained. He had never seen nor heard of the idol, but having caused the Holy Mass to be offered up three times a week in his house, he was forbidden by his superior to do so. He does not, however, state the reason for this, which might have been justifiable by the laws of the Order, or because his house was under interdict. A great ground of complaint against the Templars was their celebrating mass in places lying under interdict oftener than the privileges granted to the Order by the Popes permitted. Adhemar further deposed, that, being troubled in mind at this, he had intended going to Rome to confess, and receive absolution; but although he had arranged with seven Knights to accompany him, he never made the voyage.*

It is questionable if the Grand Master and the Grand Prior of France made any confession, for they afterwards denied having done so, with the exception that the Grand Master stated that he confessed to some abuses which had crept into the Order. In Imbert's account, the confession runs, that the Grand Master declared that, at his reception, they made him three times renounce Jesus Christ, an avowal strangely opposed to his well known character, to the opinions held by all of his worth—totally inconsistent with the speeches he made in defence of the Order, and with the tone of the conversations he had held with the

* Dupui.

Pope, who had been struck with his unassuming devotedness. If he ever made such a statement, which we cannot believe, it must have been wrung from him by the devilish cruelties of the Dominicans, who tortured till the patient confessed or fainted, or, as happened in many instances with the Templars, was driven mad. He is not said to have made any other avowals. He expressly denied the existence of sodomy in the Order. He did not confess to having spat three times upon the Cross, although this was an important part of the ceremony of renouncing Christ. Evidently Imbert could make little of the gallant De Molai, either by torture or cajolings, and sent him away without further examination, but horribly mangled, to his prison at Corbeil.

The deposition of Hugo de Peyraud, the Grand Prior of France, appears to have been an entire fabrication, or taken down when he was reduced to such an extremity of weakness that he was unconscious of what he said, for his torments were of a most fearful description. Having failed in obtaining anything of moment from De Molai, who, being old and in infirm health, they feared might die under greater torture, Imbert and his Dominicans put forth the whole of their fiendish efforts upon De Peyraud. His confession runs, that at his reception, he had three times renounced Christ, and as many times spat upon the Cross. He had seen the idol at Montpellier, which he had adored like the others, but with his lips only, and not with his heart. Guy, the Prince Dauphin's, evidence is totally unworthy of being taken as his utterance. He deponed, that he was only twelve years of age when he entered the Order, and, consequently, was unaware of the abuses in its interior. He was received at that early age, according to his deposition, when, in reality, he did not get his mantle for six years after. He renounced Christ and spat upon the Cross. De Peyraud and he afterwards denied having made such confessions, or that such crimes ever existed in the Order.

Before leaving this branch of our subject, let us learn a little of what others of the Templars confessed. John de Fouley declared that, at his reception, he had been conducted by the preceptor to a secret place there to make his renunciation.* He refused to make it, but was constrained to it, as it formed a statute of the Order, whose servant he had become. He thereupon said "Nego," applying it to the preceptor. Afterwards he had

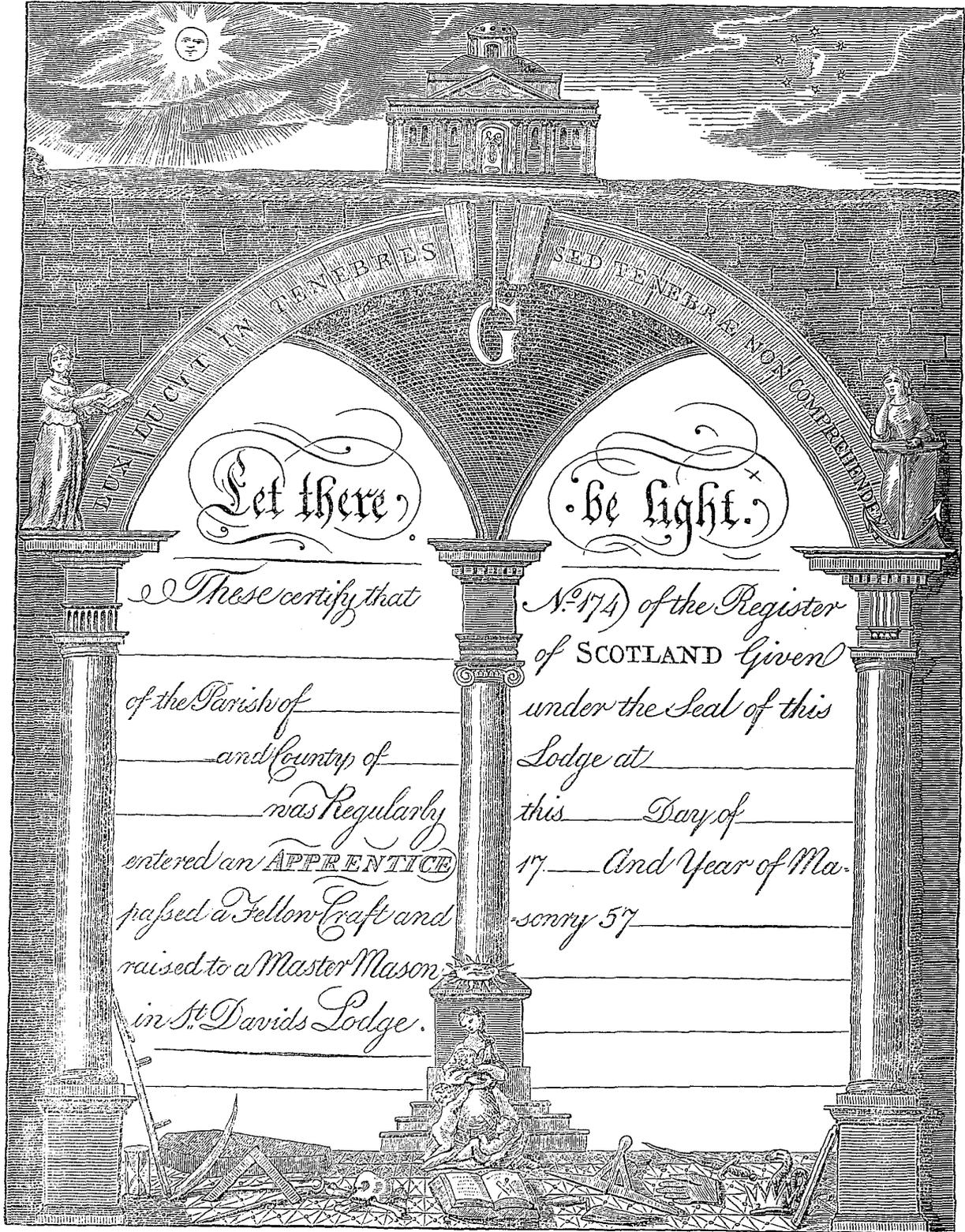
consulted Boniface Lombard, who counselled him to make a protestation before the officials in Paris, declaring that he was dissatisfied with the Order, but this he never did. William de Hautmenil confessed to most of the charges, and would have left the Order, but dreaded the reproaches of his friends, who had made large sacrifices to get him admitted. He had confessed these crimes to the Bishop of Poitiers; but nothing is said about that prelate's advice, or his reason for permitting him to remain in so abandoned an Order. This is but a specimen of the utter worthlessness of the whole depositions. Had the Bishop of Poitiers been told of such crimes, he would speedily have roused Christendom against the Order. Matthew d'Arras, on re-examination, deponed, that Hugo de Peyraud, conversing with him about the disorders which had crept into the Order, complained of its being cried down on that account; that the King and the Pope hated it; and that they would require to quit the Order to save themselves, and bade him warn his friends to do so likewise.

John de Pont-l'Evêque deponed to everything but the unmentionable crime, and declared that he had confessed to a monk, who ordered him, for penance, to fast every Friday for a year, and on that day to wear no shirt. Simon Chrétien declared, that for a long time he resisted his superior, and would not renounce Christ. In the end, however, he gave in; but his refusal on this point restrained them from asking him to commit the other crimes. Geoffrey de Goneville, the Preceptor of Aquitaine and Poitou, who was fearfully tortured before he could be made to confess, deponed, that he had been received twenty-eight years before in the House of the Temple at London, by Robert de Torville, Grand Prior of England. De Torville shewed him in a missal a picture of Jesus Christ on the Cross, and commanded him to deny Him who was crucified. Terribly alarmed, he exclaimed, "Alas! my lord, why should I do this? I will on no account do it." But the Grand Prior answered, "Do it boldly. I swear to thee that the act shall never harm either thy soul or thy conscience."

(To be continued.)

THE first Christians were visionaries, living in a circle of ideas which we should call dreams; but, at the same time, they were the heroes of the social war which has ended in the enfranchisement of the conscience and the establishment of a religion whence the pure worship, announced by the founder, will at length come forth.

FAC-SIMILE OF THE DIPLOMA OF BURNS'S MOTHER LODGE.



EARS OF WHEAT FROM A CORNUCOPIA.

By Bro. D. MURRAY LYON, A.M., *Masonic University of Kentucky, U.S.*; *Corresponding Member of the Union of German Freemasons, Leipsic*; *one of the Grand Stewards in the Grand Lodge of Scotland*; *P.G.S.W. of Ayrshire*; *author of the "History of Mother Kilwinning," &c.*

(Continued from page 142.)

EPISODES IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE "ROYAL ARCH" IN AYRSHIRE.

The epoch at which the Royal Arch Degree found its way into, and the nature of the connection which it formed with Scottish lodges of Craft Masonry, are points of interest to the Masonic student. Stirling is credited with possession of the oldest of the Scottish records of Royal Arch Masonry; but instead of the mere assertion that there are preserved at the town in question certain documentary proof of the Arch degree being in 1743 worked in connection with a Stirling Lodge of Freemasons, might it not be more satisfactory were the fact demonstrated by the production of authenticated excerpts from the records referred to—a step which, so far as we are aware, has not yet been taken in support of the position assigned to the Stirling Ancient Lodge as the pioneer of Scotch Royal Arch and Masonic Templarism; although the official revision in 1861 of the Introduction to the Laws of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland afforded an excellent opportunity for so doing.

It is not till 1778 that we find any trace of the Royal Arch being worked in either of the ancient Masonic provinces of Cunninghame, Kyle, or Carrick. The degree was introduced into Ayrshire through the medium of the Hibernian element which is believed to have permeated the lodge St. James, Newton-on-Ayr, shortly after its erection by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Whether its operations at first embraced also the degrees of Masonic Templarism cannot now be ascertained; but its pretensions to the knowledge and practise of degrees other than those of Craft Masonry were supported by its assumption of the title of "Super-Excellent Royal Arch Lodge of Ayr,"—a designation under which it received partial acknowledgment at the hand of some of the sister lodges in the district, but which it subsequently saw reason to abandon. With the resumption of its proper title, the Lodge St. James not only continued to work the Royal Arch degree but began to confer also that of Knight Templar, and was through its members the means of creating within its own

district a taste for those orders which in 1800 were denounced by the Grand Lodge of Scotland as having no connection whatever with St. John's Masonry. But it was not in Ayrshire alone that the influence of this lodge was felt in the spread of these degrees: it imparted them to some of the originators of Ayr and Renfrew Militia St. Paul, to which lodge, as we showed in a recent paper, the Royal Arch of Stirling was in 1799 indebted for instruction in those so-called higher degrees, of which—on the occasion of their repudiation by the Stirling Ancient Lodge—they were the alleged conservators. Thus in an indirect manner were Irish Masons the means of restoring to what is supposed to be the most ancient seat of the Royal Arch in Scotland, a knowledge of the *mysteries* of that Order.

Among the Ayrshire Lodges which towards the end of last century became acquainted with the Arch and Templar degrees was Tarbolton St. David—Burn's mother lodge—a fac-simile of whose diplomatic plate we have through the spirited co-operation of the Editor of the Magazine, been privileged to present. [See preceding page.] While the designs shown in our illustration embrace symbols that were seventy or eighty years ago identified with the degrees of Craft, Royal Arch, and Knight Templar, the phraseology of the diploma is purely that of St. John's Masonry. But this is not singular; for it was not till after the Early Grand Encampment of Ireland, and the Grand Conclave of Scotland, had by charter planted encampments in the west of Scotland that R.A. and K.T. diplomas began to be issued. The elaborate design of the prefixed certificate was no doubt intended to convey the idea that "high degrees" were conferred in the Lodge St. David, and by this means to assert its superiority over its rival, St. James, Tarbolton. The very short connection which Burns had with his mother lodge accounts for his non-acquaintance with the Arch degree at the period of his visit to St. Abb's Lodge, in encampment of which, in 1787, he was "made a Royal Arch Mason."

In his last work on the "Royal Arch," Dr. Oliver says that some uncertainty exists as to the nature of the constitution of those Scotch lodges of the 18th century which attached "Royal Arch" to their name. As the lodges commented upon by the author just quoted existed by charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, their constitution could not in any way be different from that of other

lodges; but that the selection of the title in question might be the result of their promoters' previous connection with, or admiration for, the Arch degree, is not unlikely. Indeed in the case of the Maybole Royal Arch Lodge this seems to have been the case; for as a bar to its erection in 1797 it was urged by the old lodge of Maybole that the projectors of the new lodge had comported themselves "very superciliously" towards the brethren of No. 14—"they also give out that their lodge is of a different order of Masonry from that of other lodges; they say that they have higher mysteries in which they instruct their intrants, and that they have *new* and much more numerous ceremonies." A further charge against the Royal Arch Lodge was that their pretended meetings for the study of the so-called "higher mysteries" were really held for the purpose of instilling into the minds of their intrants the principles of infidelity, that the Bible had in the lodge been replaced by Payne's "Age of Reason," and that their teachings were altogether of a revolutionary character, inimical alike to the interests of Church and State.

So averse were the Scotch-made Masons of Carrick to the introduction of any degrees purporting to be higher than those of Craft Masonry, that the foregoing charges were formally preferred against the Royal Arch Lodge in a communication addressed by Macadam of Turnberry (then Master of the old Maybole lodge) to the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire, who in the peculiar circumstances of the case, sought the advice of a leading member of the Scotch Bar. That gentleman being of opinion that the case was not such as could be dealt with by the civil authority, the matter was brought before the Masonic court at Edinburgh. In entering upon an investigation of the case, the committee of the Grand Lodge "considered the charges as of high importance, and which, if substantiated, will not only subject the brethren complained upon to the highest censure, but will cause them to forfeit their chartered right to meet as a lodge, because the Grand Lodge of Scotland recognises no degrees but those of Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, justly denominated St. John's Masonry." The defenders having been arraigned before the Grand Lodge, at a Quarterly Communication held in the Parliament House, Edinburgh, May 19th, 1799, a debate took place as to the relevancy of the libel—whereupon it was decided "that none of the

charges brought against the members of the Royal Arch Lodge prior to the 6th of February, 1727—the date of the letter from Grand Lodge authorising them to hold Masonic meetings—were competent to be the subject of investigation before the Grand Lodge, because till that date they were in no shape under their jurisdiction." Witnesses having been brought forward in support of the complaint, another discussion ensued upon "the propriety of examining them regarding Royal Arch Masonry or Knights Templars, seeing that those degrees are not sanctioned or acknowledged by the Grand Lodge, who are total strangers to these orders of Masonry"; and Grand Lodge having "found that no questions anent the degrees mentioned should be put to the witnesses," the case was proceeded with. The complainers, however, failed to substantiate their charges, and the defenders were honourably acquitted—they having, before judgement was given, produced "certificates from the Lodges Royal Arch, Ayr; and St. David's, Tarbolton, testifying to their good conduct as Masons, from the ministers and elders of the parish of Maybole, testifying to their good conduct as men and Christians; and from the commander of the Maybole Volunteers, testifying that eighteen of their number were members of this corps." We have been thus particular in giving prominence to this interesting feature in the history of the Maybole Royal Arch because of its being one of those Scotch lodges whose title suggested to Oliver the possession of a constitution different from that of those which had not "Royal Arch" incorporated with their name. The practice of the Royal Arch and Templar degrees was subsequently resumed by the brethren of the Lodge Royal Arch, in their individual capacity, under a Black Charter from the Early Grand Encampment of Ireland. And as strengthening their Masonic relationship with the Emerald Isle, the Royal Arch of Maybole homologated the act of one of its sons, who, in February, 1804, "had at the Boyne Aquaduct, county of Meath, entered four members to No. 264"; it also granted a dispensation to the brother in question "to enter such as he might consider worthy."

The connection formed toward the close of the last century between lodges and the degrees of which we have been speaking cannot, as a rule, be traced in the minute books of the Craft; but in some such records that we have seen the nature

and extent of the union referred to are clearly enough defined. In this respect the records of Ayr and Renfrew Militia St. Paul are unique, and go far to show the chaotic condition in which some of our so-called high degrees existed at the period of which we speak. Having in some former papers adverted to this point, we shall at present content ourselves with giving only a very few extracts in illustration of the subject under consideration:—

“Linlithgow, February 15th, 1799. At a meeting of emergency of Ayr and Renfrew St. Paul’s Lodge, the R.W.M. in the chair—the lodge being opened in due form, when the following brethren, Master Masons, were admitted to the degree of Excellent and Super-Excellent Royal Arch Masons, when the above and following brethren were admitted to the Illustrious Order of Night Templars and duly dubt Nights of the same.” The cash books shews 6s. 7d. to have been paid by each of the brethren who had received the Arch and Temple degrees—2s. being paid by those who had only, at the meeting in question, being Nighted.

“Stirling, November 22nd, 1799. At an emergent meeting of the Ayr and Renfrew St. Paul’s Lodge, the following brethren, Master Masons, after having regularly passed the chair of this lodge, were admitted to that of Excellent and Super-Excellent Royal Arch Masons, and likewise duly dubt Night Templars, viz., the R.W. Master of Stirling Royal Arch, John Fraser.”

“Stirling, December 5th, 1799. At a monthly meeting of the Ayr and Renfrew St. Paul’s Lodge, the R.W.M. in the chair, it was unanimously agreed that no brother, unless he had attained the degree of Night Templar, should bear any office in the lodge.”

Such innovation upon the ceremonial proper only to lodges of St. John’s Masonry did not long escape the notice of Grand Lodge; for in October, 1800, a letter was received by St. Paul’s from that body, “prohibiting and discharging this and all other lodges holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland to hold any meeting above the degree of Master Mason, under penalty of the forfeiture of their charter.” While those lodges which had hitherto practised the Arch and Templar degrees rendered an apparent obedience to this Grand Lodge law, it was not till the erection of the Grand Conclave in 1811, and the Supreme-Grand Royal Arch Chapter in 1818, that a thorough

separation of the Orders of Blue, Red and Black Masonry was effected.

WHENCE THE WORD “FREEMASON” IS DERIVED.

“Freemason” has never in Scotland been applied to designate members of the Mason Craft; at least there are no records extant to show that it has. As far back as 1326 we find, in the Scottish Chamberlain’s Accounts, that it was “Robert, the Mason,” who repaired by contract the fortifications of the castle of Tarbet; and the Masons who were employed in executing the work were paid at the rate of £6 12s. 4d. a year. Both before and after the importation of Speculative Masonry, the members of Scotch Masonic *Incorporations* were called “freemen Masons,” irrespective of the description of stone upon which they exercised their skill. The adoption by *Lodges* of the distinguishing title of Freemasons and their reception of Speculative Masonry were of simultaneous occurrence. It was in January, 1735, that the Lodge of Kilwinning began to designate its members “Freemasons”; and its minutes show that in September of the same year an ex-provost of Glasgow was “admitted a Freemason and member of the Lodge of Kilwinning.” Again, a recipient of the Canongate Kilwinning’s charity is, in the books of that lodge, under date August 6, 1735, designated “a Freemason.” These are the earliest notices that we have been able to discover of the term being used in Scotland. Bro. Papsworth’s derivation of Freemason is an unhappy one. He might as well apply his theory to the case of the “*Liberli Farmerii*” (Free Farmers) of the 13th century—a class of Scottish agriculturists who as shown by Tytler, were so named because of their enjoying certain freedom in the exercise of their vocation, in contradistinction to the bondage in which the unfree tillers of the soil were held.

“ENTERED” APPRENTICE.

The following excerpt from a fragmentary document still preserved at Kilwinning shows the strictness with which the Mother Lodge was wont to observe the formalities that in Operative times preceded the entry of Apprentices:—

“Kilwyning, the 20th of December, 1643.

“The qlk day in this heid court of tee Ludge of Kilwyning holden thair be the Wardane, Deaconne, and remanent brethrein, of the Massoun Craft, it is appoynted be thame to geve ourders to Robert Fultoun and Rt. Fultoun and John Fultoun

to enter every one of thame and Prenteis, they gevand advertissment to the Deaconne to meit thame with the ordure; and this we testifie to be the trowth be these presents subscript with our hands. Jhonne Barklay, Wardene; James Ross, nottar and clerk of the Court, subscribis for Hew Craufurd, Deaconne; Robert Neal, of'er.

"Thir names underwriten hes subscribit the actis and ordinanceis and hes found cautione to give satisfiounne before our Brethrein at the first ocasiounne,—the principall namis Allane Fultoune in Stokbrigs, cationer for him Robert Fouloune in Montkthen; John Fultoune younger, cationer for him John Fultoune his father; Allane Fultoune in Monkthen, cationer for him Johnne Fultoune in Craigend; James Fultoune in Bent, cationer for him Robert Fultoune in Mains; Allane Fultoune, Jobne Fultoune, James Fultoune, Allane Fultoune.

"Be it kent to you brethrein, upoune the twentie day of May, 1644, the Deking, Hew Craufurd, and thir forenamit Maysteris and *Enter Prenteis* heirin insert, ther is entert to our Luge William Darosche, servitor to Robert Fultone in Monkthen; and James Fultoune, brother to John Fultoune in Craigend; and William Fultoune, servitor to Robert Fultoune in Mains; and James Kimming, servitor to Allane Fultoune in Stokbrigs—quhilk we oblesse us to pay their buiking and presaint thame to be entert at nixt court."

The introduction of non-operatives in the Kil-Lodge led to "Entered Gentleman Apprentice" and "Entered Operative Apprentice" being used to denote the two classes into which the intrants were ranked; but with the Lodge's abandonment of the Operative element in the constitution of its membership came a return to the ancient nomenclature in designating brethren of the lowest Masonic grade.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

ANCIENT MEMORANDA.

The following extracts from the accounts of the churchwardens of the parish of St. Peter, Cheap, in the City of London, may not be uninteresting to Freemasons (*inter alia*):—

"1559. Item paide for Caringe the Egele of Bras, vjd. Item paid to the freemason for cuttinge away St. Peter's Tabernacle and the holywater stock, &c.

1566-7. For a hynge for Mr. Alderman Avenons pew dore and for mendyng Mr. Alderman Duckets pewe doore, xijd. Paid a freemason for mendyng a

cracke on Mr. Duckets pewe and in the maids loft, iijs.

1584. Payde the xijth of Marche for red wands (?) for them that have the plague, jd. Payde for mendinge of the wyndowe ouer the church dore where the waights goe thorow."

These "waights" or musicians were accustomed to play, standing upon the leads of the church, when any procession passed along Cheapside.—JAMES FREDERICK SPURR.

RED CROSS KNIGHTS OF CONSTANTINE.

Seeing that a 32° has been exalted to the higher dignity of a Red Cross Knight of Constantine, I wish to ask whether this privilege is confined to the 32°, or extends to the 31°, or even the 18°, and whether there is a lower scale of fees for members of any particular degree in advancement to the next degree of Red Cross, &c. I note further that he was at once admitted to the priestly and princely orders, so as to qualify him for a seat in the Grand Council, and this is a seat in the Grand Council of 33° in Ireland. Is Red Cross, &c., intermediate between 32° and 33° or higher than 33°? What is the real connexion between Red Cross, &c., and the A. & A. Rite? Further, if a Red Cross, &c., has not already reached the 32°, is he privileged to take that or the 33°, or any other degree, on and preferential conditions or lower terms from the Supreme Council in England? How far does the Red Cross, &c., recognise the 32° or 90° of the Rite of Misraim?—30°.

GRAND LODGE LIBRARY.

There is small hope of our having a Grand Lodge Librarian and Library when so many members of Grand Lodge and others care nothing for the *Freemasons' Magazine*, if they care for having at all. This state of affairs is a great disgrace to us.—A MASON OF 20 YEARS STANDING.

MASONIC AUTHORS.

Bro. Sir Edward Strachey should be commemorated as the author of a work of reputation and research.—NOTE.

CABLE TOW.

A Bro. is a telegraph clerk. Can the Atlantic cable be considered as the length of his cable tow, or would this be considered going great lengths? I see by American newspapers that couples have been married by electric telegraph, has any American ever been initiated by telegraph? Can the knightly degrees be communicated by electric telegraph?—? ? ?

CAPTAIN TORCKLER.

Can any of your readers or correspondents inform me, through your columns or otherwise, if they know the present address of a "Captain Torckler." Can they also inform me if he is a Freemason, and if so, in what lodge was he initiated, and when, and of what lodge he is now a member?—P.Z.

RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE AND ROME (page 284)

As our learned Bro. Hughan has referred to the modern date of the Masonic Orders of Malta, Red Cross, &c., as since 1740, I wish to ask him what is the earliest date at which the Red Cross of Rome appears as a Masonic Order.—J. CHARTERS.

BRO. HUGHAN AND MASONIC PERSONAL DECORATIONS.

Will you allow me to put on record an expression of public opinion contained in Bro. Hughan's expositions, but to which our Bro. Hughan gives no decided adhesion:—

"It is the opinion of several distinguished Masons that the multiplicity of rituals, clothing, jewels, and ceremonials of so many rites and degrees tends to clog the advancement of genuine ancient Freemasonry."

This is the growing opinion of Masons competent to form a judgment, even of such as have themselves entered upon other than Craft degrees. The first step towards accomplishing a better state of affairs will be the concentration of jurisdiction in the hands of the G.M. of England, as in Ireland and Scotland.—SIMPLEX.

ROSIERUCIANS.

Not very well understanding your announcement and the remarks of F. H., I do not form any distinct idea of the operations of the Rosierucians of London, and the names of Zelators and Aspirants are new to me. While admitting that any practical mode of increasing the circulating medium is just now most desirable, I do not at all conceive how this or any practical end is to be accomplished. Granted this may be done by the Earl of Jersey issuing cheques on his own bank for any public or charitable object as the Boys' School, but he cannot want the machinery of Aspirators and Zelators for that. A banker's clerk with a wooden shovel in his hand would do as well, or better. For the same reason much *aurum potabile*, or the philosopher's stone, cannot be very easily expected to be got out of temporary furnaces, such as stated by F. H., particularly if worked in a tavern or public-house. Such furnaces are only portable and temporary. The processes, as stated in the old books in the Rosierucians, are very long and cannot be well got through at a sitting. I have read much about the Rosierucians, but no reading or discourses can be of any use without practical instruction in the laboratory. A learned writer has been stated to be the Master-General; but, with all the explanations of F. H., I entertain grave doubts whether he or the medical gentlemen associated with him have sufficient chemical and philosophical practice to work out or demonstrate any of the intricate operations in the books. The society can scarcely be of any practical utility in its present shape, and I doubt also whether it will produce much gold.—P.G.S.W.

PRINCE OF WALES.

The indecency and impudence of the application to the Prince of Wales to become a Mason are enhanced by the fact that a G.M. has the prerogative of "making Masons at sight," one which is exercised in the case of Princes, and no lodge has the right to tout for Royal Masons in derogation of this prerogative.—A DEPUTY.

BRO. HARRIS AND HIS COMPRESSED ORDERS.

It is but justice to Bro. Harris to say that his views of rapidly propagating his various degrees are by no means impractical. He hardly goes far enough. He and Sir Knight Jones conferred upon each other all kinds of orders and degrees on a hearthrug, as

appears on his own confession. In the same number of the *Freemasons' Magazine* it is stated that Bro. Burdett received at Richmond, in one sitting, all "the priestly and princely orders" in a concern styled the Red Cross Knights of Constantine. There was no making two bites of a cherry in this case. I wish him luck of it.—INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

THE SACRED SWORD-SONG.

In what collection is this song to be found? It looks very much like American Masonic poetry. I recognise the flavour of it.—READER.

A MASONIC LIBRARY.

Your correspondents need not fear about the establishment of a Masonic Library in London if Grand Lodge has neglected it, and has no librarian or anyone else to look after it. Yet, if I am rightly informed, at 33, Golden-square, they will already find a valuable collection of books and M.SS., with the courteous assistance of accomplished Masons.

A notice of motion for next Grand Lodge Communication appears very desirable.—?

THE CORINTHIAN ORDER.

Callimachus, the sculptor and architect, was born at Corinth during the 6th century B.C. Callimachus, the poet, at Cyrene, during the 3rd century B.C. (Blackie and Son's publications). I am not aware that they have yet been deemed authorities. Pictus will excuse me differing with him in every other view he has expressed with regard to architecture. Chamber's *Encyclopedia*, the *Britannica*, and others support my views. Has R. T. ever read Bro. D. R. Hay's "Orthographic Beauty of the Parthenon," or any of his works upon "Form?" I had the privilege of knowing Bro. Hay for many years; and, from all I have heard and know, he was considered by small learned men here and elsewhere a rather good authority upon other subjects than "sound" and "colour," more especially upon "Greek art."—ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

RIDICULUS MUS.

Bro. Harris, P.M., is so overcome by his own self-appreciation, and the plaudits of a very small admiring circle of small friends as to believe everything he does to be a matter of great moment. He, or his friend for him, remonstrated very strongly about my gentle remarks; but, if he were not led astray by such influences as I have intimated, he would hardly rely on Sir Knight Jones and his aristocratic connexions, or tell us so much about his weak gin and water. I am still of opinion that such proceedings as those of Bro. Harris and the conferring of innumerable high-sounding degrees in the name of Masonry is an abuse of Masonry. This I say, notwithstanding I am a member of the A. & A. Rite with its 33 Degrees. It is well enough known that the major part of these are practically suppressed, and I took my 18th Degree in the practical suppression of the others. Such is now the general practice, and they are not professed to be given in many places, so that while an old Order like the A. & A. Rite is weeding out its degrees, titles, and ceremonials, others like Bro. Harris, Jones and their co-mates are engaged in inventing new ones to flutter and to perish.—A. & A.

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL.

Bro. Buchan misunderstands me. I make no pretension to know anything about Glasgow Cathedral, further than examining it very minutely in 1859. On turning to my note in No. 483, this is what I say:—"In Jocelin's crypt there are the following lines," which I quote. Now the crypt I saw them in was called Jocelin's. I booked it as such, and gave the lines as the important part of the note, not heeding very much what name the place I got them in was known by.—ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

MASONIC CHARTERS AND ANCIENT DOCUMENTS.

This is a subject that calls for great care, research, knowledge, and fair play. As I hinted at page 210, I am afraid that few ancient * charters, given directly or personally to "the Masons," or building fraternities, may be found; yet it is certain there is a vast amount of information to be derived from our ancient records, if properly collated and considered; let the proper track be once got into and then kept. Such "privileges" as those granted in the "letters issued" (see page 289) are worthy of consideration.

I am afraid there is some great mistake or misconception on the part of "R.Y." in his communication (page 229, Sept. 19th). *E.g.*, he says: "In Scotland guild charters could have only two examples—Anglo-Saxon, of which we have evidence in the English records, and Norman or French, of which there are plenty of instances."

Will "R.Y." oblige me by mentioning one Norman and one French Scottish guild charter, so that I might know something about them? I imagined that our Scottish charters were generally in Latin; but, to make sure, I consulted the best authority I was acquainted with, and I believe the following remarks to be worthy of the *highest consideration* from all interested:—"I think there were no 'guild' charters either in Anglo-Saxon or Norman English times. Chartered guilds in boroughs were comparatively late. Our (Scottish) charters were in Latin without variation till 1400. Indeed, till that time the vernacular was not used in any writing (the exceptions so few and so late as only to strengthen the rule).

I do not know what R.Y. means by guild charters having "examples" either Anglo-Saxon or Norman. There are plenty of charters, indeed, in both languages—but 'guild' charters, I think, none.—W. P. BUCHAN.

RIGHT OF G.M. TO LAY FOUNDATION STONES.

The G.M. has no such right, although the hereditary G.M.'s, the St. Clairs of Roslin, by virtue of being Crown officers, had. When St. Clair surrendered his office and the Grand Lodge was constituted, the G.M. ceased to be a Crown Officer, and could not collect fees from the operatives. The Duke of Athole on several occasions protested against the late Prince Consort presiding at the laying of foundation stones as interfering with his prerogative as G.M., but, on investigation, it was found that no such prerogative existed.—A. O. HAYE.

* By "ancient," I mean the period when the building of our cathedrals, monasteries, &c., was going on—say from about the 11th to the 15th centuries.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

GRAND LODGE LIBRARY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I am decidedly of the opinion expressed by P.M. Appoint a "librarian" *first*; books will follow. Many may give small collections, in such a case, who would be demented if they gave only to have their donations flung aside into some unlit and out-of-the-way room, to become heaps of dust, uncared for and unused.

Grand lodge might make an annual grant for purchases, and lodges and individual members might become subscribers, thus obtaining at the lowest expense, from such a central depôt, the largest possible amount of Masonic reading. A plan, such as the great circulating libraries adopt, would render private lodge libraries needless.

I am convinced that, in proper hands, a library would prosper; but whilst in such hands *one hundred* books, well cared for, circulated, and read, would assuredly prove a most successful nucleus, I should like to know what good can emanate from storing *a thousand* in some closet at "the Hall," where neither you nor I can reach them?

Your librarian must be a man of large reading; your library embrace works of almost every science and language, for science (as in its large signification) is the Mason's Craft, and language is his necessary evil.

Bro. Harris, P.M., is very funny; but, what would you say—if I may suggest it—to allotting your next two spare pages to the first part of a list of those books which the shelves of a library, such as we ought to boast of, should contain. Brethren who have the will and the power to give, or the opportunity to obtain the books, would have an excellent guide then; whilst now one, and then another, would be able to throw out a suggestion as to editions, &c.

Would you then open your columns to "Important Masonic Conferences?"

Yours fraternally,
W.M., KIM.

ZETLAND COMMEMORATION.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Observing the letters of "West Country" and "A P.M. of 25 Years Standing" in your paper of the 3rd inst., I beg to enclose a copy of the circular and printed statement which has been sent to all Prov. and D. Prov. G.M.'s, to all present and Past Grand Officers, and to the Masters and Principals of all lodges and chapters both in England and the Colonies. You will observe that the letter offers copies of the statement to all who ask for them; and that the letter states that the form which the project shall take will depend on the amount of subscriptions, and will be determined at a meeting of the General Committee. This meeting has not yet taken place, nor can it usefully be held until returns have been received from the numerous lodges and chapters who do not recommence their meetings until November.

I may add that Bro. Terry, the Secretary, is in constant attendance here, ready and anxious to give all possible information; and that he is in frequent communication with Bro. John Havers, the Chairman, and with Bro. the Rev. R. J. Simpson and myself as Hon. Secretaries. Yours fraternally,

JOHN M. CLABON.

"THE ZETLAND COMMEMORATION.

"Worshipful Brother,—You are no doubt aware that Grand Lodge has resolved that, inasmuch as the present year completes the quarter of a century during which the Earl of Zetland has presided as Grand Master of England, it is a fitting opportunity to pay him a just tribute of respect and regard.

"Grand Lodge has appointed a Committee to carry this object into effect, who have delegated their functions to a Sub-Committee.

"We enclose a copy of the resolutions of Grand Lodge, and the names of the Committee and Sub-Committee.*

"The Committee are of opinion that a fund should be raised for commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Grand Mastership of the Earl of Zetland; and they have resolved that the subscriptions of individual brethren be limited to one guinea, lodges and chapters being at liberty to contribute at discretion.

"The form which the project shall take will depend on the amount of subscriptions, and will be decided at a future meeting of the Committee; but we are happy in being enabled to state that the Grand Master is gratified at the proceedings of Grand Lodge, and expresses his approval of the Commemoration, provided that it takes a form not of a merely personal character to himself, but that it shall be in commemoration of his Grand Mastership, as connected with the furtherance of some one or more of the Masonic Charities.

"We are to invite the co-operation of yourself and of your Lodge in raising the necessary funds for the commemoration.

"The Committee desire to leave the details of proceeding to the Provincial and District Grand Masters; but at the same time they will be willing and anxious to give them any aid which they may require.

"The Committee suggest that subscriptions be collected by the Masters, Principals, and Treasurers of the several lodges and chapters; and they request that remittances be made by cheques crossed "Willis, Percival & Co," through the G. Sec. Bro. John Hervey, Freemasons' Hall; the G. Treas., Bro. Samuel Tomkins, 76, Lombard-street; or the Hon. Secretaries, Freemasons' Hall; unless the Prov. or District G.M.'s shall otherwise direct. Each remittance should be accompanied by a list of subscribers, in order that proper receipts may be sent.

"The Committee will supply copies of the enclosed paper to Prov. and District G.M.'s, and to Masters and Principals of lodge and chapters.—We are, Worshipful Brother,

Yours fraternally,

R. J. Simpson } Honorary
John M. Clabon } Secretaries.
James Terry, Secretary.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C., August 27, 1868.

* For copy of resolutions and names of committee see advertisement in present number.

MASONIC LIFEBOAT FUND.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums from Alexandria, in Egypt:—

The Zetland Lodge of Alexandria, No. 1,157 £5 5s.
W. Bro. A. E. Simond, W.M. and founder of
No. 1157..... £1 1s.
Bro. Bassett £1 0s.

I owe these contributions to the exertions of a very zealous brother who has taken a great part in placing Masonry in Egypt on a good footing, our Bro. Simond, and as tribute to my connexion with the district and my services to it as Acting District G.M. It was while officiating at Cairo in that capacity that I had the advantage of initiating Bro. Bassett.

I take advantage of this opportunity to say that I trust such an example will wake up the seaport lodges at home. During the past session much of my available time was taken up with the Masonic Archaeological Institute; but, now that it is placed on a sure foundation, I trust that this next session, in co-operation with the National Lifeboat Fund, that we may accomplish this other object, which is one of great interest, particularly to our seafaring brethren and maritime lodges.

Yours fraternally,

HYDE CLARKE.

32, St. George's-square, S.W.

FRAUDULENT CLAIMANTS FOR CASUAL AID.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—If it would interest your readers and benefit the Order, I could send you a list of callers upon me who I have proved to be *traders* on Masonry, and I could give illustrations of some of the dodges resorted to to fleece the unwary Treasurers and Almoners of Masonic lodges in the country, as well as the younger and greener members of the body. Some of the schemes are remarkable—many very stale.

Yours fraternally,

"EAST LANCASHIRE."

Manchester, Oct. 10, 1868.

D. P. G. M.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—A London Mason is quite justified in saying "We make very small account of Provincial Masons at our lodge." I can pass a high eulogy on our London brethren for their hospitality so far as eating goes; the eating is first rate, but the sauce is not quite so good. I have heard London Masons of good position say, in placing their guests, "Oh! he is only a Provincial," such being the tribute to his purple apron. As the London Mason says, they are stuck down any how, and I have seen a D.P.G.M. put below his juniors. For that matter, I have seen a Grand Officer treated so more than once—and there are Grand Officers who allow themselves to be so treated.

The neglect of Provincials prevails throughout the

evening, and hospitality can hardly be said to be satisfied under such circumstances. The Prov. G. Officer, who has come up to London to attend a charity festival and visits a metropolitan lodge is very apt to go back with a sorry impression of London manners. American, colonial, and foreign brethren are treated after the same summary fashion described by a London Mason.

Yours fraternally,
ONE OF THE PROVINCIALS.

A SUGGESTION.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—J.W. makes a suggestion, and a very good suggestion indeed; which is that the girls in our school be trained in the embroidery of Masonic aprons.

It is one which should not be allowed to die out. In the first place, brethren are severely taxed for aprons and paraphernalia. In the next, instruction of our girls in Masonic embroidery would enable them to execute other embroidery, as ecclesiastical, &c., from which some of them in after life would obtain employment.

It is a legitimate employment for the girls to make Masonic aprons, &c., at the school, and some would obtain occasional earnings on leaving school by doing work for Masonic Patrons.

Yours fraternally,
G.M.

SCOTCH MASONS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I do not understand D.P.G.M. to object at all to the admission of respectable men in any station of life, but it is an old landmark of Masonry, observed in all countries of the world, and even now everywhere, except in Scotland, that a candidate shall be in reputable circumstances, so as to be sufficiently master of his own condition and conduct. It requires no arguing to show that men in a state of practical pauperism cannot be admitted, for, as they cannot relieve the distresses of others, so they ought not to claim relief from their brethren. Serving brethren come under a separate and distinct category.

There is no objection to brethren in distress being relieved, but the contrary; but there is every objection to the admission of brethren for the purpose of being relieved. I have known this done under some circumstances. During the Portuguese exile in 1830 there were many of these gentlemen initiated and adopted by French lodges for the express purpose of giving them a monthly stipend in supplement of the small government allowance.

Yours fraternally,
ANOTHER D.P.G.M.

RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Your readers must have been interested in the concluding portion of the history of the Red Cross of Constantine by Sir Knight Little, which appeared to be drawn up from authentic documents in his possession. It is to be hoped he

will not be restrained from accomplishing his task. The history he has given up to 1813 is very clear, and with the rare advantage in such histories of being taken from authorities.

The parts most important to your readers are, however, as it may be said, slurred over; namely, those after May, 1865. There appears to be nothing in the history that is secret, and nothing that Sir Knight Little need be ashamed of.

The facts, I deduce, are these: that a number of gentlemen of high standing were concerned in an institution calling itself the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, that they attended very assiduously for some years, and that at last the institution died out. It was then started afresh.

Of the first part Sir Knight Little has given us a very good account; but I see very little of Masonic reference. It rather looks like one of the many assemblages of gentlemen of the era enrolled under the like knightly designation. H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex cannot have considered himself as infringing the constitutions or prescriptions of Masonry.

About 1865 or 1866, it is stated, "the laws and rituals were revised." What is wanted to be known is the history of the changes then made. Sir Knight Little would render a good service by publishing the ritual, laws, and records as revised. This would clear up many doubts.

I knew, as many did, the I. L. Goldsmid of the 19th July, 1813. He died a few years ago as Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid, Bart., Baron de Goldsmid and Palmeira. He was a very strict and conscientious Bro. and member of the Great Synagogue to the day of his death, and could not consequently have participated in ceremonies such as have been lately described in your pages. He was also little disposed to participate in Masonic ceremonies. He was in great intimacy with some of the persons named down to the day of their deaths.

Will Sir Knight Little enlighten us on this?
Yours fraternally,

M.M.

ANOTHER "SCOTCH" ROYAL CHARTER.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Scotland for ever, hurra We have got another Royal Charter; so one cheer more—Hurrah!! hooray!!! (Positive, hurra! comparative, hurrah!! superlative, hooray!!!)

I feel better after that; and, my overcharged feelings being somewhat relieved, I can therefore proceed with the more solemnity to write about such an important matters.

We have our Malcolm and David *Royal Charters*, and, to complete the trio, the Prov. Grand Committee of the Glasgow Province tells us (as per report of their meeting at page 298 of the *Magazine*) that the Grand Master Mason of Scotland has got a "prerogative," confirmed by "Royal Charter," entitling him to lay the foundation stones of all public buildings in Scotland.

Do tell us something more about it. When was it granted? and what king or queen was so kind as to do it? I have been running over the long list of our "crowned heads" from—

"Fergus, the first of our kings, I suppose."

to our Scottish Solomon, James VI., and down even to Victoria Regina; but which to lay hold on and carry off in triumph I cannot decide. I therefore *hopefully* appeal to you, or some of your learned correspondents, for "more light." Do tell us all about it?

Yours fraternally,

SEMPER VIRENS.

P.S.—Please put my name down for a shilling subscription to buy a gold box to put it (the Royal Charter) in. Perhaps—but I only suggest—a gold snuff-box might do. We could fold it up nicely, you know; and, if said gold snuff-box had a glass top (plate glass, mind) with a small triangular (I think that shape would have more effect) aperture or hole in the top we might be able both to see and smell it. I suppose it is too late now to try, but at least we are at liberty to imagine, the effect upon the Prince of a sniff, had he only got it on his way to lay the foundation stone of the new Glasgow University. The effect that *might* have been produced is a fair subject for speculation.—S. V.

ANCIENT AND MODERN FREEMASONRY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I desire to sympathise with the remark of our very worthy Bro. W. J. Hughan which he expresses at page 281, viz.:—"Masonic literature is confined to a few whose efforts to advance their fellows have been but little appreciated by the great body of Masons, although surely they deserve better treatment." When brethren such as Bros. D. Murray Lyon, Hughan, &c., devote so much of their time and talents for our information, the least we can do is not merely to read over what they write, but to *study* it carefully. It is not the mere swallowing of food that produces benefit, but the good digestion thereof. Although I may not take *everything* they say as infallible, yet, were I to differ from them on some points, I would give that subject the more consideration. I find that those who are the most ignorant are often the most conceited and bigoted, although in Masonry they hardly "know a B. from a bull's foot;" they are so blind as not to see it, and if a lamp is held up for them, why they shut their eyes; they delight to grovel in the dark; their motto is, and they walk up to it,—"*Ignorance is bliss, so 'twere folly to be wise.*" The only good *they* see in Masonry is—"Eat, drink, and be merry." "*Knowledge is not in our way.*" However, we hope for better things, and believe better and more honourable times are coming.

Yours fraternally,

PICTUS.

TIT FOR TAT.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—When in Hamburg lately, I inquired of Bro. Volkers, Grand Secretary and other brethren if they knew Seigmund Sax, the Masonic impostor. I find that Sax was unknown in Hamburg, but the brethren there had reminiscences of sundry pretended English or Scottish Masons who had imposed on them in a similar way to that in which Sax has duped English Craftsmen.

Yours fraternally,

J. A. H.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

THE UNIVERSAL MASONIC CALENDAR, DIARY, AND POCKET BOOK FOR 1869.—We are requested to remind the secretaries of Craft and Mark lodges, and Scribes of R.A. chapters, under the English, Irish, and Scotch jurisdictions, and the secretaries and other officers of other Masonic bodies at home, in the colonies, and abroad, that they should forward the fullest and latest information intended for publication in the next issue, with all convenient speed, to the editors of the Calendar; and all communications may be addressed to them at the office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, or in Glasgow.

WE understand that a Rose Croix Chapter will be opened at Whitby, Yorkshire, on the 5th Nov. It has been suggested as desirable that a meeting of the Talbot Chapter Rose Croix, at Sheffield, should be held the day before the opening of the new chapter at Whitby.

BRETHREN are reminded that the Lodge Music published a few weeks ago, in several issues of the MAGAZINE, has been republished in a convenient form for Lodge use, price 2s. 6d.

WE learn that a Conclave of the Red Cross Order, No. 10, is about to be opened at the Assembly Rooms, Weston-super-Mare, and Major-General G.B. Munbee will be the first M.P. Sovereign of the new conclave.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.—A meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28th inst., at Meltham, near Huddersfield. The Right Hon. Bro. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M., will preside. After the meeting his lordship will lay the foundation stone of the Meltham Convalescent Home.

WE are glad to be able to announce to our readers that we shall shortly publish a series of articles entitled "*Chips of Foreign Ashlar,*" from the pen of our talented brother, J. A. H.

WE have been informed that Bro. Colonel F. Burdett, 33°, has been unanimously elected a member of the Imperial Council of the Red Cross Order, and will occupy the position of High Chancellor. It is thought that the gallant Colonel's accession to the Order will probably lead to its recognition by the Supreme Grand Council of the 33° for Ireland, where it will be worked under the supervision of the Grand Council of Rites. It is understood that similar arrangements are on the *tapis* between the Red Cross Council and the Grand Orient of France.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS.—The next anniversary festival in aid of the fund of this deserving institution will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 27th of January, 1869. The Right Hon. Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, Prov. G.M. of Somersetshire, will preside.

WE have been requested to publish the following caution:—"Brethren are fraternally requested not to respond to an appeal for charitable aid which has recently be made from Crickhowel, in South Wales."

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.—A meeting of Grand Lodge will be held on Wednesday, the 21st inst., at the Guildhall, Worcester. Grand Lodge will be opened at half past two.

METROPOLITAN.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 177).—The first meeting of this lodge or the season took place on Friday evening, October 9, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Bro. Joseph Smith P.M. and Treasurer took the chair. The following P.M.'s were present, T. Smith, Brett, Carpenter, Elmes, Thompson, and Simpson. The lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer; after which it was opened in the higher degrees and Bros. Spiller and Blakeman was raised to the degree of a M.M. The lodge having been lowered to the second degree Bros. Ralph and Chubb were respectively passed to the degree of E.C. The lodge was then resumed to the first degree and Bro Elmes, P.M. and Secretary, brought under the notice of the brethren a communication he had received from the Grand Secretary with respect to the proposed celebration on the occasion of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland completing a service of 25 years as Grand Master, and £5 were voted from the funds of the lodge to that object. Some other business was disposed of and the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The brethren adjourned for refreshment, and the banquet was served up in Bro. Clemow's usual style of excellence, and gave the most entire satisfaction. On the removal of the cloth the W.M. proposed the formal loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly responded to and honoured. After which Bro. Carpenter, in one of his droll and happy speeches, proposed the health of the acting W.M. Bro. Smith returned thanks. The W.M. then proposed "The health of the P.M.'s of the lodge," and alluded to the very great service they had been that evening in assisting the working of the lodge. Indeed he scarcely knew what they should do but for their P. Masters. They were always there ready to do any duty that might be required of them, whether it was to preside as W.M. or undertake the subordinate office of I.G., and they at all times felt it to be not only their duty, but to them a pleasure to render any assistance in their power. He then alluded in particular to their Bro. P.M. Thompson, who some years ago took the initiative in a work which they all entirely concurred in by the removal of the lodge to the place in which they were then assembled, and ever since that time they had been well satisfied with the change, and the lodge had prospered in a most extraordinary manner. The toast was very cordially received, Bros. Brett and Thompson respectively returned thanks, the latter expressing his gratitude for the way in which his name had been mentioned in reference to an event which took place some years ago, and as sufficient time had since elapsed for them to judge whether he had done right, to receive that renewed mark of their favour was most pleasing to him as a P.M., and he could assure them that at all times he should be ready to do everything which could tend to their prosperity, and the happiness of the brethren of the Domatic Lodge. The health of Bro. Elmes, P.M. and Sec., and of Bro. Tanner, J.W. and Assist. Sec., were next given and very heartily responded to, for which those brethren returned thanks. "The Officers of the Lodge" was the next toast for which Bro. Walford returned thanks. "The Lay Members of the Lodge" was a new toast proposed by the W.M., and for which Bro. Silvertown returned thanks. The tyler's toast brought a very happy meeting to a close at ten o'clock, and by common consent it was admitted to be one of the most pleasing known to the Domatic Lodge, everything going on in the most harmonious and regular manner, without the slightest hitch in any way to mar the proceedings. Bro. Blakeman and other brethren greatly contributed to the pleasures of the evening by some choice ballads.

THE LION AND LAMB (No. 192).—This ancient lodge held a meeting at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Thursday, the 8th inst., presided over by Bro. J. G. Marsh, W.M., who opened lodge in proper form, after which the minutes (as usual), were read by the secretary and received partial confirmation. Bro. Kent was then introduced and being found worthy was passed from the E.A. to F.C., the ceremony being well performed. A letter was then read by the W.M. from the Zetland Commemoration Committee, but a consideration of the amount to be voted to that fund was postponed till the next meeting. A motion made at a previous meeting by Bro. Muggeridge, respecting old or country members was brought forward by Bro. Osgood, P.M., and carried. Several other matters of interest to the lodge only, were discussed and disposed of. The brethren then adjourned to an excellent banquet, to which the visitors present were invited. The pleasures of the after evening were much enhanced by the excellent singing of Bros. Harvey, Abbott, Raffe, Kent, &c., which was much applauded.

MACDONALD LODGE (No. 1,216).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday evening, October 7th, at the head quarters of the First Surrey Rifle Volunteers, Brunswick-road, Camberwell. Bro. J. Stevens, S.W. and P.M. presided in the early part of the evening as W.M., Bros. De Keyser, J.W.; J. J. Curtis, Sec.; Dubois, S.D.; Wagstaff, J.D.; Green, S.G., Waterall, Steward. The members present were Bros. Puckle, Scrutton, Messenger, Croxin, Thomas, Elliott, Fourdrinier, Ball, Francis, Dicker, Rassam, Kethro, Allen, and the following visitors: Bros. Marshall, W.M. 22; J. Reed, P.M. 720; H. Thompson, P.M. 177 and 1,158; Gompertz, S.W. and Grocott, both of 869; White. 22; Anson, 720; Hare, 193 and 1,044; Budge, Royal Philanthropic. The lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed. Bro. Thomas was questioned as to his proficiency in the second degree, and being considered satisfactory the lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Stevens impressively raised him to the third degree. The W.M. (Bro. Irvine), then took the chair, and Bros. Elliott and Rassam, (the latter it will be remembered was one of the Abyssinian captives) were passed to the second degree, and the W.M. gave a very interesting description of the tracing board. The lodge was now called off for a short time, and on resuming Mr. Henry Hammond was initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. Some presents to the lodge by two of the members were announced and the thanks of the lodge were given to them, and they were also ordered to be recorded in the minutes. The lodge was then closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

SILLOTH.—*Solway Lodge* (No. 12,20).—This flourishing young lodge, which is doing good work, and bids fair to become one of the best lodges in this province, held its last meeting on Tuesday evening, the 6th inst., at the Albion Hotel, under the presidency of Bro. F. W. Hayward, P.M. and P.Z. 310, P. Prov. S.G.W., supported by Bros. A. Routledge, P.M. 327, P. Prov. G.P., in the west; and Bro. Dr. W. Jones, 371, in the south, and a large number of members and visitors. After the minutes were read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Messrs. J. Stubbs and J. Ewart. The examination of Bros. Howe and Lowry Turner was proceeded with, and being concluded they retired. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when the ceremony of passing Bros. Howe and Turner was performed. The lodge was then resumed in the first degree, and the candidates, Messrs. Stubbs and Ewart, were then introduced and initiated, Bro. G. G. Hayward, P.M. 310, P. Prov. G.S.B., acting as deacon on this occasion. Upon the usual questions being asked by the W.M., two gentlemen were proposed to be initiated at the next meeting, and also one for joining. No other business being before the members, the lodge was finally closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, spending the remainder of the evening in the pleasures of social intercourse and harmony.

LANCASHIRE (WEST.)

WIGAN.

Provincial Grand Lodge.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire was held on the 12th inst., in the Public Hall, King-street, Wigan. Notwithstanding the uninviting nature of the weather during the day, there was a muster of about 120 brethren from different parts of the country, lodges in Liverpool, Wigan, Woolton, Ulverstone, Prescott, Preston, and several other places sending their representatives. Amongst those present were the following provincial grand office-bearers:—Sir T. G. F. Hesketh, Bart., M.P., R.W. Prov. G.M.; the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, D. Prov. G.M.; Gilbert Greenall, M.P., P.G.S.W.; Rev. G. H. Vernon, P.G.C.; Captain A. C. Mott, R.N.R., P.G.S.B.; W. Laidlaw, P.G.S.; J. Hamer, P.G.T.; J. Bowes, P.P.G. Reg. C. and W.; N. H. Beazley, P.G.D. of Cers.; H. B. White, P.G.A.D. of Cer.; H. S. Alpass, P.G.S.; R. Wylie, P.G.S.; T. Armstrong, P.G.S.D.; J. Skaef, P.G.O.; F. Binckes, P.G.S.; W. Smith, C.E., P.G.S.; J. Molineaux, P.P.G.O.; S. D. Lees, S.P.G.W., East Lancashire; S. White, P.G.P.; J. B. Lambert, P.P.G.D., East Lancashire; J. H. Younghusband, P.P.J.G.D.; J. Pickering, P.G.S.; P. Ball,

P. G. Tyler; and W. H. Ball, D.P.G. Tyler. Amongst the others present were Bros. G. Broadbridge, W. Richardson, Rowson, D. W. Finney, R. Kellest, J. Lunt, E. C. Cooper, P. Robinson, F. W. Wignall, W. Archer, Stansfield, Cox, Quayle, T. A. Smith, Leather, Pickup, S. Johnson, Bunting, Clark, Mulligan, Ashmore, H. Hodgson, W. Woods, Barlow, A. Worrall, T. J. Hughes, J. Jones, S. Ibbs, W. Barrett, Rowdekin, H. Thornton, R. Landless, W. Yates, W. Smith, W. H. Grummer, E. Harbord, J. H. Johnston, S. Oliver, E. Maw, L. Rowbotham, J. B. Mackenzie, T. Chesworth, T. Ridley, Fowler, Holland, Cookson, R. Wilson, T. Jones, SADBURY, W. M. Williams, Shorn, Hilton, Shaw, Summer, Houghton, Leach, J. Platt, G. Bennington, J. Case, J. Jeldart, M. Wilson, C. Loedham, J. Cook, E. Cook, J. Sellar, G. Cornfield, J. Wood, J. H. Peck, J. Gaskell, J. R. Cook, J. Hocken, T. Milligan, W. Swift, J. Leech, H. Evans, S. A. Oliver, &c.

After the Craft lodge had been opened up to the third degree by Bro. the Hon. Captain Stanley, W.M. of St. George's Lodge, No. 32, Liverpool, a procession of grand officers was formed, and having promenaded the lodge room to impressive and appropriate music, and the R.W. the Prov. G.M. having ascended the throne he was saluted with the customary honour.

Grand lodge having been opened, the Prov. G. Sec. read the minutes of the previous annual and special meetings, which were unanimously confirmed.

Bro. James Hamer, P.G.T., read the financial statement showing the receipts and disbursements from the 1st October, 1867, to the 6th October, 1868, from which it appeared that the receipts for the year amounted to £1,248 10s 4d, including £109 1s for the educational fund for West Lancashire, £296 3s 10d for Provincial Grand Lodge fees, and £843 5s 6d for the fund of benevolence. The balances at the close of the year were £900 in the bank, and £104 in hand; total £1,004 16s. The provincial fees this year amount to £123 15s 9d, upon which a vote of 10 per cent. has been passed, yielding £12 7s 6d for the London charities.

The accounts were unanimously approved.

The following brethren were appointed officers of the Prov. G. Lodge for the ensuing year:—Bros. Captain the Hon. Frederick Stanley, M.P., Prov. G.S.W.; Younghusband, Prov. G.J.W.; H. S. Alpass, Prov. G. Sec.; Captain Mott, Prov. G.S.D.; Robert Wylie, Prov. G.J. Deacon; Sam. White, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; Marsh, Prov. G. Purst.; Dr. Moore, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Geo. Broadbridge (of Liverpool), Laidlaw, Ibbs, and Rowson, Prov. G. Stewards. Bro. Peter Ball was appointed Prov. G. Tyler, and Wm. Ball Prov. G. Assist. Tyler.

On the motion of Bro. Thomas Wylie, the sum of ten guineas was ordered to be given to the Widows' Fund, in London, so as to constitute the D. Prov. G.M. for the time being a life governor.

Bro. T. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., said the brethren in Liverpool had found great inconvenience owing to the inadequate accommodation afforded by the present Masonic Temple in that town. They proposed to erect a new temple on the site of the old, and they had already either in the bank, or in promises, about £1,200; and they wanted the sum of £2,500 to build such portion of the proposed building as was required now. He begged to propose that the sum of £100 be given by the Prov. G. Lodge towards the erection of the contemplated Masonic Temple in Liverpool. The whole of that sum might not be required at once, but should the motion be passed he should immediately pay over £50 of it.

Bro. Armstrong, P.G.J.D., seconded the motion.

Bro. Thomas Wylie stated that the R.W. Prov. G.M. of West Lancashire, had promised £50 towards the temple, and he would thus be constituted a life director.

In answer to a question,

Bro. Thomas Wylie said if their funds would allow them to do so, they intended to establish a Masonic Club in the temple, which would be used both by brethren in the province and other parts of the kingdom.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Bro. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., proposed that it be a recommendation from the Prov. G. Lodge to the house committee of the Masonic Temple in Liverpool, that a bazaar be held in that town, either in June or July next, with the view of obtaining funds towards the erection of the proposed temple, and that the different lodges be recommended to support such bazaar.

Bro. Thomas Wylie seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Bro. Alpass, Prov. G. Sec., read a letter from the committee

of the Palestine Exploration Fund, soliciting a donation towards the funds. The fund had been liberally supported by the Grand Lodge, and many of the Prov. G. Lodges. Bro. Alpass stated that the excavations proved that what was known as ancient Jerusalem was founded upon a still more ancient Jerusalem. The old city appeared to have been well sewered, and provided with water by aqueducts; and it was recently found that a vaulted chamber was likely to prove one of the great traditions of Masonry, especially interesting to Royal Arch Masons. He proposed that they should follow the example of Cheshire, and give twenty guineas to the fund.

Bro. Thos. Wylie seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, D.P.G.M., moved that £25 be presented to the fund for commemorating the anniversary of the 25th year of the rule of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of the Freemasons of England.

Bro. Mott, P.G.S.B., seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Bro. Alpass called attention to the present state of the Boys' School, London, which was now in debt to the extent of £10,000, and after eloquently advocating the claims of the institution upon the hearty support of the brethren in the provinces, he proposed that the sum of 100 guineas should be given to the above-named institution. Bro. Younghusband alluded to the favourable condition at the present time of the Educational Institution in Lancashire, and seconded the proposition with much heartiness. Bro. Dr. Lees, Oldham, stated that in his division of the provinces the sum of £2,000 had been raised for this excellent purpose, and several officers connected with the different lodges had promised handsome contributions in addition. Bro. Binckes secretary to the Boys' School in London, thanked the R.W. Prov. G.M. for his kindness in presiding at the last annual festival connected with the institution, and also the brethren generally for their hearty co-operation. At present they had no fewer than 53 applicants on the list for admission to the school, but, unfortunately, they had only accommodation for nine of these, simply in consequence of this debt, which weighed so heavily upon the institution. However, the very moment the debt was removed, he thought he was right in saying that their building would be filled, and instead of having only 103 boys they would have 120 or upwards. On these grounds he founded his appeal for support, and again thanked the brethren for what they had done, as well as what they had promised.

The proposed donation was at once agreed to.

The Prov. G. Sec. having asked the official sanction of the R.W. Prov. G.M., that not only the proceedings of the present and all future provincial meetings and lodges, but of all the Craft lodges should be recorded in the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE, such permission was accorded by the Prov. G. Master, who called the attention of the Craft to the usefulness of such a paper.

Bro. Mott read the minutes of the proceedings of the Court of Governors of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution for the past year, which were confirmed. Several children, orphans of deceased brethren, were voted on the foundation, and the requisite funds for their education and subsequent advancement in life were also voted unanimously and cordially.

On the motion of Bro. the Rev. H. G. Vernon, M.A., P.G.C., the committee of the institution for the ensuing year was appointed.

On the Motion of Bro. Beazley, P.G.D.C. (who eulogised very highly the services of the secretary), Bro. Mott was re-appointed for the ensuing year.

The re-election of Bro. Younghusband, as treasurer, was about to be proposed, when he rose and announced that in consequence of his approaching removal to the neighbourhood of London, he was compelled reluctantly to resign his office. He regretted leaving that division, where he had found so many warm and kind-hearted friends, and he thanked the R.W. Prov. G.M., and his brethren collectively, for their uniform kindness. In concluding, he proposed that Bro. G. Broadbridge should be appointed his successor, and paid him a very high compliment for his invariable diligence in connection with the institution—a striking proof of which was given at the last annual ball, when upwards of £400 was the balance in hand for the benefit of the institution after paying expenses.

Bro. Mott seconded the nomination, and the appointment was unanimously confirmed.

Bro. S. J. McGeorge was re-elected medical adviser to the institution; and after the appointment of the committee for the ensuing year, the business of the court closed with a vote of thanks to the different office-bearers.

Some routine business having been transacted, the Prov. G. Lodge was closed in due form after solemn prayer.

The Craft Lodge, of which the W.M. of Lodge 178, Bro. Milligan, acted as W.M.; Bro. Wilson, W.M. of Lodge 241, acted as S.W.; and Bro. Johnson, W.M. of Lodge 113, acted as J.W., was then closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

Nearly 100 brethren sat down to a splendid banquet, in the Crown Assembly Rooms, the *menu* comprising every delicacy of the season, supplemented by an ample desert. The Prov. G.M. presided, supported by the D. Prov. G.M., the P.D.G.M., Rev. G. R. Holm, Rev. J. Simpson, Bros. Morton, Faithful, Iredale, Lemon, &c. The vice-chairs were occupied by Bros. Boulton and Busher. "Praise the Lord, O my Soul," was sung before the repast, and thanks were returned by the singing of "*Non nobis Domine.*" After the removal of the cloth, the Prov. G.M. gave "The Queen," followed by the anthem of "God Save the Queen," the toast of "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the other members of the royal family" was next given and responded to, and was followed by Mr. Brinley Richards' solo and chorus of "God Bless the Prince of Wales." The Prov. G.M. then gave the "Army, Navy, Militia, and Volunteers," which was followed by the glee of "Yes, Brothers, Yes," and acknowledged by Bro. Captain Mott, of the Royal Naval Reserve. The following toasts were "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.," which was duly honoured, and succeeded by Parry's glee of "Hail to the Craft," and "The Earl De Grey and Ripon, R.W.D.G.M., and the other officers of the Grand Lodge," succeeded by Webbe's glee of "Wine gives the lover vigour." Bro. Gilbert Greenall, M.P., then gave in eloquent and suitable terms the healths of Bros. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir T. G. Fermor-Hesketh, Bart., M.P., R.W. Prov. G.M. West Lancashire; and Lord Skelmersdale, W.D. Prov. G.M. West Lancashire," both of which were duly responded to and acknowledged. The other toasts were "Stephen Blair, R.W. Prov. G.M., East Lancashire; Lord de Tabley, R.W. Prov. G.M., Cheshire; and Lord Kenlis, R.W. Prov. G.M., Cumberland and Westmoreland;" "The Prov. G. Officers past and present;" "The West Lancashire Institution for the education and advancement in life of children of distressed Masons;" "The Worshipful Masters of the Lodges in the province," responded to by Bro. John Molineux; "The Visiting Brethren;" "The Prov. G. Stewards;" "The Ladies;" and "All Poor and Distressed Masons." The various toasts were interspersed with glees and songs, and it may be mentioned that Bro. T. J. Hughes, in one of his finest efforts, received a unanimous encore.

The proceedings, which were of the most harmonious and brotherly description, were brought to a conclusion at a snitab hour.

LANCASTER.—*Rowley Lodge* (No. 1,051).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, the 5th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Athenæum, Lancaster. The chair of K.S. was occupied by Bro. Dr. Moore, W.M., who was supported by Bros. Hall, S.W.; Mason, as J.W.; Bros. Dr. Russel, Broadhurst, Rossall, and Prosser. Visitors—Bros. John Hatch, S.D., 281; John Shaw, 281; Taylor, and Watson. The lodge was opened, the minutes confirmed, and the usual business transacted. The W.M. reported that the next meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge would be held at Wigan, on the following day, and expressed his intention of representing the Rowley Lodge on that occasion. He also brought before the notice of the lodge communications he had received concerning the Palestine Exploration, Zetland Memorial, the Institution for Aged Freemasons, and the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, and made an appeal on behalf of the latter charity, which was freely responded to by the brethren present. The third degree was then conferred on Bro. Broadhurst, F.C., by the W.M., and the lodge was finally closed in accordance with ancient custom.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

HULME.—*Blair Lodge* (No. 818).—Last Friday evening the annual institution festival took place in connexion with the Blair Lodge, at the suite of rooms devoted to the purpose in the Hulme Town Hall. There was a large attendance, and amongst the visitors were Bros. Romaine Callender, D. Prov. G.M.; Dr. Lees, Prov. S.G.W.; Wike, Prov. J.G.W.; John Barker, Prov.

G. Treas., and several other Prov. G. Officers of East Lancashire. The Treasurer's report was read and passed, and the interesting ceremony of installing the W.M. was then proceeded with and admirably performed, and when the Board of I.M.'s was dissolved and the lodge re-opened for the admission of all M.M.'s, the following officers of the lodge were invested by the newly-installed W.M., Bro. W. J. Fowle:—Bros. J. Redford, being the new S.W.; W. Worthington, J.W.; J. D. Kennedy, Treas.; W. P. Norris, Sec.; Pochin, S.D.; Vertegans, J.D., and Newton, I.G. The lodge was closed down to the second degree, and the F.C.'s admitted and shown the first degree, when all the rest of the brethren were received. The usual salutations and addresses having been given in each degree, and the ordinary routine business of the lodge having been completed, presentations of jewels were made to the retiring W.M., W. P. Groves, and also to one of the old P.M.'s, Joseph Ettoft, P. Prov. G. Reg., who is highly esteemed in the lodge. The lodge was then closed in peace and harmony, and the brethren retired to banquet. At the banquet the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to, and the brethren separated at an early hour, after spending a happy and fraternal evening.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual general meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Wednesday the 7th inst., and was more numerously attended than on any similar occasion, since the installation of Earl Howe, Prov. G.M., twelve years ago.

Owing to the advanced age and infirm state of health of the estimable nobleman who has ruled the province during that period, the Deputy Prov. G.M. Bro. Kelly, presided.

Among the P.G. Officers present and past, were Bros. Kelly, D. Prov. G.M., as Prov. G.M.; W. Pettifor, P. Prov. S.G.W., as D. Prov. G.M.; G. H. Hodges, P.S.G.W.; G. F. Brown and W. B. Smith, P. Prov. J.G.W.; the Revs. S. Smith, D.D. (W.M. 779), and W. K. Robinson, M.A. (W.M. 1,130), P.G. Chap.; John Spittal, M.A., (P. Prov. S.G.W.), and W. Langley, (S.W. 1,130), P. Prov. G. Chaps.; R. Brewin, (P. Prov. S.G.W.), P. G. Treas.; E. Morris, (P. Prov. S.G.W.), P.G. Sec.; J. Baratt Jacques, (the Temple), P. G. Reg.; C. Stretton and T. Sheppard, P. Prov. G.D.; J. E. Hodges, P.J.G.D.; S. Davis, W. Weare, and W. Johnson, P. Prov. G.D.'s; R. W. Johnson, (Melton), P. G. Supt. of Works; A. M. Duff, (W.M. 523), and W. Robotham, P.G.D. of Cirs.; C. Johnson, (P. Prov. G.S.W. Jersey) as P.G. Org. E. Gosling, P.G. Purst.; J. Adlard, P. Prov. G.P.; Thorpe, Barfoot, Tolly, and Douglas, P.G. Stewards; G. Ashforth, M.D., and J. M. Kew, (Market Overton), J. Hunt, (Thornby Grange), and many other officers and members of the private lodges in the province, except No. 1,007, Loughborough.

Among the visitors were Bros. W. Smith, C.E., F. Binckes, R. Spencer, and J. F. Klein, P.G. Stewards of the Grand Lodge of England; J. L. Hine, P. Prov. G.S.W., and Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec., of the P.G. Lodge of East Lancashire; the Revs. R. H. Quick, 166, London, and R. W. Burnaby late of 279, Leicester, and Apollo Lodge, Oxford; John Hart, (Nottingham), S. S. Stallard, and L. L. Atwood, Lodge Garden City, Chicago, U.S.

The acting Prov. G.M., having opened the Grand Lodge in form, expressed his deep regret, which would be heard by all the brethren, that the state of their beloved P.G. Masters' health precluded the possibility of his being present and presiding over them on that occasion. Although this was a service of great regret to all, it would not be one of surprise to those brethren who had been present at the last meeting of the P.G. Lodge at Ashby-de-la-zouche last year, and who saw the infirm state in which his lordship then was, in spite of which and at risk to his health, he made an effort to be in his place and discharged the duties devolving upon him in Grand Lodge.

He then read all that which he had received from the P.J.M., with a most kind message to the assembled brethren.

The minutes of the last annual meeting and of a Grand Lodge of Emergency were read and confirmed.

Reports were presented by the W.M.'s of the several lodges in the province, with the exception of the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1,007, Loughborough, from which neither returns of fees nor reports had been sent.

The P.G. Treas. read a statement of his accounts, as audited, which were duly passed, and Bro. Brewin was unanimously re-elected to office. The Acting P.G.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as the Prov. Grand Officers for

the ensuing year:—Bros. Rev. Samuel Smith, D.D., W.M. 779, Prov. S.G.W.; S. Davis, I.P.M. 50, Prov. J.G.W.; Revs. W. K. Robinson, M.A., W.M. 1,130; and John Spittal, M.A., P.M. 523, P.G. Chaps.; Major Brewin, P.M. 523 and 1,007, P.G. Treas.; E. F. Mammatt, S.W. 779, P.G. Reg.; E. Morris, P.M. 279, P.G. Sec.; Alexander Marshall Duff, W.M. 523; and Edward Houlston, J.W. 50, P.G. Deacons; E. Ison, J.W. 779, P.G. Supt. of Works; H. Douglas, J.W. 1,130; T. Thorpe, S.D. 279, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Adcock, Sec. 1,130, and Lieut. R.L.F.C., P.G. Sword Bearer; C. Johnson, P.M. 523, P.G. Org.; W. Barfoot, P.G. Purst.; E. W. Stanley, J.W. 279; T. H. Buzzard, J.W. 523; J. Hunt, 523; W. Alcock, J.G. 779; R. Warner Hoie, J.W. 1,007; and T. Markham, I.G., 1,130, P.G. Stewards; and C. Bembridge, P.G. Tyler.

Bros. Pettifer, P. Prov. S.G.W., and W. Beaumont Smith, P. Prov. J.G.W., were appointed to represent the P.G. Lodge, with the *ex-officio* members on the Hall Committee.

A communication from the Zetland Commemoration Committee was read, and a grant was made out of the P.G. Lodge funds, the Acting P.G.M. expressing regret that the province being a small one, and their funds very limited, they were not in a position to contribute to as great an extent as some of the larger provinces, or as their wishes would prompt them to do. It was arranged that the W.M.'s of the several lodges should transmit the contributions of their lodges and of individual brethren to the D. Prov. G.M., as an *ex-officio* member of the Commemoration Committee, to be forwarded in one list to London as the contributions of this province.

A communication was also read respecting the Palestine Exploration Fund. The D.P.G.M. made some remarks explanatory of the objects of the fund, and described some of the highly interesting discoveries already made in connection with the ancient Temple of Jerusalem, also reading some passages from a recent report in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. A grant of £1 is. was made from the P.G. Lodge Fund, and the P.S.G.W., the Rev. Dr. Smith, intimated his intention of bringing the subject before his lodge, No. 779, and hoped the other W.M.'s would do likewise.

The Acting P.G.M. then said that he wished to avail himself of the opportunity of the Masters and brethren of the lodges in the province being present, to bring under their notice an important subject—that of the too indiscriminate relief of strangers applying for assistance in the character of "distressed Masons," as a great amount of imposition was practised by many of these men. He then referred at length to the correspondence which is now appearing in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, on "Masonic Relief in the Provinces," and especially to the case of the now notorious swindler, Seigmund Sax; bearing testimony to the great value of the MAGAZINE, not only as a means of checking these practices upon the charity of the brethren, but also from the interesting and instructive articles on the history and symbolism of Masonry, as well as the reports of lodge meetings which it contained, and strongly recommending it to the perusal of the brethren. Bro. W. Smith, C.E., P.G.S., gave an interesting account of facts in the career of Seigmund Sax in this country, not only in the character of a commercial traveller for a house at Hamburg, but also in the character of one of the detective police of that city, under which designation he succeeded in swindling the brethren at Liverpool to the extent of some £800! Bro. Binckes, on behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, expressed his thanks for the liberal contribution of upwards of £200 through the D.P.G.M., as Steward of the charity after his visit three years ago.

The Prov. G. Lodge was then closed in form and with prayer.

The banquet took place shortly afterwards in the hall, and to which the Prov. G.M., Lord Howe, had, as usual, contributed a liberal supply of venison and game, and some remarkably fine fruit. The dinner was excellent, and the wines of first rate quality. Nearly 70 of the brethren sat down to table, and this number being more than had been expected, there was a deficiency of waiters, this being the only drawback to an otherwise thoroughly successful meeting. The D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, of course, presided; and the vice-chairs were filled by the Grand Wardens, the Rev. Dr. Smith and S. Davis. Grace was said by the Rev. W. K. Robinson, and thanks returned by the Rev. Spittal, the P.G. Chaplains.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts (alternating with songs) were duly honoured. In proposing the "better health of the Prov. G.M.," the D. Prov. G.M. said that, to dilate on the virtues of Lord Howe in any assembly of Leicestershire men,

and especially of Leicestershire Masons, would be quite superfluous, as they were patent to all; that it would be sufficient to state that his lordship carried out in his daily life the virtues inculcated by the excellent and time-honoured institution of Freemasonry, and especially that excellent Masonic, no less than Christian virtue, charity. Indeed, Lord Howe's charity was profuse and proverbial, and that it was a high honour to the Craft in Leicestershire to be presided over by such a man, who had been a zealous member of the province for nearly half a century, during the last 12 years of which he had ruled over them as their chief. Long might he so continue!

The toast was received with great enthusiasm, and was succeeded by that of "The D. Prov. G.M.," which was also most cordially received and accompanied with musical honours, and to which Bro. Kelly responded.

The next toast was that of "The Visiting Brethren," among whom were no less than four P.G. Stewards of the Grand Lodge of England, an American brother, two clerical brethren, and others. This was ably responded to by Bro. W. Smith, C.E., on behalf of the visitors.

Due honour having been done to the P.G. Officers of the year, and the P.G. Officers, the D. Prov. G.M. proposed "The Masonic Charities." He said that in the outer world the question was often asked "What is the good of Freemasonry?" and that instead of attempting to explain in a few words to the initiated a system, which it required the study of a lifetime to learn thoroughly, it would be far better to point to our noble charities as the best proof of the good of Masonry.

After speaking at some length upon the several charities, the amount annually raised for these purposes by the voluntary contributions of the brethren, &c., be concluded by calling upon Bro. Binckes to respond to the toast.

This was done by Bro. Binckes with his usual eloquence, and after acknowledging the toast on behalf of the Girl's School and the Asylum, he made a very forcible and touching appeal for aid to the Boy's School under the peculiar and unfavourable position in which it was now placed owing to the debt of £10,000, which pressed so heavily upon it. Under these circumstances it was urgently desired, that the debt should, if possible, be cleared of during the coming year; that effectual assistance in this object had been promised by several provinces, and he hoped that of Leicestershire would not be behind others.

After again referring to the very handsome sum of upwards of £200 contributed by the province three years ago, under the stewardship of their D. Prov. G.M., he announced that the Rev. Bro. Langley, S.W. of the Rutland Lodge, No. 1,130, had undertaken the office of steward at the next festival, and be concluded by expressing a hope that, whilst he could ask those brethren who had already so liberally contributed, to put their hands into their pockets again, Bro. Langley would receive liberal support from the many other brethren in the province, who are not at present supporters of the charity.

The D. Prov. G.M., in proposing "The Masonic Press," with which he coupled the name of Bro. W. Smith, C.E., as the representative of the FREEMASON'S MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, again bore testimony to the great value and interest of that publication, of which he had been a constant reader for the last three years, and which was worthy of far greater support from the Craft than it received, for strangely enough, recent correspondence in its pages on the Seigmund Sax swindle brought to light the fact that there were P.M.'s in the Craft of many years' standing who had never heard of its existence.

Bro. Smith responded in suitable terms, and after several other toasts, "The Parting Song" and "The Tylers' Toast" brought a pleasant reunion to a close.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge*, (No. 471).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this lodge, took place at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, the 7th inst., and although there was a monster reform demonstration in the town, yet the brethren assembled in goodly numbers. Bro. Oliver W.M. was in the chair, supported by Bros. S. Coombs, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W.; Wells, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W.; Pickford, P.M., P.G. Treas.; Rev. J. Fox, Prov. G. Chap.; W. Williams, P.G. Sec.; R. B. Evans, P.M., P. Prov. G.D.C.; Hellyer, P.M. P.G. Purst., and several foreign brothers. The lodge was opened in due form, when the minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed. The ballot took place when Bro. the Rev. Augustus Richard Blundell, M.A. Curate of St. Woollos Church, Newport, and a

member of the Apollo Lodge 357, Oxford, was unanimously admitted as a subscribing member. The ballot again took place when Bro. Constantine William De Bernardy of London, P.M. of this lodge, and Prov. D.G.M. for Monmouthshire was unanimously elicited an honorary member, previous to the last ballot, Bros. Pickford, Coombs, and Williams spoke highly of the very many excellent qualities of Bro. De. Bernardy, and the great services rendered by him to Masonry in general, and to the Silurian Lodge in particular, and the voting showed that the brethren appreciated that worthy brothers' uniform kindness and courtesy. The lodge was then opened in the 2nd degree, when Bro. Samuel Parfitt was examined before the brethren, as to the progress he had made as a F.C. Freemason, his answer proving satisfactory, Bro. Parfitt retired, when the lodge was opened in the 3rd degree, and the candidate on being re-admitted was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The working by Bro. Oliver was the theme of admiration, and the rendering of the Masonic music on the organ by that prince of musicians Bro. Groves, elicited strong marks of approbation. The lodge was then closed down to the 2nd and 1st degrees, when Bro. Wells, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W. announced that it was the intention of the D.P.G.M. to hold a P.G. lodge at Newport, on the 28th of December next, being the day on which the new W.M. of 471, will be installed and the D.P.G.M. trusted thereby to secure a good meeting. Bro. the Rev. S. Fox, P.G. Chap. then mentioned a case of real distress in this district, in reference to the extreme poverty of a Mrs. Williams, of Commercial-road, Newport, wife of a brother now in the Asylum at Abergavenny, who with five small children are now quite destitute. A handsome sum from the funds was voted, and a further subscription started in the room, and we are proud to record the fact that the S.D. reported having collected nearly £2, which with the donation from the funds was handed to Bro. Fox, who said he would dispense the bounty thus raised, as Mrs. Williams's circumstances would require it. Two brothers were then proposed as joining members, and two new candidates for initiation were also nominated. The subject of subscribing towards the testimonial to be presented to the G.M. was then brought forward, but owing to the lateness of the hour and several brethren having left, the same was adjourned to the next meeting, and the lodge was closed in due form at 10 p.m.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

FROME.—*Royal Somerset Lodge*, (No. 973).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the George Hotel, on the 8th inst. The W.M. elect, Bro. W. Mason, was duly installed and appointed his officers for the year. A very interesting portion of the day's proceedings was the presentation to Bro. R. de M. Lawson, P.M. 973, of a very handsome silver goblet, the inscription on which fully expressed the motives of the presentors:—"Presented to Bro. R. de M. Lawson, P.M. 973, by the brethren of the Royal Somerset Lodge, as a mark of their fraternal esteem and in testimony of their appreciation of services rendered to the lodge, October 1, 1868." The presentation was made by the W.M., and feelingly acknowledged by Bro. Lawson.

SCOTLAND.

ROSS AND CROMARTY.

STORNOWAY.—*Lodge Fortrose*, (No. 108).—The ordinary monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Friday night, the 4th ult. In the absence of the R.W.M., the lodge was duly opened by Bro. Norman MacIver. After a short discussion and some alteration, the minutes of the last monthly meeting were confirmed. Bro. Serjeant Craig asked and obtained the approval of the lodge to appoint a committee of office-bearers, to revise the ritual of ordinary work, with the view of holding lodges of instruction for the benefit of young members. Though Bro. Craig's time is very much occupied by the duties of his profession, still he can occasionally spare an hour for the benefit of the Craft. The remaining business was the initiation of two candidates, Mr. Alex. M. Morison, and Mr. John MacFarlane. After the initiation ceremony, the young brethren expressed themselves as agreeably disappointed and delighted with the instruction they received on the E.A. step. The acting R.W.M. duly closed the lodge at H. T. in peace and harmony. The current monthly meeting was held on Friday, the 2nd inst. The lodge was opened at half-past eight o'clock,

p.m., by the R.W.M. Bro. Alex. Robertson, supported by Bros. Chisholm, Treas.; J. Anderson, Sec.; and in the W. by Bro. Malcolm MacDonald, S.W.; in the S. by Bros. H. McLeod Ross, J.W.; Alex. MacKenzie, S.D.; G. MacDonald, J.W. &c. After the ordinary business was settled to the satisfaction of the brethren, the R.W.M. found more active work for the Craft, in initiating Bro. Adjutant Colin Duff, R.A., in the mysteries of St. John's Masonry. The gallant adjutant is inspector of volunteers, and felt proud of seeing the light in the same lodge as the late Bro. Lord H. Brougham and other worthy Freemasons. After refreshment, the lodge was duly closed by the R.W.M., all happy to meet again. This meeting was unusually well-attended, though the time of most people in this out-of-the-way quarter of the Queens' dominions, is at this season, very much divided between pleasure and business, volunteers' drill, and classes for instruction at night. Still as the young members of the Fortrose increase, they find that there is pleasure as well as knowledge to be found in the practice of the Royal Art. Death has levelled the great majority of our worthy masters and brethren, and it will require some degree of zeal, and not a little perseverance on the part of their successors in office in the old Fortrose, to fill their vacant places.

SOUTH AMERICA.

BUENOS AYRES.

LODGE STAR OF THE SOUTH, (No. 1,025).

On the 1st of June, 1868, the installation of W.M. and officers of the Lodge Star of the South, for the ensuing 12 months took place at the lodge room, No. 48, Calle Piedad. The lodge was opened and the minutes of the preceeding meeting read and confirmed. Deputations of the Lodges *Constancia Regeneracion*, *Consuelo del Infortunio*, *Union del Plata*, *Unione Italiana*, *Germania Amie des Nanfragees*, *Teutonia* and *Excelsior*; of the Chapters *Unione Italiana*, *Amie des Nanfragees* and *Union del Plata*; and of the Supreme Grand Council of the Argentine Republic were then announced and received according to their rank.

The R.W. District Grand Master, Bro. P. M. Masefeld, and his officers then entered, the Grand Master taking the chair, and in a few words expressed his pleasure of being present to install Bro. Murray to the exalted position of Master for a second time, he having been re-elected by an unanimous vote of the lodge at the last meeting, and hoped that he would continue to govern as well as he had during his former term of office.

The G.M. then delegated, Bro. P. M. Ford to do the ceremony of Installation, which he did in a most impressive manner.

The G.M. and officers having retired, and Bro. Murray having occupied the chair, after thanking the visiting brethren for the fraternal sentiments they showed by attending the ceremony, proceeded to give an account of what had been done during his former term of office. He said that on looking into the affairs of the lodge, he had found that it was on the verge of bankruptcy, it being indebted to the amount of 36dols., and that there were 36 subscribing members on the list. That he had had the satisfaction of clearing off all the debt, and paying all the expenses as they became due. That there were now 54 subscribing members notwithstanding that two of the brethren had died during the year, and one had been suspended for non-payment of fees. That he had given 46 degrees during the year, 17 candidates have been initiated, and finally that he had endeavoured to do his duty, and was pleased to find that the members considered he had done so, by re-electing him.

The W.M. of the L. *Unione Italiana*, Bro. Sarrarezza 33° then rose, and on behalf of the visitors thanked the W.M., assuring the lodge that he had great pleasure in seeing Bro. Murray re-elected, that he had no doubt but that he would continue to advance the interests of the lodge, and finally he saluted him particularly on behalf of the *Unione Italiana* of which Bro. Murray was Honorary Past Master.

Bro. P. M. Larsen 33° then spoke, touching on the interests of Masonry in general, and expressed his happiness in seeing Bro. Murray re-elected to that post which he had so well filled during his former term of office. The bag for the Benevolent Fund realized the sum of 326 dollars, after which the lodge was closed and the brethren retired to the refreshment room, where several speeches were made.

At the meeting of the lodge, held on the 6th of July, after

the W.M. had given the second and third degrees to some candidates, and the lodge had been lowered to the first, he was requested to retire for a season as the members were going to treat of some business in which he was interested. He did so delivering the gavel to Bro. P. M. Van Oppen.

The business being concluded, the W.M. was re-admitted, and Bro. Van Oppen calling the brethren to order, made an eloquent speech in which he said that at some of the former meetings the members of the lodge had decided to give to Bro. Murray a testimonial suited to his Masonic merits, to the great zeal he had shown in forwarding the interests of the lodge during his preceding years of office, and the Craft in general, and for his praiseworthy efforts to relieve and assist the sick during the Cholera epidemic, and finally that he felt great pleasure in being chosen by the lodge to deliver a P.M.'s jewel to him.

Bro. Murray returned thanks for the great honour conferred on him, assuring the brethren that the best testimonial they had given him for his work in the lodge, was, in his idea, his re-election to the important post he held, that he did not deserve any other testimonial, as he had only done his duty, and had no doubt but that any other brother elected to the post would have done exactly the same as he had, and finally, that it should ever be worn by him, not only as a mark of honour, but also as the distinctive badge of the lodge, Star of the South.

Bro. Battila, 33° P.M. of the lodge Unione Italiana, then rose on behalf of his lodge, and said that as he knew such a ceremony was going to take place, his lodge had thought proper to name a committee of four of high Masonic rank to attend; that he considered it an honour well deserved, and that he had still greater pleasure in saluting Bro. Murray, as a distinguished member and honorary Past Master of the lodge Unione Italiana.

The testimonial presented to Bro. Murray, was designed by a committee composed of Bros. Van Oppen, Ryan, and Walker, and made up by Mr. Fahre, the leading jeweller of Buenos Ayres, its value being £25 sterling. It is in the form of a five pointed star, emblematical of the lodge Star of the South, and of the five points of fellowship. In the centre of the star is the Past Master's Medallion in gold, and on the reverse is the following inscription:—

“Presented to P.M. Charles Murray, of the Lodge Star of the South, No. 1,025, as a token of esteem, respect, and high appreciation of his Masonic virtues, July 6th, 1868.”

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

BRITANNIC CHAPTER (No. 33).—A meeting of this flourishing chapter was held on the 9th inst. The M.E.Z., Comp. Dattye, presided, supported by his officers. After the transaction of business, which was not of a very important character, the chapter was closed and the companions retired to the banquet. A pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent. The companions present were Comps. Battye, M.E.Z., Woodman, Strapp, Shields, Ohren, C. W. Wood, W. Smith, C.E., L. Crombie, Clouston, Dixon, Wilson, and Bennett. Visitors: W. Watson, P.Z. (25); Walters, P.Z. (73); Younghusband, P.Z. (32); J. S. Peirce, P.Z. (2).

TEMPERANCE CHAPTER (No. 169).—At the “White Swan” Tavern, High-street, Deptford, the regular convocation of this prosperous chapter was held on Tuesday, the 6th inst., the chapter was opened by Comps. G. Brown, M.E.Z.; J. H. Searle, H.; F. Walters, P.Z. as J.; afterwards Comp. J. T. Tibbals, P.Z., presided in the chair of J. The minutes only were confirmed, and as time was short, the rehearsal of the ceremony of exaltation was not performed. Two members of 169 were proposed for exaltation at the next meeting. There were not any visitors. Besides the members mentioned there were present, Comps. G. Bolton, P.Z. Treas.; W. Simmons, P.Z.; N. Wingfield, S.E.; Payne, 2nd A.S.; Smith, Bartlett, Shaw, Dussek, Tinslow, Tippett, and others.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER.—(No. 185).—This old established prosperous and flourishing chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, the 13th inst., Comps. A. D. Loewenstark, M.E.Z.; F. Walters, P.Z. as H.; J. Stevens, J.; and other past principals opened the chapter. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. The addresses of the

three chairs were given for rehearsal and most admirably done. The Zealand Testimonial was brought under the notice of the chapter, and received some support from the members. The chapter was duly closed. Amongst the large number of members present we noticed Comps. E. H. Patten, J. R. Sheen, R. Watts, Dyer, Robinson, &c., P.Z.'s, Pollaky, and others. Visitors, F. Walters, P.Z., 73; B. Isaacs, P.Z. &c. The usual good banquet followed, served up under the able management of the indefatigable Bro. C. Gosden, who as usual exerted himself to secure the comfort of all.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—This Chapter of Instruction, held at the Union Tavern, Air-street, Piccadilly, has now resumed its meetings for the season, and met on Saturday evening, October 10th. Bro. Adams was unanimously elected M.E.Z. for the ensuing fortnight. This excellent chapter of instruction has also the advantage of having the services of Comp. Brett, past M.E.Z., whose well-known capabilities, in conjunction with several well-known companions, has caused so many past Principals and numerous companions having so thorough a knowledge in R.A. Masonry. We should recommend all the newly-exalted to visit the above chapter of instruction.

FRATRES ROSICRUCIANÆ SOCIETATIS.

A quarterly meeting of the Anglican branch of this renowned society was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday the 8th inst., and was in every respect a most successful reunion of the brotherhood. The most worthy chief Frater Robert Wentworth Little, (President of the London Literary Union) was as usual, seated in the orient, and the council of ancients were well represented by five out of seven members. Frater J. Newton, F.R.G.S. presided at the Gate of Life, Frater S. H. Rawley at the Gate of Mystery, and Fratres H. C. Levander, M.A., and A. A. Pendlebury defended the entrances to the Houses of Sanctification and Perfection. Among other Fratres present we noticed H. G. Buss, Treas.; Gen. W. R. Woodman, M.D. Sec.; Gen. J. Brett, 2nd Ancient. H. E. Frances, W. Hambly, G. Kenning, W. Carpenter, L.L.D., A. Frickehaus, T. Kayler, J. G. Thompson 5th Ancient, J. Webb, E. F. Barry, W. F. N. Quilty, Chamberlin, Butler, Anderson, Jones, Howell, Walford, Bird, Ferguson, Percival, Banning, Austin, &c. &c.

The notice convening the meeting which appeared in the “Rosicrucian” the special organ of the fraternity was then read, and the names of twelve aspirants therein recorded were ordered to be entered on the roll. The minutes having been confirmed, six novices, viz.: Angelo John Lewis, barrister at law; Rev. W. B. Church, M.A., Henry Tipton, David R. Still, W. Hamlyn and John Mayo were introduced to the mystic temple, and having been pledged as men of honour, were tested by the elemental proofs, and admitted into the outer court or vestibule. Having expressed their desire for further light, the conductor, Frater Quilty, led the aspirants to the chamber of reflection, and in due time they were instructed in the primary secrets of Nature and Truth, as a preliminary to participation in the solemn rite of Perfection. The *coup d'œil* during this impressive ceremony was most effective, the orient blazed with light revealing to the unaccustomed eyes of the privileged Zelabotes the occult hieroglyphics and symbols of the brotherhood which were then elucidated theoretically and philosophically by the Master General, and the ancient signs and modes of recognition formally explained.

After the receptions, the Earl of Jersey was chosen as the third Honorary Vice-President, and W. E. Gumbleton, Esq., J. P. was also elected an honorary member.

The circular convening a Supreme Council of the Rosicrucians at Edinburgh, on the 31st inst. was then read, and the M.G. undertook to send a report of the progress of the English branch whose membership is now nearly complete. It was resolved that the annual Banquet of the Society, be held at the next quarterly meeting on the second Thursday in January at the Freemasons' Tavern, when a powerful muster of R. A. Fratres may confidently be expected, it being not only the obligatory meeting, but also the night for election and induction of officers. Our esteemed friend Frater W. J. Hughan will doubtless be elected upon that occasion to the high post of Master General a station for which he is so admirably fitted as one of the leading philosophical Masons in England.

Fratres Rawley, Webb and Bury were selected as the com-

mittee to carry out the banquet arrangements in January, and there being no further business, the "Collegium Mysticum" was closed, in accordance with the primitive ritual, with prayer to the Fountain of all Light and Knowledge.

Obituary.

THE LATE BRO. JOHN S. S. HOPWOOD, PRESIDENT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD.

We regret to announce the decease of this well-known brother, which melancholy event occurred at his residence, No. 10, Montagu-place, Russell-square, on the 9th inst. Bro. Hopwood was initiated in the Lodge of Hope, now the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, No. 7, on the 30th of November, 1820, and continued a member up to the day of his death, nearly 48 years.

Bro. Hopwood was appointed one of the Grand Deacons in April, 1858, and had also filled the important post of President of the Colonial Board since 1862. As a mark of respect to his memory, the lodge room in which the Royal York, No. 7, met on Wednesday last, the 14th inst., was draped in black, and the regret of the members generally was expressed in feeling terms. The deceased brother was in the 74th year of his age.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.

The spirited manager and lessee, Bro. F. B. Chatterton, has achieved a great success in the production of the drama of the *King o' Scots*, founded on Sir Walter Scott's novel of the *Fortunes of Nigel*, written by Mr. Andrew Halliday. It has been skillfully written, and combined with a powerful cast, including the name of Mr. Phelps, who appears in two characters, viz., "King James" and "Trapbois," the miser, Messrs. Sinclair, Addison, Barrett, Irving, and Rouse, and Mrs. Frank Matthews, Miss Heath, Stuart, and Addison, whose excellent acting contributes to its success. The scenery is excellent, by Mr. Beverley. A very excellent ballet followed; Mdlle. Tourneur, Mr. Charles Lauri, and a numerous corps de ballet concluded an excellent evening's entertainment.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.

The above theatre is announced to open on Monday, the 19th inst. Miss Bateman will appear in her celebrated character of "Leah." During the recess the theatre has been repaired and redecorated, and a new act drop has been painted by the Messrs. Telbin.

ROYAL ALFRED THEATRE.

This theatre was opened on Saturday evening last under the management of Miss Amy Sedgwick. The house was crowded in every part. The above theatre has been re-named, by special permission; it is situated in New Church-street, Edgware-road, and was for many years known as the Marylebone Theatre, Bro. J. Cave, the present lessee of the Victoria Theatre, having been the proprietor for many years. Mr. H. R. Lacey, is the present lessee. H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh honoured the theatre by his presence, attended by Lieut. Haigh, and was received by Mr. H. R. Lacey and Mr. Davenport, who conducted H. R. H. to his box, and on his entrance into the theatre was enthusiastically received by the audience. The national anthem was played, and H. R. H. repeatedly bowed his acknowledgments. A guard of honour was formed, commanded by Lieut. Dunn, of the 3rd London Rifle Corps. A new drama was produced from the pen of Mr. C. H. Stephenson, and, to judge from the plaudits received at its conclusion, was successful. Miss Amy Sedgwick's acting was loudly applauded, and a shower of bouquets was received by the fair manageress. The theatre is light, chaste, and elegant, and is one of the prettiest of its size in London.

METROPOLITAN LODGE MEETINGS, ETC., FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 24TH, 1868.

MONDAY, October 19th.—Quarterly General Meeting, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 12. Lodges: Emulation, 21, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Felicity, 58, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Tranquility, 185, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Panmure, 720, Balham Hotel, Balham. Whittington, 862, 14, Bedford-row. Royal Albert, 907, Freemasons' Hall.

TUESDAY, October 20th.—Board of Gen. Purposes, at 3. Mount Lebanon, 73, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. Eastern Star, 95, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. Salisbury, 435, 71, Dean-street, Soho. Chapters: Enoch, 11, Freemasons' Hall. Mount Sinai, 19, Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street.

WEDNESDAY, October 21st.—Gen. Com. of Grand Chapter, at 3. Lodge of Benevolence, at 7 precisely. Grand Steward's Lodge. Lodges: Royal York, Lodge of Perseverance, 7, Freemasons' Hall. United Mariners, 30, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. St. George's, 140, Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich. Sincerity, 174, Cheshire Cheese Tavern, Crutched Friars. Beadon, 619, Greyhound Tavern, Dulwich. Nelson, 700, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich.

THURSDAY, October 22nd.—House Com. Boys' School, at 4. Lodges: Peace and Harmony, 60, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Prosperity, 65, Masons' Arms, Basinghall-street. Grenadiers, 66, Freemasons' Hall. South Middlesex, 858, Beaufort House, North End, Fulham. Victoria, 1,056, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Buckingham and Chandos, 1,150, Freemasons' Hall. Chapters: Domatic, 177, Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street. Polish National, 534, Freemasons' Hall. Lily of Richmond, 820, Greyhound, Richmond, Surrey.

FRIDAY, October 23rd.—Lodges: Universal, 181, Freemasons' Hall. Fitz Roy, 569, Head Quarters of the Hon. Artillery Company, London.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

SIR KNIGHT JONES.—We have received from several brethren of the name of Jones disclaimers that they have anything to do with Bro. Harris, that they have ever been in America, or ever conferred the Order of the Garter. A brother of the name of John Harris says he is not a P.M., and not connected with Bro. W. Harris or any of his orders. The brethren of the name of Jones appear all to hail from the principality, and one indignantly demands an apology for the imputation that King Arthur, an Ancient Briton, should be alleged to be the founder of a Saxon institution like the Order of the Garter.

ERRATA.—In the letter headed "Another Masonic Imposter" for the person therein named read "Lallouet" instead of "Jallouet."—In our last number "The Prince of Wales and Freemasonry," 18th line from the top of page 295, instead of "pot" read "fish."

J. T. M. (Swansea).—Letter received. You will be answered in the course of a day or two.

SEVERAL "Notes and Queries" and reports of lodges stand over until next week.

IN answer to several correspondents in the colonies we wish to give notice that the subscription is £1 Gs. per annum, post free, if paid in advance.