

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1863.

CHIPS OF FOREIGN ASHLAR.

No. 3.—THE MASONIC JURISDICTION OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

Stockholm has been not inappropriately designated "the Venice of the north." Like the grand old city of the Adriatic, Stockholm has innumerable facilities for water communication. Built upon islands and surrounded by a lovely country, the city is one to fire the enthusiasm of the Swedes, and to excite the admiration of strangers. Across the lakes are plying in every direction steamers, and in moving about one seems to be always crossing the water. The capital of Sweden is considered to be the great strong-hold of Freemasonry in Scandinavia. Our first fraternal call was at the Royal Palace in the hope of seeing Bro. Von Schultz the Grand Secretary, but he was unfortunately absent. We had, however, the good fortune to meet immediately afterwards with Bro. August Priess a learned and enthusiastic Mason, well versed in the English language. Bro. Priess conducted us over the Masonic Temple a very extensive building admirably adapted for its purpose.

The working of the craft in Sweden is complex. The first three degrees of St. John's Masonry correspond (with slight divergencies) with our own grades of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. The password of our first degree is in Sweden, the password of the second degree, and the Swedish brethren adduce the signification of the words to prove that their own usage is correct. There are ten degrees in Sweden of which several are called "Scottish." One of these approximates to our Royal Arch. The Rose-Croix and Templar degrees do not appear to exist at all among the Masons, though traces of both, and also of Noache or Royal Ark Masonry are to be found in an extra Masonic brotherhood which is denominated the "Order of Caldino." We conversed with some of the Chevaliers of this Order, and in consequence received an invitation to their meetings but had no chance of being present.

The *ne plus ultra* of Masonry in Sweden, is the Order of Knights of the Red Cross of Charles the Thirteenth, which is restricted to thirty Knights who are Princes of the Blood and high Masonic Dignitaries. In the Grand Hall at the Masonic

Temple, the stalls of the Red Cross Knights are on a raised platform immediately surrounding the Throne of the King as Supreme Master. The decorations of the Order are worn in public as well as Masonically, and are very beautiful. This Order is said to correspond with that of the Red Cross Knights of Rome and Constantine in England, of which Lord Kenlis is Grand Sovereign. If this be so, an English Master Mason may obtain as high Masonic rank as a Royal Prince of Sweden.

Our learned Bro. J. G. Findel in his valuable "History of Freemasonry" gives the following explanation of the "Swedish" system:—

"The whole system consists of nine degrees (respectively ten) in three divisions:

- I. The St. John's Lodge with three degrees: Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master.
- II. The St. Andrew's or Scotch Lodge with two degrees, viz.: (4th) the St. Andrew's Apprentice and (6th) the St. Andrew's Master.
- III. The Steward's Lodge or Chapter having (6th) the Familiar Brethren of Solomon, Knights of the East in the Orient of Jerusalem, (7th) the Knights of the West, (8th) the St. John's Familiars (9th) the St. Andrew's Familiars.

Besides these nine degrees there is still another division which might be called the 10th degree consisting of the most illustrious and enlightened brethren architects (Knights and Commanders of the Red Cross) to whom the Government of the Order is confided."

The St. John's Lodges in Sweden have the following officers:

- 1st Worshipful Master:—Ordforande Mastare.
- 2nd Deputy Master:—Deputerad Mastare.
- 3rd Orator:—Talman.
- 4th Senior Warden:—Första Bevakande Broder.
- 5th Junior Warden:—Andra Bevakande Broder.
- 6th Deacon:—Ceremonie Mastare.
- 7th Treasurer:—Skatt Mastare.
- 8th Secretary:—Secretarie.
- 9th Inner Guard:—Vakthafvande Broder.
- 10th Tyler:—Gufilige Broder.

In Norway the officers are the same, but the spelling of the names is different, and is precisely that used in Denmark to which we shall hereafter refer. The Worshipful Masters are appointed by the King, and retain office during his pleasure; but the rest of the officers are all elected by the brethren in the lodge. The system is said to work

well, but it is clear that it would not be adapted for a larger country. In the banquets of the Order the brethren occupy seats according to the degrees they have taken, an arrangement which is not popular among brethren of the lower grades.

His Majesty, King Charles the X.V., is very fond of the Craft, as is also his brother, the heir-apparent to the Crown, Prince Oscar. We received an invitation to attend the St. Eric's Lodge, of which Prince Oscar is W.M., and much regret our inability to accept it.

The Swedes are profoundly convinced that their system of working is the best on the face of the earth, and doubtless it has its advantages, but the plan of *reading* the ritual is certainly not one of them. Those who have listened to such a man as Bro. Gallienne, of Guernsey, conducting our ceremonies with emphasis, power, and apparent extemporaneousness, could never endure mere reading.

Our brethren in Sweden are characterised by great timidity and mysteriousness in speaking of Masonry. In France and some other countries, there is perhaps too much freedom in the public use of Masonic telegraphy, but in Sweden caution amounts to reserve. Thus a Swedish brother thinks he ought not to speak of matters which in England are constantly and very properly discussed in the FREEMASON'S MAGAZINE. It is said that members of the Society of Friends commonly called Quakers never give a decided answer, and that if you ask them "what is the time" they will reply with a remark on the weather; "similarly" to use Charles Dickens's pet word, if you ask a Swedish brother if he is "going to the lodge," he will enquire "what is the latest news?" Now as we have before said, the *working* of Freemasonry is secret, but its *objects* are so noble that they ought to be known and loved by all men. We therefore cannot sympathise with the feeling which precludes non-Masons from learning the principles and constitution of our Order. These remarks we make with all fraternal regard for our brethren in Sweden.

The King is Supreme Master Mason of Sweden and Norway, and Prince Oscar is denominated Grand Master. The Jurisdiction includes about a dozen Craft Lodges, and about half-a-dozen "Scotch" Lodges. The members of the higher degrees wear a gold finger ring upon which is engraved a cross and other insignia.

The Swedish Freemasons are remarkable for

their benevolence. Although their whole Jurisdiction is scarcely more extensive in numbers than an English province, they nevertheless liberally support schools and other Masonic charities. The assistance they mutually render among themselves is highly praiseworthy, and might well furnish an example to other Craftsmen. We received some very surprising facts bearing on this question, which it would not however be right to publish. On the whole Freemasonry in Sweden is a noble branch of our Brotherhood, and it is a great power in the Commonwealth, morally, socially and religiously.

J. A. H.

THE CORINTHIAN ORDER; OR, THE THREE GRAND PILLARS.

By PICTUS.

I have already stated in former numbers of the MAGAZINE, that I do not object to the use of "The Three Noble Orders," or what may perhaps be the better Masonic term "The Three Grand Pillars," (although the *names* are now Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, the *things* themselves may have existed long before these particular names were applied), but I do object to the use of the *five* Orders, because they are a comparatively modern innovation, and do not come in well where used, (Masonically)—also some authorities do not consider the composite a separate Order at all, but merely a variety of the Corinthian. The "Glossary of Architecture" says, "modern Architects allow of only *three* Orders." And in "An Ancient History," pub. 1868. Mr. Philip Smith "the modern Rollin" having alluded to the three Grecian Orders, goes on to say, "No new Order of Classic Architecture has since been invented; nor have these ever been modified without injury, as in the Roman Doric and its variety the Tuscan, and in the composite which is a hybrid between the Ionic and Corinthian." And Mr. James Ferguson says, "The Composite never came into general use and has seldom found favour except amongst the blindest admirers of all that the *Romans* did*" Therefore seeing so much can justly be said against the use of "The five Orders," we had better leave them alone, and do without them, and if some idea is necessary for the five * * * * * what can be more archaic than the five senses?

* And Rome as we all know was not even founded until B.C. 753.

I do not object to the use of the Three Grand Pillars or their being called Doric, Ionic and Corinthian, because under whatever *name* originally known, *their origin or their types can be traced* long anterior to the era of Solomon, (about B.C. 1000) and although they may not have reached *perfection* until long after Solomon's time they existed, although in perhaps a ruder form before that. The boy is father to the man, so was the early Egyptian and Assyrian or Asiatic architecture to the Grecian. The Greeks copying altered more or less in accordance with their own ideal genius.

Mr. Ferguson says, "Any one acquainted with the artistic forms of Egypt and Assyria, will not find it difficult to discover the origin of almost every idea, and of every architectural feature that was afterwards found in Greece.

The Doric must be allowed to be *copied* from structures, such as, or similar to the rock cut tombs of Beni Hassan, (12th dynasty, about 2000 B.C.) or from built fabrics coeval therewith; while Beni Hassan on its part is copied from built fabrics which preceded it. Sir Gardner Wilkinson says, "and when in after times large tombs and temples were excavated in the rock they borrowed from constructed monuments."

"The Doric was the Order which the Greeks especially loved and cultivated."

In the Doric we have the power to support viz.: Strength.

The use of the Ionic or horned pillar with its elegant spirals or volutes is also very ancient, although its origin may be more difficult to trace than the Doric. Sir Gardner Wilkinson says, "The volutes were a very early invention in Egypt, and were used there for ornament in some of the oldest monuments it was a favourite device of the Phœnicians, and appended to the figures of deities, particularly at the feet of Astarte." This Astarte is the Astaroth of the bible as alluded to, Judges Chap. ii. V. 13, (about B.C. 1420); also in Kings i. Chap. 11, V. iv., "Solomon went after Ashtoreth the Goddess of the Zidonians." Astarte was known as the "Queen of Heaven" and also under the figure of the Moon.

What a contrast do we find a few short years to have made in Solomon. At the dedication of the temple we find him giving expression to one of the noblest and most sublime of prayers and address to the G.A.O.T.U., and now we have the wisdom of Solomon bowing down to this exemplification of the wisdom, or Godhead of the

Zidonians. I say it with all reverence, what a fall from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Mr. Ferguson says, "The recent discoveries in Assyria have proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Ionic was even more essentially an introduction from Asia than the Doric from Egypt, the only question is, when was it brought into Greece. My own impression is that it existed in Greece in one form or another from the earliest ages, but owing to its slenderer proportions, and the greater quantity of wood used in its construction the examples may have perished.

Mr. Philip Smith says, "The graceful Ionic had its origin in Asia; and it is most interesting to find its characteristic ornament the capital with its double volute, several times repeated among the Assyrian monuments. Like the Doric it was *perfected* at Athens in the time of Pericles* The chief early example of the style in Ionia itself was the immense temple of Artemis at Ephesus, begun about B.C. 600, and reckoned one of the Wonders of the World."

Mr. Ferguson says, the architectural history of Assyria commences about the middle of the 14th century B.C.; also "The Assyrian is an entirely new chapter added to our history of architecture since 1843, it is the sister style to that of Egypt, and the parent of all the Ionic forms we afterwards find so currently and so beautifully blended with the architecture of Greece." In the frontispiece to Layard's "Nineveh and Babylon" viz.: view of Sennacherib's Palace—will be seen specimens of the Ionic dating about the end of the 8th century B.C. Mr. Owen Jones in his "Grammar of Ornament" says, "Rich as has been the harvest gathered by Botta and Layard from the ruins of Assyrian Palaces, the monuments which they have made known to us, do not appear to carry us back to any remote period of Assyrian art, those hitherto discovered belong to a period of decline."

The origin of the Ionic volute has not as yet—so far as I am aware—been satisfactorily discovered. Whether the head of a horned Ram was fixed against the top of the door post for ornament or to keep away evil spirits, or some particular idea of veneration or symbolism attached to the Ram, which would cause it, I do not know. "Hor-em-heb or Horns King of Egypt (about B.C. 1330?) erected an avenue of colossal crio-sphinxes † (figures with

* Pericles died B.C. 42.

† Are these Crio-sphinxes symbolical representations of the Union of Strength and Wisdom? The Lion is of Strength.

the body of a Lion and the head of a Ram) in front of the great temple of Karnack. One of the Ram's heads may be seen in the British Museum, which also possesses two granite statues of King Horns," P. Smith).

Sir Gardner Wilkinson objects to the idea of the Volutes being derived from Rams' horns, and says "the Water Plant of Southern Egypt is the parent of the Volute," which may apply to the origin of the Egyptian Spirals, but will it serve equally as the parent of the Assyrian Volute?

Mr. Owen Jones says "that in Egyptian tombs are examples of an ornament representing the unwinding of a pile of rope, which may have given the first suggestion of the Volute."

Since Doctors differ, who will settle it.

From the above, therefore, I feel justified in finding no reason to dispute the existence of the Ionic, or Horned, or Voluted Pillar, 1,000 years B.C. From its associations it appears to me to be the Symbolic Pillar of Wisdom.*

The origin of the Corinthian, or flowery, or leafy Pillar, may be traced to a very ancient date. Mr. Ferguson says "the Corinthian Order is as essentially borrowed from the bell-shaped capitals of the Egyptians, as the Doric is from their oldest pillars; it is, in fact, † a composite order made up of the bell-shaped Capitals of the Egyptians, and the Spiral of the Assyrians."

In the papyrus (or bell-shaped) columns of the Ramescum (or Memnonium) built by Rameses the Great, (about B.C. 1,300), we have the parent of the Corinthian Order, unless indeed, even at that early age, the Assyrians or Asiatics may not have already produced a nearer approach to it.

Sir Gardner Wilkinson says "Jomard and Canrinathink with great reason, that this(papyrus) capital gave rise to the basket of the Corinthian Order, which was only varied by acanthus leaves, instead of the Egyptian devices; the origin of it given by Vitruvius is as fanciful as that of the Ionic Order."

Referring to an Egyptian legend of the destruction of Sennacherib's army, on account of a multitude of field-mice said to have devoured all their quivers, bowstrings, and shield thongs, ‡ Mr. Philip Smith says, "Doubtless, according to the

general order of such legends, the story of the field-mice arose out of the emblem in the statue's hand."

As I stated at Page 251, it is likely the basket story of Callimachus arose long after the Corinthian was in use.

According to Julius Sillig's "Catalogus Artificum," Callimachus *καταμήτρεχγος* flourished about the 90th Olympiad (B.C. 420). He also says, "We read that Scopas erected a temple to Minerva, at Tegea, decorated with Corinthian pillars in Olymp. 96, (B.C. 396.)

Although Callimachus did not originate the Corinthian, it is possible that he may have done something to it—he may have "invented" or applied a more elaborate or ornate style of treating it, perhaps he may have been the first to introduce the union of the Volutes with the acanthus leaves, however settle firstly the exact time when Callimachus lived, that we may be able to see what can be known of the style of the Corinthian Capital shortly before and after him.

Callimachus it is said "was studious of elegance and refinement, even to excess," and may therefore have received the title or cognomen of *καταμήτρεχγος* one who weakens and effeminates an art."

A belief in Callimachus having had something to do with the Corinthian,* may have caused Mr. Philip Smith to say "that as an Order of Greek architecture the beautiful Corinthian dates from the latter part of the 5th century, B.C."

It is probable there were more buildings in the Corinthian style in Greece before the Persian war than we are now aware of—which, during that war, may have been destroyed, or, as Mr. Ferguson says, "as happened in France and England in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the old temples were thought unworthy of the national greatness, and those remaining after the war were almost all pulled down or rebuilt."

The Greeks also may have had a dislike to the use of it in their temples, although, as Mr. Ferguson says, "It most probably was used in the more ornate specimens of domestic architecture, long before any of those examples of it were executed which we now find in Greece." He also says, "Judging, however, from some fragments found among the Ionic temples of Asia Minor, it

* In our Lodge the Corinthian is placed in the East, which I consider to be a mistake, but I am open to correction if I am wrong.

† As now understood.

‡ And ran off with their Swords and Spears, eh?

* Although the Corinthian may not then have reached the dignity and perfection of one of the Grecian Temple Orders, Corinthian Pillars were in use long before.

appears that the Corinthian Order was introduced there before we find any trace of it in Greece Proper. As used by the Asiatics it seems to have arisen from the bell-shaped capitals of the Egyptians, to which they applied the acanthus leaf, sometimes in conjunction with the honeysuckle ornament of the time, and on other and later occasions together with the volutes of the same Order, the latter combination being the one which ultimately prevailed and became the typical form of the Corinthian."

In early times there seems to have been a variety of ways of treating the Corinthian. For in the Order of the "Tower of the Winds," at Athens, "supposed to date a little after the time of Alexander,"* and therefore after the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates, we have a style of treating it very different from that of the Choragic Monument, and which was probably copied from far older specimens. Mr. Ferguson says, "The Tower of the Winds is remarkable as being almost purely Egyptian in its types, with no Ionic admixture. The columns have no bases, the capitals no volutes, and the water-leaf clings as closely to the bell as it does in the Egyptian examples."

It is not easy to tell when the Corinthian began to be used, but I shall be disappointed if Eastern research does not prove its existence in one form or another coeval with Solomon.

Mr. Philip Smith says "The heroic age of Greece was one of well built cities, palaces, and temples. Of its massive architecture some idea may be obtained from the ruins of Tiryns and Mycenæ." Mycenæ, the so-called "Treasury of Athens," is now conjectured to be the tomb of Agamemnon (12th century B.C.) The lower part of a pillar from this tomb with its beautiful zig-zag and spiral ornamentation reminds me of a specimen of late Norman work.

It seems to me that the "lilywork" of Solomon's building was an application of the leaves of some plant to the capital of the pillar, making it similar to the Corinthian, and the net work may have been the lozenge or some zig-zag or square pattern in the style of the ornamentation of the pillar at Mycenæ.

When the name Corinthian was applied to this pillar is, so far as I am aware, unknown. Corinth, which gives it, was dedicated to Venus, the goddess of beauty; and, as with the Doric, is asso-

ciated the manly idea of strength and with the Ionic that of wisdom, so to the Corinthian, where ornamentation can be carried to such perfection, must be ascribed the title of Beauty.

To sum up I think we may fairly use our "Three Noble Orders," or, "Three Grand Pillars," Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

(Continued from page 346).

BOOK IV.—CHAPTER VII.

The Legates having acquitted themselves of their commission to the satisfaction of the King, and the relief of the Pope, returned to Poitiers. They informed him of all that had taken place, and carried to him the interrogatories which had become the basis of the action against the Order. They detailed to him the retracting of the depositions by some of the Knights, but stated that these were entitled to no credit, inasmuch as the whole Order was corrupt, the members guilty of the same crimes, and bound to each other by the most abominable vows and practices. They added, however, that perhaps one or two might be ignorant and innocent of the wicked practices carried on in the bosom of the Order; still this did not prevent it being the object of universal execration, nor do away with the necessity for its entire abolition. This had been the decision of the council held at Paris, in the justice of which they were perfectly satisfied.

To accelerate the process, the King convened a parliament at Tours, for the month of June, and summoned to it all the princes, bishops, and nobles of the kingdom, and representatives of the third estate, enjoining them to be present either in person or by proxy. He stated his intention to be present on the occasion, when the affair of the action against the Templars should be discussed. The King arrived at Tours about Pentecost, and found assembled there a large number of nobles, an equal number of ecclesiastics, and nearly four hundred proxies sent by those who could not attend in person, besides the representatives of the Third Estate. Several of those who refused or neglected to attend were compelled by the King to contribute to the expenses of those who proved more obedient to his orders. The parliament was opened, and the King, inspired

* Say about B.C. 310.

by his hatred of the Order, and desire to possess himself of its wealth, spoke with exceeding bitterness against it. He produced summaries of the interrogatories, which detailed the charges brought against the Templars, enlarged upon the abominations which existed amongst them, and which they had confessed; but he carefully avoided mentioning the fact, that several had revoked their confessions. The assembly were thunderstruck at these terrible charges, substantiated by the greatest churchmen, who had taken down the confessions; and, without a dissenting voice, the Templars were judged worthy of death. The King furthermore contrived to have a petition presented to him at this assembly by the representatives of the third estate, calling upon him to punish the crimes of the Templars. In this document it was declared that the King did not require the concurrence of the Pope to exterminate such notorious heretics. "The chief of the children of Israel, Moses, that friend of God, who spoke with him face to face, cried, in similar circumstances against the apostates who had adored the golden calf, upon each one to arm himself with the sword and strike. He did not demand to this act of justice the consent of Aaron, who was the High Priest of God; and since all the Templars were heretics, or the abettors and favourers of heretics and homicides, why should not the most Christian King proceed in the same manner against the Templars, and, if necessary, against the clergy, if unhappily, the clergy did fall into error, and helped and favoured those who were heretical?" There can be little doubt that these singular words were the dictation of the King, if the document was not actually drawn up by Imbert.

The Pope was terrified at the doings of this parliament, and during the proceedings attempted to escape from the power of Philip to Bourdeaux; but the King, ever vigilant, had his baggage and treasure arrested at the gate of the town, and Clement found himself a prisoner.

Delighted with the result of the parliament, the King repaired to Poitiers, and had an interview with the Pope. On his arrival, he prostrated himself before Clement, and humbly kissed his foot. He was accompanied by his three sons—Louis, King of Navarre; Philip, Count of Poitiers; and Charles, Count of Marche; by his two brothers, Charles Count de Valois, and Louis, Count d'Evreux; and by a large train of nobles of the

land. The King described to the Pope what had taken place at the parliament, and Clement, struck by the pomp and warlike magnificence of the royal retinue, found himself unable to combat the wishes of the monarch. They then resolved upon the final measures for the destruction of the Templars. It was resolved that the King should retain possession of their persons, but in the name of the Pope; that the process against them should be conducted by the archbishops and bishops of the different dioceses where they were confined, and that they should pronounce the final sentence—The Inquisitor of the Faith, by the desire of the King, was appointed to assist them, although this was against the law; but the Pope was glad to give way to all the monarch's wishes: that the King should not have the punishment of the Templars, but only in consort with the Pope; that, supposing it was necessary to abolish the Order, all its riches should be employed for the recovery of the Holy Land; that the Pope and King should give orders to the carrying out of these articles, in furtherance of which the royal commissioners were to hand over to the Papal, all the moveables and property which were in their hands. The Pope then issued a Bull renewing the prohibition of giving any asylum to the Templars, under pain of eternal damnation. He still reserved to himself the right of examining the Grand Master and the Grand Priors. The treaty between the Pope and King was signed, and the knell of the Order rung.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

KILWINNING MASONIC LEGEND.

The legend of the birthplace of Scottish Freemasonry being at Kilwinning about A.D. 1140 is simply a humbug;* and, instead of the "stately abbey" being built about 1140, it would be nearer the truth to say 1240.

I have read the following—"It must be allowed that there is great probability in Bro. Laurie's surmise that the English brethren owe their knowledge of the Craft to emissaries from the Kilwinning source, from which the light of Masonry quickly spread over the length and breadth of the island." The English brethren owe their knowledge of the Craft to emissaries from Kilwinning! Nonsense. As well say the sea owes its existence to the rivers that flow into it.

* It would be interesting to know when this legend first saw the light. Perhaps our respected Bro. D. Murray Lyon could give us the history of the legend.

Kilwinning is no more the mother of Scottish Masonry from the 12th to the 13th centuries than I am.

Kilwinning became a Masonic mother in the 17th century, and this partly or principally for or through political objects or motives and for its own ends. The transactions of the Kilwinning Lodge in the 17th century would be considered by the Glasgow and Edinburgh lodges, &c., as great innovations, and contrary to true Masonic law and usage. While saying so, I have no desire to detract from Mother Kilwinning's deserts for what she has done during the last two hundred years for the good of Masonry.—W. P. BUCHAN.

UNION OF JURISDICTIONS.

As a preparatory step to that union of jurisdictions in England in the hands of Lord Zetland which has been so much advocated, I would recommend the union of the Templars and Red Cross Knights by the election of one of the G.M.'s at sole G.M. Lord Kenlis, as the younger, may give place to Sir Knight Stuart with the right of succession, or under a joint agreement that both shall yield to Lord Zetland whenever he is ready to assume the throne of office over one or the other Order.—K.T.

THE ROSICRUCIAN SOCIETY.

I must still hold my ground against Frater Hughan, although I am only an amateur Frater and Rosicrucian, occupying myself with the books, and having no laboratory now. I maintain that the acquisition of suitable books on Rosicrucianism is very expensive. This Frater Hughan must know that books on Rosicrucianism are much dearer than those on astrology, and far dearer than some of the printed books on either branch of magic. The reasons are simple—because printed books are rare and of little value, and the MSS. books are necessarily illuminated, and therefore costly. It is next to impossible to get on with uncoloured diagrams. The English branch of the Rosicrucian Society is, as I well know, limited, not taking in more than the mystic number of 144 of the most learned students of England; but I must confess I never heard of its costing more than £100 to become a member. Consequently, I say again that Rosicrucianism can be got at in a cheap and compendious form under learned expositors, in the persons of Frater Hughan and Rawley; for the books and laboratory, as any practical man knows, will cost a great deal more; and a man may, like Dr. Leeson, spend a lifetime in the study of the books and yet feel unsatisfied. I say nothing about the cost of chemicals, which is considerable. I consider it my duty to recommend the Rosicrucian Society in opposition to what Frater Hughan may say. I can only confirm, from my own unfortunate experience, that what the Society really is or was is known but to few indeed, and may be considered as great a mystery to them as to the outer world. If I have time, I shall have great pleasure in publishing some of the interesting ceremonies, though I shall be glad to give place to Frater Hughan.—F.H.

RED CROSS OF ROME AND CONSTANTINE.

I am much obliged for the valuable and courteous communication of Bro. Hughan. I had hoped he would have been able to solve the question I put, as

he had so many others. He only goes so far as to limit the antiquity of the Red Cross to a period after 1770. He tells us, however, that Bro. Little, the historian of the Red Cross, has laid it down that the Premier Conclave was in working order before 1770. Anything coming from the distinguished Grand Recorder, Bro. Little, being authentic, and vouched by documents, it will be a great advantage if he or Bro. Hughan will point out in which of Bro. Little's histories this statement is to be found. It will be very important in the question of the priority of the Orders. Bro. Hughan speaks conclusively as to the modern origin of the Masonic Templars, but is rather reserved as to the Red Cross. *If the Red Cross has the great antiquity Bro. Little has laid down for it, is it not the natural conclusion that Knight Templarism is later, and very probably an imitation of a sublimer degree?—J. CHARTERS.

RELIEF.

Does our Board of Benevolence answer to its purposes in administering effective relief in cases of real distress? Who can tell us of a decayed brother who has ever received such aid as to set him up in life again, or has got anything but a pauper's dole or a Grand Lodge grant made when his home was broken up and insolvency had befallen him? Let the worthy receive effective relief, and let us have more independence and less pauperism.—PHILANTHROPOS.

BRO. DR. W. BIRD HERAPATH.

I was very much interested with your account of a brother of European reputation in science, and on whom many honours had been conferred. You said little as to his Masonic career; but brethren would be gratified to know that one who was a distinction to the Craft had been marked out for honour by the M.W.G.M., and that Masonry, which professes to encourage science, had paid its tribute to a distinguished teacher. Can you inform us in what year Bro. Herapath received his Grand Deaconship or other office?—M.D. & M.M.

BRO. HARRIS.

Your editorial note throwing a doubt on the earnestness of Bro. Harris has naturally excited some surprise. Bro. Harris must be as much in earnest as others who are successfully carrying out the same kind of institutions. Opinions may differ as to the utility of these, but they are too prominently before the public to be treated as nonsensities. Bro. Harris, if a man of limited education, is a representative man.—A CRAFT MASON.

THE REVIVAL OF MASONRY.

I have seen, not without some pain, the jealousy that is exhibited towards Bros. Little, Harris, Hughan, and others who are engaged in enlarging the sphere of Freemasonry. These jealous expressions emanate, in my opinion, less from the Craft pure and simple than from the members of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and this is beyond my comprehension. Those who adhere to the Craft in its simplicity may look with contempt on what they consider the idle vanity of sham decorations and mock ceremonies, but those of the A. & A. Rite can have no legitimate ground for hostility on principle or practise.

The revival of the Red Cross degree, of Rosicrucianism, of the Order of the Garter, and of Prince Masonry, I hold to be less an immediate and *autochthonous* emanation from Masonry than a conformity of Masonry to the spirit of the age. The striking feature of the age is the spirit of revival of antique ceremonies. In the last century this was exhibited also in various ways, having its exemplification in Masonry in Count Cagliostro and Egyptian Masonry. In the present day there was first a material manifestation in the shape of mediæval architecture, and this has resulted in a more spiritual development of rituals, harvest processions, vestments, priests, auricular confessions, crucifixes, crosses, beads, acolytes, penances, and many other forms and impersonations.

This is the influence of the age, affecting not only men but women, whose influence is made more conspicuous; now drawing the attention of the world to the larger but deceptive proportions of hoops, cages, and crinoline, then shrinking in form to contracted skirts, but with a marked feature in the chignon, or post cerebral expansion. These outward phenomena denote the mental struggle of conscience in matters of morals and religion; they but dimly foreshadow the demand for women's rights of property for the electoral franchise, for free scope in the pulpit, the dissecting-room, and the hospital, and for emancipation of secular and spiritual wifehood.

Such being the spirit of the age, Masonry would lose the character of a progressive science if it were not found to conform to the social fermentations without and to make such provision as will satisfy the longings of tender consciences and the legitimate demands of public excitement. This has been done in a natural manner by the revivals already referred to. A curious commentator might dwell on the relations which stars and crosses and aprons have to other manifestations of the day; but this can scarcely be considered strictly philosophical, as we ought to regard them strictly in their psychical relations as manifestations of mind operating on matter. Here we find a congruity and agreement with the inspirations of the day, an enlarged self-esteem and self-assertion, a patriotic desire for advancement and promotion, an abstraction from the objectivity of anybody else's feelings or interests, accompanied by the external manifestation of importance conforming to the gigantic progress of the age.

Why then are the founders of these societies to be treated abnormally, and the more particularly by members of the A. & A. Rite? These latter are employed in practically reducing and abolishing their degrees, their titles and their ceremonies, getting rid of vague and unsupported pretensions, modifying baseless traditions, and resigning the charters of Frederick the Great to the limbo of the shadows. In so far they may consider themselves to be conforming to their spirit of the age, and they need not indulge in envy of those who comply with its real requirements. If it were not for the Red Cross of Constantine Masonry might become the prey of religious feuds, and a ritualistic Masonry be set up against us, and divide our camp. Were it not for the Rosicrucian Society, the speculative doctrines of Colenso, pangenesis, development, and selection might spread their agitations within the domain of Masonry.

Against all such dangers the new societies may be looked upon as antiseptics; they keep up faith, they restore old traditions, and like tobacco, an institution of the age, they are a sedative to thought. As such they merit encouragement.—HORATIO.

THE BUZWINGS.

Will some Mason who is a Buzwing (if there be any such) enlighten us as to that body. The following appeared in the *Times* on Monday, the 2nd inst. :—

"To STRAY BUZWINGS.—Lodge No. 69,344 will be holden at the Buzwing-hall on Tuesday, 10th November instant, at 6 p.m. A tiotillation of postulants will occur at 8.—I.G.B.T.C.W.S. Masters to bring their instruments.

This rather differs from the previous announcements, and it is not impossible it is one of the many attempts to excite public curiosity by sensational advertisements of the type of hoaxes, like those of the *Bottle Conjuror* and *Theodore Hook*. Neither the letters in the *Freemasons' Magazine* or *Notes and Queries* have as yet elicited any information on Buzwings.—? ?

CAN A P.M. BE A SIMPLETON ?

An American Freemason appears to think that the dupes of Bro. Harris and his rivals in chivalrous Masonry are obtained among the younger members of the fraternity, but this is quite a mistake, as the majority are of mature age. Sir Robert Walpole must have been rather loose in his dictum. He considered, like our American brother, that a young man was to be tempted with a ribbon or garter, and an old man with money; but the desire of bearing sham titles and decorations appears to grow with age in some individuals.—OBSERVER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND FREEMASONRY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have read the letters of P.M. on this subject, also Bro. Slack's letters from a letter which appeared in the *Glasgow Daily Mail* newspaper a few days after Bro. Slack's correspondence was published in it. It would seem the Lodge Glasgow St. John had nothing to do with it. The words are,—“I take some interest in Masonry, and doing so I confess I was very sorry at seeing these letters published. I would not interfere with Mr. Slack as Mr. Slack writing to the Grand Turk if he chooses; but, seeing he is Secretary of the Lodge, he should not under these circumstances have done as he has done. At no meeting, either of the Lodge of Glasgow St. John or of its office bearers, was Mr. Slack or any one authorized to communicate with the Prince.” Judging from the correspondence in the *Glasgow papers*, I should say—the works of nature are wonderful, the works of man are far *wonderfuller*.

Herostratus set fire to the Temple of Ephesus B.C. 356, and "John Slack" writing a letter to the Prince of Wales and receiving an answer *published both* A.D. 1868—all for a niche in the Temple of Fame.

As P.M. says, "time has revealed" so much, we shall therefore await the pleasure of time to reveal more.

Yours fraternally,

MASON.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Every Mason who has the good of the Craft at heart, must feel deeply the offence that has been committed by our unworthy Bro. "Slack" against the vital principles, constitutions, and landmarks of our ancient and honourable fraternity. H.R.H. has in reality shown himself better acquainted with the institutions of Freemasonry than Bro. Slack, by declining to comply with a request that H.R.H. ought to have been aware should never have been made. Our Bro. Slack has committed a double misdemeanour; he has committed a breach of confidence and a breach of discipline. The one is a matter for his own conscience, the other for the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Had he privately been guilty of the offence of "undue solicitation," it might have been known to none but himself; but openly to proclaim *arte scribendi*, how lightly he esteems, how ready he is to violate "his honour as a man and his fidelity as a Mason," is an affront to the whole Craft, so flagrant in character, and so glaring in appearance, as to merit the public censure and punishment due to a renegade delinquent, and the private condemnation of everyone who has the misfortune to be connected with him, in the ties of Masonic brotherhood. As his offence was public, so let his chastisement be public also; as he has cast a slur upon the whole Craft, so let every member of it be acquainted with *the name of the offender, the "heinousness of his crime,"* and the penalty he has incurred. The man who commits a breach of confidence, although he may be a recreant to his oath, unfaithful to his vow, and a traitor to his obligation, sins nearly as much against himself as against others; but he who incurs a breach of discipline not only deserves the punishment due to the disobedient, but imperils the safety of the whole community. One mutinous soldier will corrupt a whole regiment; and who can tell what the contaminating effect of unfaithful and rebellious brethren might not result in among Masons if their offences be not followed by prompt and stringent measures. Unmindful of his solemn obligation, regardless of his honour, reckless of the consequences of his officious audacity, Bro. Slack did not even take the trouble to ascertain whether his unjustifiable and sycophantic request was likely to be complied with, but with the most unblushing effrontery has subjected himself individually, and the whole fraternity collectively, to the mortification of a temporary refusal to join our body from the highest male personage in the land. Under the circumstances H.R.H. acted the part of a gentleman and a man of honour, although there is no question but that H.R.H. must have been astounded at the nature of the request, and particularly the source from which it emanated. It is rare among the members of our illustrious Order

that a case so unparalleled in its violation of everything that a Mason holds dear, is brought under the notice of our authoritative tribunals; but, nevertheless, the contingency *is* provided for in the admirable constitutions of the Craft, and every Mason will exclaim, let them be made available in the present instance. Examples must be made at times of the offending members of every existing society or community on behalf of the welfare and safety of the remainder, and in the case of Bro. Slack let it be done. *Fiat experimentum in corpore vili.*

Yours fraternally,

CRUX.

THE MASONIC LIFEBOAT.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I sympathize with the remarks at page 343 of the *Magazine*. When "even Sunday-school children with their pennies have raised a sufficient sum to pay for a lifeboat," surely Masons will not be backward with their shillings. Although I am not an English Mason, I beg to enclose my shilling for the fund, and other brethren doing the same, the Masonic lifeboat would soon be afloat. A shovelful of shillings is as good as a handful of pounds, and more Masonic (I don't refuse the pounds though), because all may therefore have a share in the duty.

Imagine a ship in distress giving the Master Mason's sign of distress and no response! Where are the Masons? Where is the Masonic lifeboat? Echo answers—where?

Yours fraternally,

EXCELSIOR.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Will you be good enough to inform me how to proceed in order to obtain my certificate as a Mark Master, which degree I received in Sydney more than 12 months ago. The certificate has been duly paid for,

Certificates from the old country seem to be very difficult to be got at. Our lodge has only received two or three in two years.

Yours fraternally,

X.Y.Z. AUSTRALIA.

A COMPLIMENT.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I feel much pleasure in forwarding you an extract from the report of the proceedings of Lodge "Mars et les Arts," held on Tuesday, October 8th, at Paris, recorded in the *Monde Maconnique*, honourably mentioning the visit of our highly esteemed Bro. J. A. Horner, viz. :—

"An English visitor, Bro. J. A. Horner, assisted at the meeting of October 8th. Bro. Homer is one of the contributors to the *Freemasons' Magazine*, in which he has published highly interesting articles on his visits to the lodges of Jersey, Guernsey, St. Malo,

and Rennes. Moreover—it is principally on this account that we specially refer to him—Bro. Horner is distinguished from other Masonic writers among his countrymen by an independence of ideas and a love of progress, which are too rarely to be met with in English Masonry.

Yours fraternally,
Jersey. A. S.

CAPTAIN TORCKLER.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—In reply to the inquiry of your correspondent, "P.Z.," Captain Torckler is at present residing at Tranmere, Birkenhead. The No. of his lodge is No. 25 (S.C.) He is not a member of any lodge here. He has obtained relief from the lodges both in Liverpool and Birkenhead.

Yours fraternally,
P.G.S.

THE RED CROSS ORDER.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—There is on page 313 of the *Magazine* of the 17th ult. a paragraph as follows:—

"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."

I write to contradict the above, as far as it relates to Ireland; and to say that the Council of Rites for Ireland know nothing of the Council of the Red Cross Order.

Col. Burdett is not 33°; at least, he is only registered as 32° in Ireland.

Yours fraternally,
J. L. W.

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY IN IRELAND.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—From the fraternal manner in which Bro. W. J. Hughan received the information I sent you on the subject of Royal Arch Masonry in Ireland, I am tempted to write you again on the subject.

With reference to the Mark Master Mason's degree, it can only be conferred under a Royal Arch warrant. Candidates must be registered Master Masons.

The three principals of a Royal Arch Chapter (if Mark Master Masons), are *ex officio*, respectively Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden of the Mark Lodge.

The Mark degree is not a necessary *prerequisite* for Royal Arch Masonry, the only qualification required from the candidates being that they are registered Master Masons for six months previous to exaltation

The Past Master's and Excellent degrees are now never wrought in Ireland in Royal Arch Chapters.

As Bro. Hughan wishes for "authoritative information" on the subject, I shall feel much pleasure in forwarding him in a few days, through you, a copy of the "Laws and Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland," which I hope he will accept; and I shall be glad to correspond with him direct if favoured with his address.

With regard to the York Rite, I hold with Mackey, Coppin, and I believe others, that the number of degrees in the York Rite (properly so called) is seven; viz., 1. Entered Apprentice. 2. Fellow Craft. 3. Master Mason. 4. Mark Master. 5. Past Master. 6. Most Excellent Master. 7. Holy Royal Arch. Mackey, in his admirable Lexicon, says:—"In some of the United States two other degrees are also given in this rite; those of Royal and Select Masters;" but that does not alter the fact that in the York Rite there are only seven degrees.

Yours fraternally,
Sligo. J. L. W., 30°, P.D.G.M.

THERE are many Freemasons in the services, and to them we need not say that the paragraph which has been going the round of the papers, to the effect that the Prince of Wales has again, as it is expressed, refused to become a Freemason, is sheer nonsense. No Mason with any respect for the Craft would give any one the chance of refusing to belong to it, be he prince or otherwise; and if any one has been so lacking in respect for the Craft as to set at defiance one of its strictest rules, by seeking to induce the Prince to join the brotherhood, he deserves that a vote of censure be passed upon him by the Grand Lodge of the Craft. Freemasonry has flourished both with and without princes, and the latter have ever in this country at least had more support from Freemasonry, than Freemasonry from them. Elsewhere it has been different, but the Craft has ever been conspicuous to the world, if not for its own deeds, which were secret, at least by the great and distinguishing mark of its worth, the persecutions of the papacy, and of the Society of Jesus. Are the members of this society again on their old scheme of sapping the foundations of Freemasonry? We fear they are, both within and without the body; but of one fact there is no doubt, namely, that hundreds of young men have been trained in Jesuit Colleges with the express object of getting on the staff of English periodical literature; let us look out for the response of these sworn and secret enemies to the signal given in the report alluded to. We shall have plenty of stabs from secret pens, but Masons are warned—they know their enemy and his mode of fighting.—*Broad Arrow.*

AN interesting literary discovery has been accidentally made in the Library at Frankfort. The fall of a shelf holding volumes containing the correspondence of Voltaire and Frederick the Great brought to light certain MSS., yellow and dirty, which turned out to be a series of letters exchanged between Voltaire and Byron. Their authenticity being duly certified, they were forwarded to the Royal Academy of Berlin.

THAT knowledge which a man may acquire only by travelling, is often to be dearly bought. The traveller, indeed, may be said to fetch the knowledge, as the merchant the wares, to be enjoyed and applied by those who stay at home. A man may sit by his own fireside, be conversant with many domestic arts and general sciences, and yet have very correct ideas of the manners, habits, and customs of other nations. While on the contrary, he that has spent his whole life in travelling—who like Sciblerus, has made his legs his compasses, rather than his judgment—may live and die a thorough novice in all the most important concerns of life; like Anson, he may have been round the world, and over the world, and die an ignoramus, even after having performed the seven journeys between the holy hills, swept the Kaaba with a silver besom, drank the holy waters of the Zemzem, and traced the source of the Nile and the end of the Niger.

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 editor of the Calendar; and all communications may be addressed to him at the office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, or in Glasgow.

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.

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.

The Right Hon. the Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire, has kindly consented to preside at the next anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, on Wednesday, 12th May, 1869.

We understand that it is proposed to hold the next meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire at Sheffield, on Wednesday, the 20th of January next.

We understand that Bro. Adams's private subscription Masonic ball, for the Craft and their friends only, is intended to be held at the new hall of the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, early in the ensuing year. We believe it has been arranged that the brethren are to attend in Masonic clothing, and that the tickets are to be obtained through the stewards only; the number of stewards will be one hundred. The tickets are to be one guinea each (to admit a lady and gentleman), and will include supper and refreshments during the evening. We are glad to learn that several eminent brethren have already placed their names on the list as stewards. Bro. Adams's address is 55, Whitfield-street, Tottenham-court-road.

MASONIC AND GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—We are glad to learn this company is being well supported. It augurs well for its future prosperity that at so recent a time from its formation, such a profitable and safe business has been already secured.

METROPOLITAN.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 141).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, 27th ult., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street; Bro. Gottheil, P.M. (in consequence of the illness of Bro. Harris, W.M.), presided. There were several visitors, amongst whom were Bros. South, Lodge of Denmark; Marshall, W.M., Neptune; Massey, W.M., Beadon; Clothier, P.M., Justice; Noke, P.M., Vitruvian; Haycock, City of London; Harris, Royal Lodge; Carter, P.M., 228, Hampton, Manchester, &c. The lodge having been opened and the minutes

read, Bro. Calmur was questioned in the second degree, after which the lodge having been opened in the third degree, he was raised to the degree of M.M. The next business was to pass Bros. Mason, Levi, Scott, Marks, and Jones. This being the night appointed for the purpose, Bro. Hyde, S.W., and W.M. elect, was presented to receive the benefit of installation, after which a board of Installed Masters was formed, consisting of Bros. Harris, I.P.M.; Peavor, Stuart, Pope, Carter (Treas.), Anslon (Sec.), Marshall, Massey, Noke, and Carter; and Bro. Hyde was duly installed as W.M. Having received the customary salutes from the brethren, he appointed as his officers: Bros. Hill, S.W.; Speed, J.W.; Taylor, S.D.; Jacobson, J.D.; Green, I.G.; Hemans, W.S.; Hazelton, Dir. of Cers.; Anslon, Sec.; and Carter, Treas. The new master immediately commenced upon his duties by initiating Mr. Emanuel Berenfeldt and another gentlemen into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, and the work was done in a very able and impressive manner. The lodge was then closed, and at the banquet table a jewel of the value of five guineas was presented to Bro. Harris, the retiring Master. Another jewel, the result of a private subscription, will also be presented to him. The usual toasts followed.

LODGE OF ISRAEL (No. 205).—This lodge met at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, on Tuesday, the 27th ult., The W.M. Bro. E. S. Jones, was in his place at 4 p.m. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, Mr. Richard Hall having been balloted for and accepted, was presented for initiation which was very impressively done by the W.M. Bros. L. Somers and Stalain were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. No other business being before the lodge it was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet to which sixty-five sat down. An enjoyable evening was spent, and which was enlivened by the excellent singing of Bro. Jacobs and others.

BEADON LODGE (No. 619).

The usual meeting of this excellent lodge was held on Wednesday evening, the 21st ult., at the Greyhound Tavern, Dulwich. Bro. Henry Massey, W.M., presided, supported by his officers, and P.M.'s A. and J. Avery, Lennard, Seaman, Parker, and a goodly list of visitors. The lodge was opened in due form, after which a gentleman, who was a candidate, was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. in an excellent manner. Some donations having been made towards the three Masonic charities, and five guineas voted towards the Zetland Commemoration Fund, the lodge was closed.

The brethren then adjourned to the banquet-table, at which a repast was served up in Bro. Middlecott's usual excellent style, and it gave entire satisfaction.

The cloth having been withdrawn—

The W. Master said the first toast he had to propose was that of the health of Her Majesty the Queen, their Sovereign, who for 31 years had ruled the destinies of this country both wisely and well. In order to render it a Masonic toast, he would couple with it "The health of the Craft."

The toast was drunk with the usual honours.

The W. Master next gave "The health of the Earl of Zetland," the Sovereign of Freemasonry, who for 25 years had ruled the Craft wisely and well.

The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

The W. Master said—Brethren, the next toast I have the honour to propose is "The health of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master of Masons, who, as Viceroy of the G.M., has ruled the Craft for many years and given entire satisfaction. I give you the health of the Earl de Grey and Ripon and the rest of the Grand Officers." (This toast was very cordially drunk.)

The W. Master then proposed "The Initiate." He said—Brethren, "Progression is the attribute and the law of all existence, nor matter nor spirit hath any charter for standing still." There is no such thing as standing still; if we do not go forward we must go backward. We often hear it said of a man that he is in the same position now as he was in 20 years ago. The statement is false, and it can be proved to be so by a reference to every particle of the material creation. Setting aside altogether, as an example, what we are pleased to call animate nature (but a great portion of which is no doubt in a high degree inanimate), we will take the great human family as an illustration; and of them it may justly be said that from the first breath drawn by the infant to the last breath drawn

by the centenarian, if man does not improve he must decline. He cannot in his condition be stationary. Brethren, it is the same with Freemasonry; if Freemasonry is not constantly increasing it must decrease. From the time of Enoch, whom we choose to call the first Freemason, to the beginning of the 18th century, the world saw the commencement, the rise, and the decline of Freemasonry; but, at this latter period, the Mr. Disraeli of that day, by a system of "levelling"—whether "down" or "up" it is not our province now to inquire—by introducing into the Order men who were not operative Masons, so extended it that it immediately made great strides; and it has since gone on increasing so much that at the present time it has no less than 500,000 members in the United Kingdom. Brethren, we are always pleased to add to the number, although we never try to persuade men to become Freemasons. We have had the pleasure of admitting one member to-night; and, from what we have seen of him through the ceremony, we are justified, I think, in saying he will be an honour to the Craft. Although of the motives which induce men to join us we acknowledge but two—"a general desire for knowledge and a sincere wish more extensively to benefit our fellow creatures"—there are very likely other motives frequently at work. No doubt they are both many and various, as many and as various as those which induced a noble family to marry, of whom it is said—

"One, with heart aspiring, wooed and won a queen;
One, the miller's daughter, on the village green;
Some looked round in marriage: others looked above;
While twenty wed for money, and two or three for love."

Brethren, let us hope that the brother we have initiated into the Order to-night will take rank amongst this last class, the "two or three for love." If such is the case, he will follow up Masonry as it deserves to be followed up; and the more he follows it up, the more I know he will be pleased with it. He will find it a beautiful system of morality, with—

"No meretricious graces to beguile,
No clustering ornaments to clog the pile,
From ostentation as from weakness free,
It stands like the cerulean arch we see,
Majestic in its own simplicity."

He will find that there is in it not a ceremony we go through which has not an explanation; not an instrument we use which has not a purpose; and not a mark on the tracing board which has not a meaning. And I can assure him he will come forth from the study much improved. I have only to advise him to attend lodges of instruction, to seek the good treasure with an earnest heart, and, if he follows out the precepts of Masonry faithfully and sincerely, I can promise him he will become a wiser, a better, and a happier man. Brethren, I give you—and I trust you will drink with the greatest enthusiasm—"the health of our Brother Initiate." (The toast was most cordially responded to.)

The newly-initiated brother returned thanks for the honour they had done him, for he looked upon it as a great favour to be introduced into their Order, and he could assure them that he would do all in his power to be a credit to it.

Bro. James Avery, P.M., said he had a very pleasing task to perform, as it was to propose the health of the W. Master, and he felt sure the brethren must be highly satisfied with the able manner in which he had done the work in the lodge, but his conduct at the banquet-table was magnificent, and he promised to be one of the ablest and brightest Masters who ever sat in the chair of that lodge. (Cordially received.)

The W. Master said if he did not know that this was a toast that was usually proposed at their meetings, he should have preferred it if it had been passed over altogether, as they knew very little of him, and he should say as little as possible; but, so long as he was supported by such officers, so long would he endeavour to perform his duties so as to meet with their approbation. He thanked the brethren for the warmth and cordiality with which they had drunk the toast, and he also thanked Bro. James Avery for the kind manner in which he had proposed it.

The W. Master said "The health of the P.M.'s of the Beadon Lodge" was the next toast in the order of succession, and he could say that there was no one more indebted to them for assistance than the W. Master who occupied the chair. All the P.M.'s were good working Masons, and rendered very effective services after they had passed the chair of the Beadon Lodge. There was their P.M., Bro. Alfred Avery, who held the

responsible office of Treasurer; and then there was their Bro. Lennard, who performed the duties of secretary rightly and well, and to him the best thanks of the lodge were due. Then there was their Bro. James Avery, who performed the duties of W.M., but more often than he (the W.M.) was pleased to see him. Then there were their Bros. Parker and Seaman, to whom they were greatly indebted for their assistance in promoting the harmony of the lodge. There were some other P.M.'s not present that evening, but no doubt circumstances had kept them from them, and he hoped that in drinking the healths of the P.M.'s they would do so as warmly as they deserved. The toast was well received.

Bro. Parker, P.M., said: As the most modest man amongst the P.M.'s he had to respond to the toast, and he felt obliged to the W.M. for the compliments he had paid them. One of them sang good songs, but he stood as it were between the two—one poured forth his melody while the other collected their notes. The W.M. had that night given them an earnest of what he would do for the year, and it was therefore great pleasure to him to respond on the part of the P.M.'s, and to sit in the lodge to witness his working. Their W. Master was a rising star, and he believed he would eclipse all who had gone before him.

The W.M. next gave "The health of the visitors," and to all of them he gave a hearty welcome to the Beadon Lodge. Most brethren who visited them were pleased with their reception, and if they were not it was from no fault of theirs, for their desire was to make them happy and comfortable. The W.M. then enumerated the different visitors, and on Bro. Henry Thompson, P.M., 177 and 1,158, being called upon he said he felt delighted in saying a few words in reply to the toast. He had not had the opportunity of witnessing the W. Master's working in the lodge, but if what he had seen at the banquet table was to be taken as a sample of the way in which he had discharged his duties in the lodge he thought the brethren were particularly fortunate in having such a Master. He (Bro. Thompson) was a Mason of some years standing, during which time he had not been unobservant of the way in which Freemasonry was conducted, but he must say during the whole of that time he had never heard the health of a newly initiated brother proposed in such forcible and eloquent terms as had been done by their W. Master that evening, and it must have made a deep impression upon the candidate as it had done on him (Bro. Thompson). The beautiful precepts he had inculcated had been conveyed in eloquent terms, and their W.M. had entirely departed from the usual terms used on similar occasions, and doubtless they had sunk deep into the mind of their newly initiated brother, and would never be effaced from his recollection. He (Bro. Thompson) thanked their W.M. for the privilege of being present that evening, and he could assure the brethren, although that was not his first visit, that he never enjoyed a greater amount of happiness amongst Masons than he did during a visit to the Beadon Lodge. On his own part and the rest of the visitors he thanked the brethren for the kindness and hospitality they had received from the members of the Beadon Lodge.

The W. Master next proposed, "Success to the Masonic Charities." The brethren he said would excuse him for saying that he was no friend to public charities as he believed that there were excellent pickings obtained from them, but the Masonic charities had done so much in carrying out the Divine injunction, not to suffer one of the little ones to perish, that he must request their assistance to aid the great institutions connected with their Order. There was their asylum for aged Freemasons and their Widows, which was ably represented by Bro. Terry. Then there was the Masonic Institution for Boys, and the Institution for their little Girls, and he could picture to himself nothing more lonely than a little girl being left fatherless and motherless. The Boys' School he understood was £10,000 in debt, and for this institution at the next festival Bro. Alfred Avery would stand Steward for the Beadon Lodge, and he hoped that he would take up such large contributions so that the festival might be made a success. Then Bros. James, Avery, and Parker, would represent the other charities, and he hoped they would also be well supported. He gave "Success to the Masonic Charities."

Bro. Terry, P.M. 228, and collector to the Aged Freemasons' Asylum, said he scarcely knew how to respond to the toast in the manner it deserved, but when he informed the three secretaries of the charities that that lodge would send stewards to represent that lodge at each of them, it would be most gratify-

ing, and especially so when it was known that the lodge would qualify themselves to rank as vice-presidents of those institutions. He also thanked them for their handsome contribution of five guineas towards the testimonial to be presented to the Grand Master on completing his 25 years sovereignty of the Craft.

Bros. Alfred Avery, James Avery, and Parker, (the stewards to represent the lodge at the three coming festivals) severally returned thanks for the contributions placed in their hands, and hoped to see the Beadon Lodge stand in a very proud position on these occasions.

The Tyler's toast brought a very happy meeting to a close, which was materially assisted by the harmony of many of the brethren. Bro. Drysdale presided at the pianoforte.

The Visitors present were: Bros. H. G. Hayward, St. John's, 167; Geo. Christie, High Cross, 754; W. B. Roberts, P.M. 181; T. Knott, 73; Pinhorn, 319; W. Mainger, W.M. 15; W. Wanger, P.M. 15; W. J. Adams, P.M. 198, P. Prov. G.M. Herts; J. Terry, P.M. 228; J. Hill, P.M. 87; H. Thompson, P.M. 177; W. Blake, 23.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—At the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, on Friday, 30th ult., this lodge held its adjourned meeting. Bro. Frederick Walters, P.M. and Sec., opened the lodge punctually at six o'clock p.m. The minutes of the antecedent meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. William Myatt being a candidate for passing was interrogated, trusted, and withdrew. The Fellow Crafts lodge was then formed. Bro. John Hawker, W.M., took the Solomonic chair, and in an able, superior, talented, and efficient manner, passed Bro. W. Wyatt to the second degree. The first degree was resumed. The Zetland Commemoration was brought under the notice of the lodge. An eloquent appeal was made by the Secretary, Bro. F. Walters, urging the lodge to send as usual a steward to represent them at the festival for the Royal Benevolent Institution, which will be held on January 28th, 1869. The lodge was duly closed. There were present besides those mentioned Bros. W. Andrews, I.P.M.; J. Truelove, J.W.; T. Killner, Dir. of Cers.; G. Andrews, H. J. Tuson, J. F. Funge, H. J. Wright, S. O. Lewin, G. Ellis, G. Holman, G. F. Honey, W. Dalziel, J. W. Reed, and some others. Amongst an unusual large number of visitors we noticed Bros. W. Herbert, 73; H. Endsor, 73; G. Hill, 73; H. Keeble, 73; D. Davies, 147; J. Roper, 147; J. Carver, 147; E. Allsopp, 217; Gard, 749; T. E. Tout, S.W., 857; and others whose names we were unable to ascertain. The usual good banquet followed, served up under the personal superintendence of the host, Bro. G. Ellis, who exerted himself to please all.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

CARLISLE.—(Union Lodge, No. 310).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 27th ult. The following brethren were in attendance, viz., Bros. J. Slack, W.M. Prov. G.S.D.; J. Iredale, P.M. P. Prov. D.G.M., G. G. Hayward, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.B. acting S.W.; G. Sumerville, J.W.; J. A. Wheatley, S.D.; G. Turnbull, J.D.; T. Cockburn, acting Sec.; W. Court, Treas.; J. Atkinson, I.G.; J. Barnes, Tyler; A. Woodhouse, W.M. 412; J. M. Harrison, Robert Metcalf; also visiting brethren, Serj. G. Murray, (318, S.C.), and Messrs. James James, 724, all of the 40th Regt. The head quarters of that Regiment are now stationed in this City. The lodge was opened in form. The minutes of last meeting read, the W.M. said that he had received some communication from Grand Lodge in reference to the "Zetland Memorial" which he read to the meeting. The S.W. said that he wished to propose that as the funds of this lodge were in low ebb, no subscription be sent at present, but if the funds were in a good position at the time the list closed, he had no doubt but that a handsome sum would be forwarded. After other business of importance had been concluded, the lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to the refreshment-room, where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drank and responded to with musical honour. Bro. Serj. Murray rose to respond to a toast that had been drank, to the health of the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Bro. the Earl of

Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., and said that he (Bro. Murray) had great pleasure in responding to that toast for, for what he knew and had heard of the G.M. of Scotland, he felt confident that he the G.M. was the right man in the right place, and as for himself he thanked the brethren for the very courteous manner they had received him. The visitors Bros. Wetheral and James, each returned thanks in short speeches, after which the Tylers' toast brought the evening to a close.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—Pleiades Lodge, (No. 710).—The anniversary meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Thursday, 29th ult. The brethren had been summoned for noon, and half an hour after that time the lodge was opened in the first degree, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P. Prov. G.S.W., P.M. &c. This being done, Bro. John Heath, W.M. entered and took his chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the 2nd degree. Bro. A. Niner acted as S.W., Bro. Bodley as J.W., Bro. Watson occupied his place as Sec., Bro. Pridham as S.D., Bro. W. Cuming as J.D. Bro. Dr. Hopkins then assumed the first chair to perform the duty as Installing Master. Bro. John Heath presented his son Bro. George Heath as W.M. elect to receive the benefit of Installation, offering many remarks appropriate to the occasion, flowing naturally from a proper feeling of pride on seeing his son so cordially elected, so able and willing to take the place just vacated by himself, on the point of being inducted into a position qualifying him to rule over the lodge in which he had first seen the light, and to take a rank previously held by his father and brother. After the usual preliminaries, and when assent had been given to the ancient charges as read by the Secretary, the candidate was obligated as regards his duties. The lodge was opened in the third degree, and the brethren who had not passed the chair retired. A Board of Installed Masters was then constituted, in whose presence Bro. Dr. Hopkins placed Bro. George Heath in the chair of K.S., with the usual formalities and explanations. The Board of Masters was then closed, and the Master Masons, Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices were summoned in succession, the customary processions, salutations and proclamations taking place on each occasion. These having been completed, the new W.M. appointed and invested the following officers, giving to each of them an epitome of his duties, and the ground of his appointment. Bros. J. Heath, I.P.M.; Rev. J. Powning, Chap.; Pridham, S.W.; W. Cuming, J.W.; Adams, Sec.; Watson, Treas.; A. Niner, S.D.; W. H. Stafford, J.D.; Taylor, Org.; Stephens, I.G.; Middleton, Manning, Stewards; Crocker, Tyler. Bro. Dr. Hopkins then delivered the closing addresses severally to the W.M., the Wardens, and the brethren of the lodge, being greeted with applause at the close of each. The W.M. briefly thanked the members for the honour which had been conferred on him by placing him in the exalted position of Master of the lodge, and especially expressed his obligation to the Installing Master for the trouble he had taken in conducting the ceremonies of the day in so able and impressive a manner, befitting the importance and dignity of the occasion. He further acknowledged the kindness of many visitors, some of whom had come from great distances to grace the meeting by their presence. The report of the Audit Committee should have been presented, but circumstances having prevented its preparation, its production was postponed till the next meeting. The lodge having been resumed in the second and afterwards in the first degree, Bro. Dr. Hopkins brought forward a proposition of which he had given notice for a grant of two guineas to the Palestine Exploration Fund, which found no seconder, probably owing to ignorance of the state of the funds in the absence of the annual report. The W.M. drew the attention of the brethren to a very handsome Corinthian column standing near the J.W.'s chair, which completes the set of three for the lodge room, the Doric and Ionic columns having been the gifts of two members several years ago. He stated that this new addition was presented by Bro. W. H. Stafford, who, though but a young Mason, was desirous of thus evincing his appreciation of the privilege of admission into the Masonic Order through the Pleiades Lodge. The W.M. concluded by proposing the following resolutions, which was seconded by the S.W. and carried unanimously—Bro. William Henry Stafford having communicated to the W.M. his desire to assist in completing the furniture of the Masonic Hall at Totnes, and having with this view erected in its proper place a Corinthian

column, 10ft. in height, with a carved stone capital, of elegant and correct design, as a match for the Doric and Ionic Orders, previously presented by other brethren, resolved unanimously, on the proposition of Bro. George Heath, W.M., seconded by Bro. John Pridham, S.W.—“That the most grateful and cordial thanks of the Pleiades Lodge, No. 710, be accorded to Bro. William Henry Stafford, for his generous and unexpected present. That the circumstances attending the gift be recorded in the minutes of the lodge. That Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P. Prov. G.S.W., P.M. &c. be requested to inscribe a copy of this resolution on vellum, to be given to Bro. W. H. Stafford in testimony of the appreciation by the lodge of his endeavour to promote its interests, by thus completing one portion of its furniture; and that the document be signed by the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Secretary.” On the proposition of Bro. Pridham, S.W. seconded by Bro. W. Cuming, J.W. it was resolved “that the best thanks of the lodge be presented to Bro. John Heath, I.P.M. for his able and efficient government of the Pleiades Lodge during his term of office as W.M.” The W.M. having risen three several times, and no other business offering, the official proceedings of the day were brought to a close soon after two o'clock in perfect harmony and with solemn prayer. The annual banquet took place at the Seven Stars Hotel, where the brethren reassembled an hour after the closing of the lodge. Nearly fifty brethren sat down, under the presidency of Bro. George Heath, W.M., who was supported on his right by Bros. Earle, Owen, P.M.; T. Kellock, John Heathson, P.M., and Kettle; and on his left by Bros. Rev. R. Bowden, P.M.; Dr. Hopkins, P.M.; Marks, P.M.; Watson, P.M. The vice chair was occupied by Bro. Pridham, S.W., supported by Bro. Brewster, P.M. and others. The dinner, comprising every thing that could be desired and being well served, did great credit to the Host Bro. John Heath and Mrs. Heath. The toasts, speeches &c., being of the ordinary Masonic and congratulatory character appropriate on such festal occasions, need no especial mention. Most of the party left soon after seven o'clock, and all appeared highly pleased with the proceedings of the day, which were creditable to those on whom the arrangements had devolved. There were many visitors present from the neighbouring towns.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Lodge De Loraine* (No. 541).—On Friday evening, the 16th ult., the members of this flourishing lodge held their usual monthly meeting at their lodge room in Blakett-street, under the presidency of their popular W.M. Bro. John Stokoe, when there was a large attendance of members and visitors; prominent among them may be mentioned Bros. C. J. Bannister, P.G.S.B., England; E. D. Davis, P. Prov. S.W., Northumberland; T. Y. Strachan, P. Prov. G.S.D.; W. Fulsham, W.M., 24; S. Anderson, Prov. G. Treas., Northumberland; R. Smaile, P.M.; B. Smaile, P.M.; Winter, P.M.; Smith, P.M. The minutes of the preceding meeting having been duly disposed of, the ballot was taken for Mr. Thomas Sewell, Jun., and Mr. Thomas Allison, who being duly elected were initiated. Bro. Henry Taylor was also passed to the second degree, and Bro. James Boe raised to the third degree, all the several degrees being conferred by the W.M., Bro. Stokoe, in an accurate and appropriate manner. The next business being the nomination of Treasurer and Tyler was quietly got through. The W.M. then announced the presence of a deputation, of which he had the honour to be one himself, from the committee appointed to promote the erection of a Masonic Hall in Newcastle, and concisely and forcibly put before the brethren the necessity of a Masonic building where the various ceremonies could be properly and more effectively performed than in any of the present lodge rooms owing to the inadequacy of the accommodation. Bro. T. Y. Strachan, another of the deputation also addressed the brethren and appealed for that support in which lodge De Loraine was never found wanting to any proper object. A site in a central and prominent part of the town was being treated for, and he trusted the names and Masonic standing of the brethren forming the provisional committee would be a sufficient guarantee for all the Masons in the town to accord the scheme their hearty and best support. Several of the brethren of the lodge afterwards addressed the lodge and the feeling was unanimous in support of the scheme. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to refreshment and so brought another of De Loraine's pleasant meetings under the present worthy W.M. to a happy conclusion.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Memorial Schools (opposite the Church), Meltham, on Wednesday, the 28th ult., at 11:30 a.m., the R.W. Bro. the Rt. Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M. and Prov. G.M., presided, supported by the Prov. G. Officers.

The lodge having been opened in the three degrees by the W.M. and officers of the Lodge of Peace, 149, the Prov. G. Master, the D. Prov. G.M., and the Prov. G. Officers entered and the Prov. G. Lodge was opened in due form.

The roll of lodges having been called, and the Prov. G. Officers having answered to their names, the minutes of the last Prov. G. Lodge held at Holmfirth on the 1st July last, were read and received confirmation.

The Charity Committee then presented the following special report.

“The Charity Committee beg to report that since the last meeting of Provincial G. Lodge they have succeeded in electing S. H. Tetley to the Boys' School.

“In pursuance of a resolution unanimously agreed to at Leeds, August 22nd, 1868, the committee have the honour to make a special appeal to the province and incorporate it with their report.

“The R.W. Prov. G.M. having consented to preside at the Anniversary Festival of the Boys' School, March 10th, 1869, in order that the province may not only liberally and efficiently support their most distinguished brother on that occasion, but manifest their continued interest in the progress and prosperity of one of the most useful institutions of our order, the Charity Committee beg to call their special attention to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. And as the aim and object of the charity committee as originally established was to advise, suggest, and superintend all matters and measures affecting the interests of the four great Central Masonic Institutions, the Committee feel sure, that their endeavour to bring the pressing claims of the Boys' School clearly and forcibly before Prov. G. Lodge will be properly appreciated and approved of by all their brethren.

“It may be well then on the present occasion to remind Prov. G. Lodge very shortly of the past history of the Boys' School.

“The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys was founded in 1793, with the benevolent intention “of preserving from the dangers of vice and immorality the infant sons of deceased and unfortunate Freemasons, by furnishing them with decent clothing and a plain education, and ultimately apprenticing them to suitable trades, so as to qualify them to fill with advantage to themselves and credit to the Craft those situations in life to which it should please Providence to call them.”

“Carrying out the true principles of Freemasonry, the worthy and philanthropic founders of the institution agreed to receive children of every denomination and wherever resident, to clothe them, furnish them with necessary books, educate them at the schools nearest to their homes, and when the boys reached the age of 14, to give them, if found deserving, a premium of £5.

“Such was the humble beginning of what promises to become a great institution, and for fifty-eight years the system just described was that on which the Boys' School was carried on.

“In 1856, however, a great change was made in the rules and regulations of the Institution.

“Owing to what then had become for some time a great fact happily in the history of this country—the spread of a wise educational movement—the Committee of the Boys' School, taking into account the increased demands for the admission of candidates, determined that the time had come when material improvements might properly be made in the established system of the school, so as to render it more worthy of the Order at large and more beneficial in its practical results. And as for some time previously a general feeling had prevailed that the arrangements of the school were not as satisfactory as could be wished, such an alteration was gladly hailed by all the friends of the Institution.

“It was in consequence of an appeal made to the Craft in the year 1856, that the Committee of the School were enabled to purchase for £3,500 a house and grounds at Wood Green, near London.

"This building, though good in itself, was not adapted for the purposes of a school, and possessed many incurable defects, but, after some alterations, was prepared and opened in 1857—for the reception of 25 inmates.

"The applications for admission increasing, after fresh alterations in 1859, 68 boys were received into the establishment, and were thus enabled, by the wise and benevolent arrangements of the General Committee and the liberal support of the Craft, to enjoy the great benefit of a home and the striking advantages of complete education, clothing, and maintenance. Two great changes had now been made in the general system of the school, adding considerably to the yearly expenditure—the maintenance of the boys as well as their clothing and education, and the extension of the term of education from fourteen to fifteen.

"Your Committee feel it right to express their decided opinion that these changes were most desirable and advisable, and have tended more than anything else to the comfort and improvement of those admitted to the Institution.

"All, indeed, who have had any experience in the working of similar institutions can have no doubt whatever that the alterations introduced so successfully in the rules and regulations of the Boys' School in 1856, must be a very great improvement on the original scheme, because, not only thereby has a comfortable home been provided for the sons of our deceased and unfortunate brethren, but the health and habits of the boys, their regular progress, and intellectual improvement have been watched over more effectually under this system than could possibly have been the case under the one previously in operation. Such was the condition of the Institution until 1862. In that year, owing to the still increasing demands for admission, which the General Committee were unable to comply with, and the evident insufficiency of the then existing buildings for the purposes of the Institution, the Committee determined, with the general approval of the Order, to erect an entire new building on the site at Wood Green, which should be distinguished not only for its architectural excellencies and striking external appearance, but for its internal accommodation, and thoroughly adapted for the great end and object of such a school, by its educational appliances and sanitary arrangements. The Committee of the school were encouraged in this their great undertaking, involving as it did a very large and serious outlay, by the conviction that our Order in England is yearly increasing and very remarkably so both in numbers and social elevation; and that there could be but little doubt, humanely speaking, that in their laudable efforts to render the school deserving of the approval and support of the entire Craft, and thoroughly efficient as an educational institution, those efforts would not fail for want of funds in large hearted liberality to further so good and so desirable an object.

"Neither were their anticipations disappointed; but in 1865, having received substantial proofs of the interest and sympathy felt by the entire Order in their praiseworthy labours, the school was opened—a noble building in itself, and admirably adapted for the purposes of an educational establishment for the reception of 80 pupils, nine being from our own province. In 1866 this number was further increased to 100.

"But yet the large increase in the number of inmates from 25 in 1856 to 100, the number admitted in 1866, has altogether failed to supply what are undoubtedly the still growing wants of the Order. At the April election this year, for instance, out of 41 candidates nine only could be elected; while at the recent election, October 19th, out of 53 candidates nine could only be received, leaving 44 unsuccessful candidates. In consequence of the very large expenditure needful from a variety of causes, to erect substantially and satisfactorily the new buildings required by an increased number of pupils and resident masters, and the educational improvements of the day, there exists at this time, in round numbers, a building debt of £10,000.

"Could this debt be paid off, your committee believe that an addition could be at once made to the number of inmates, and that in a short space of time, supposing that the interest of our order in the Institution is kept up, of which there can happily be little doubt, the number of pupils could be still further sensibly increased.

"It is in order, if possible, to pay off this building debt which will weigh so heavily on the annual income, and will interfere so materially with any increase in numbers, so truly desirable, that your committee have come to the conclusion that this is a fitting time and an urgent reason, for making a fresh and

special appeal to the province. In past time it was the great privilege of West Yorkshire to give the impetus to the provincial movement in favour of the Metropolitan Charities, and the Charity Committee believe that—bearing in mind that our R. W. Prov. G.M. will preside at the next Anniversary Meeting, and the pressing claim there is for a large and liberal support of the Institution, and the remarkable advantages this province has derived from the Boys' School, the Prov. G. Lodge of West Yorkshire will be again willing to render a hearty and sympathetic response to the appeal now made to them.

"Your committee have reason to know that the provinces of East and West Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Somersetshire, Hants, and others, are earnestly bestirring themselves, in order, if possible, to reduce and even extinguish the debt, and they therefore venture to indulge the hope that their brethren in West Yorkshire, will unanimously agree to-day to join in promoting and achieving so very desirable a result.

"No doubt it may be asked here, before the Charity Committee appeal to the province for fresh pecuniary support on behalf of the Boys' School, has the Charity Committee nothing to say in respect of the financial and educational position of the school?

"In answer to this, the Charity Committee would beg to observe, that in all great building undertakings it is impossible but that questions will fairly arise as to the propriety of the expenditure on the one hand, and the value of the result achieved on the other. Looking at the general tendency to improve school buildings and school arrangements, who can safely venture to say that the committee of the Boys' School were unwise in seeking to raise the very admirable buildings they have happily succeeded in raising, or that the expenditure, however large, can be deemed inexpedient, which has provided a permanent and befitting building to meet the pressing claims of our yearly increasing brotherhood. Much could be said here if it were not, your committee think altogether out of place, in respect of the cost of building and materials which especially marked the years in which the contracts for the new school were executed, the unavoidable excess in some items, the unforeseen expenses of others, which as very often happens in similar buildings, exceed the amount of the original estimates.

"But your Committee prefer, as that only lies within their province, to deal with the practical question, how best can we reduce the building debt? How, most effectually, can we render the school thoroughly efficient, and able to receive a still larger number of those poor orphans who anxiously seek admittance.

"As questions have arisen from time to time relative to the cost of the boys in the school, the committee think it right to say a few words on that head.

"The cost of the Boys per head to the close of 1867 for actual domestic and educational expenditure, excluding office expenses and the education of Boys out of the School, amounted to £36 12s. 2½d., including office expenses, rates and taxes, and all expenditure to £46 15s. 1d. or £1 2s. 1d. less than in 1866.

"No doubt this seems at first sight a large amount, but on analysis it is susceptible of satisfactory explanation. The Freemasons' Boys' School is made up of very different classes of society, and requires therefore a higher standard alike in clothing, food, and education, than is given to the orphans of merely eleemosynary institutions, or boys of any one particular class. It must always also be borne in mind that the object of the Boys' School is not to make our boys Charity Boys, or to reduce them to the level of a pauper institution, but to give them the same education they would have had, had God spared the lives of their parents, so as to fit them for the social position they were destined, humanly speaking, to fill.

"And we must always keep this before us when we consider the cost of the education given in the Boys' School, or compare it with that of any other school.

"A careful analysis of the expenditure of the Boys' School per head, with that of several of the London Institutions of somewhat of a kindred nature, gives the following result—

"The expenditure per head is in excess of such schools as the Commercial Travellers, Warehousemen and Clerks, British Orphan, City Freeman's Orphan School, St. Anne's, London Orphan—but is equal to that of the clergy, orphan, and less than that of the Royal Medical Benevolent. The much larger numbers in almost all these schools will in every case account for the difference in expenditure.

"For instance, the office expenses in the boys' are larger per

head than all the other schools, simply because of the limited number of boys.

"Whereas in the London Orphan, with 145 girls and 290 boys, the office expenses are £3 12s. 3½d. per head, or in round numbers £1,520; in the Commercial Travellers, with 125 boys and 66 girls, in all 191, £7 7s. 5d. per head, in round numbers £1,400; in the Clergy Orphan, with 83 girls and 96 boys, in all 179, £4 4s. 8½d., in round numbers £751. Our boys' School is £9 1s. 10¾d. per head, in all £909 9s. 9d. for 100 boys. If the number of boys could be increased to 150, and eventually to 200, this expenditure would not be increased in the aggregate, and would show a reduction per head of from four to five pounds.

"As regards clothing, the expenditure of the boys is larger per head than all the charities mentioned. We give the boys two suits of good clothing a year, an extra pair of trousers, and linen and underclothing in great liberality. This is unusual in other schools but has tended much to the health of the boys.

As regards food—we give the boys of the best, and the consequence is an infirmary always empty, and a school of healthy active, and happy lads, of whom their medical man says, they are both a pleasure and a marvel.

As it may interest the Provincial Grand Lodge to know what is the amount per head spent in food by the other Charities, the committee append a tabular statement, and if an average s t ken of these eight schools it will appear to be £13 14s. 6d., or 1 2s. 4¾d. in excess of what is paid in the Boy's School—£12 12s. 2¾d. per head.

London Orphan.	Warehousemen and Clerks.	Clergy Orphan.	British Orphan.
145 Boys.	35 Girls.	83 Girls.	69 Girls.
290 Girls.	76 Boys.	96 Boys.	106 Boys.
425	112	179	175
£10 8s. 4½d.	£12 0s. 10d.	£17 12s. 5½d.	£15 12s. 2d.

Royal Medical Benevolent.	Commercial Travellers.	St. Anne's.	Freemen's Orphan.
150 Boys pay.	125 Boys.	322 Boys.	127 Boys and Girls.
50 „ free.	66 Girls.		
200	191		
£19 3s. 11d.	£10 10s. 7¾d.	£10 11s. 11½d.	£13 15s. 9d.

"As regards the educational and general position of the school, your Committee think it right to state that it is, they have reason to believe, very satisfactory.

"Recent visits to the school could not fail to leave a most pleasing impression on the minds of the visitors, the cleanliness and good order of the boys, their cheerfulness and propriety of demeanour, and all the arrangements for their comfort and convenience are deserving of all praise, while your Committee have reason to know that their progress in educational attainments has kept pace with all the other improvements.

"As an illustration of this, it may be well to mention, that of the two only candidates sent up to the Oxford Local Middle Class Examination, June 1867, both obtained a first-class in honours, and of the six candidates sent up to the Cambridge Examination for the same object last December, one obtained third-class honours and two received certificates. And though it is true that of four sent up to the Oxford Examination this year one only has succeeded, one of the six candidates for the Cambridge Examination in December next, the Committee hope to make a satisfactory report at the annual meeting in 1869.

"It is interesting to state that of the 16 boys who left the school at the close of 1867—4 went back to their friends; 4

became Educational Assistants; 2 Clerks in Banks; 2 Clerks to Solicitors; 1 Railway Clerk; 2 Clerks in Mercantile Offices; 1 apprenticed to a Gold Chaser.

"This is as practical a commentary on the value of the education given as your committee could desire to furnish, and in this province we have had several opportunities afforded us of late years of thoroughly appreciating the education afforded to the boys we have successively sent to the school.

"Your Committee have every reason to believe that the advantages of the Institution are now fully realised by the order at large, and yearly increasing applications for admission prove a long existing want among our brethren which is only to be fully and fitly supplied by enabling the Committee of the Boy's School still further to increase the number of inmates.

"It must be borne in mind that the building lately erected can be made to receive 200 Boys at a comparatively small outlay for additional dormitory accomodation only, and your Committee hope that in process of time, by the increasing support of the order, the Royal Masonic Institution may be enabled to receive all qualified candidates.

"Looking then, of this state of things, and having regard to the present amount of the building debt, the Charity Committee would venture treating it as an altogether exceptional one, to recommend the Provincial Grand Lodge to vote 500 guineas from its funds.

"They believe that the present amount to the credit of the province is £1,200, and that before the 500 guineas will have to be paid, £300 will be received by the P.G. Treasurer, still leaving an available balance of about £1,000.

"The Charity Committee would further recommend that each lodge should open a subscription list, and that one Steward at least from every lodge in the province be sent if possible to the Anniversary Festival. The following brethren have already kindly consented to act as stewards:—

W.M. STEWARDS FOR MARCH 10TH, 1869.

"The Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M., and Prov. G.M.; Bros. Bentley Shaw, J.P. S.G.D., and D. Prov. G.M.; Rev. J. Senior, L.L.D., P.M., 208 and 425, Prov. G.C., P. Prov. G.W.; R. R. Nelson, P.M., 201, 827, 1042, P.D. Prov. G.M., Prov. G. Sec.; H. Day, P.M., 208, Dewsbury; J. W. H. Richardson, P.M., 229, P. Prov. G.W.; G. H. Westerman, P.M., 154, P. Prov. G.W.; Thomas Robinson, P.M., 521, P. Prov. G.W.; T. A. Haigh, P.M., 149, P. Prov. G.D.; W. H. Porritt, W.M., 289, Leeds; Jonas Craven, W.M., 290, Huddersfield; Manoah Rhodes, P.M., 302 and 974, P. Prov. G.W.; Thomas Hill, P.M., 302, P. Prov. G.D.; W. Ibbetson, W.M., 302; Benjamin Broughton, 302; James Green, 302; J. D. Sugden, 302; McGowan, 302; C. Pratt, P.M., 1,034; W. Beanland, P.M., 1,034; S. Rhodes, 1,034; E. Woodhouse, W.M., 521; Capt. J. Wordsworth, P.M., 387, P. Prov. G.S. of W.; John Wright, P.M., 1,001, Prov. J.G.D.

"In conclusion, the Charity Committee would apologise to Provincial Grand Lodge for the unusual length of this report, trusting, however, that the urgency and importance of the subject may form their best excuse.

"They are convinced that Provincial Grand Lodge will give them credit on this and all other occasions for being actuated by one consideration, and one only, in the recommendations they have ventured to make from time to time, and especially to-day, namely, an anxious desire to promote the honour and dignity of the Province, the advancement and welfare of our great Masonic Institutions, and the faithful development of the genuine and unchanging principles of our useful and benevolent Order.

"A. F. A. WOODFORD, Chairman.

"R. R. NELSON, Prov. G. Sec.

The motion of which Bro. Henry Smith, P.M. 387, P. Prov. G.D. had given notice, was then brought forward for consideration, viz:—"That the sum of one hundred guineas be voted from the funds of the Prov. G. Lodge, to assist in paying off the mortgage debt on the Boys' School."

This was supplemented by the following amendment, which was unanimously carried:—

That in order to reduce the debt on the Boys' School, and to render the advantages of the Institution available for a larger number of inmates, the sum of five hundred guineas be voted from the funds of the Prov. G. Lodge to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys."

The D. Prov. G.M. moved:—"That a committee, consisting of the W.M.s of each lodge in the province, be appointed to

organise and carry out a plan for securing the hearty co-operation of West Yorkshire lodges and brethren in furtherance of the Zetland Commemoration Fund." This was unanimously carried.

Various petitions for relief having been submitted, the brethren then formed in order of procession, and proceeded to the site of the intended Convalescent Hospital for the purpose of assisting at the laying of the foundation stone by the R.W. the Prov. G.M.

It is to be built at the sole cost of Bro. Charles Brook, jun., of the firm of Brook and Brothers, thread manufacturers, Meltham, near Huddersfield, who has given the munificent sum of £30,000 for the purpose.

The ceremony having been completed, and the Prov. G.M. and Bro. Brook, jun., having addressed the meeting, the brethren returned to the school room when the Prov. G. Lodge was closed with solemn prayer.

The banquet afterwards took place at the Dining Hall, Meltham Mills, at which the R.W. the Prov. G.M. presided.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The quarterly communication of the Prov. G. Lodge of the Glasgow province was held in the Hall 213 Buchanan-street, on Thursday, 29th October, at eight p.m. Bro. Capt. A. A. Speirs, M.P., Prov. G.M. in the chair. Bros. Mc Taggart, R.W.M., No. 27, acting as S.W., and M. Robert, R.W.M., No. 73, acting J.W., there were also present Bros. Neilson, Dep. Prov. G.M.; Barrow, Sub. Prov. G.M.; J. B. Walker, Prov. G. Treas.; W. Smith, Prov. G. Sec.; J. Wallace, Prov. G.S.D., &c., and a very large number of brethren.

The lodge having been duly opened the Prov. G. Sec. read the minutes which were approved of. These minutes which were very voluminous contained the transactions of all the different committee &c. during the quarter, and showed the large amount of work that had been gone through.

The foundation stones of three buildings had been laid under the auspices of the Prov. G. Lodge; transactions have been entered into for a Masonic Hall worthy of Glasgow; a scheme to raise the Benevolent Fund to a higher standing was also introduced, and many other matters which were all handled in a business like manner.

The attention of the Prov. G. Lodge having been called to the fact that a certain country lodge had been making members for fifteen shillings! Bro. M. Taggart moved that evidence regarding the matter be collected, and the subject brought before G. Lodge, which after some remarks from Bros. Ramsay, R.W.M., 3 bis and Barrow, was agreed to.

The Prov. G. Sec. intimated to the meeting the progress they were making, with the initiatory steps, regarding the site and building of a new Masonic Hall. Bro. Neilson, Dep. P.G. gave a *resume* of the history of the steps taken in getting His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to lay the foundation stone of the new University, from which it appeared that the college authorities would have liked to have had a Masonic procession, as an *addendum*, if such could have been done consistent with Masonic law and honour.

But the Prince, who it was settled was to lay the stone, not being a Mason, the Masonic body, as such, under these circumstances could not consistently take any steps in the matter. It was intimated that the 8th annual Festival of all the lodges in the province was to be held in the City Hall, on Friday, December 18th at eight p.m. Tickets to Soiree and Concert 1s. 6d. each, to Ball, Gentlemen 3s. each, Ladies free.

The lodge was therefore duly closed. Altogether the business brought up at this meeting augurs well for the Masonic future of Glasgow, and it is to be hoped that Bro. Capt. Speirs and those assisting him at the helm of affairs, will be able safely and honourably to pilot the Glasgow Masonic Bark, freighted as it is with good practical Masonic purposes, safely into port, and a few years having elapsed, the brethren will be able to show that Masonry in Glasgow is really worthy of the name, and, pointing to their new Masonic Hall, be able to say. That! is worthy of "The Second City in the Empire."

IRELAND.

DOWN.

DOWNPATRICK.—*Installation of Bro. William Johnston, of Ballykilbeg.*—On Saturday, 17th ult., at three o'clock, an emergency meeting of Lodge Downpatrick 86, was held in the lodge rooms for the purpose of installing Bro. Johnston as W.M. There was a good attendance of P.M.'s on the occasion, which contributed very much to make the ceremony of installation impressive in its character. The following P.M.'s of No. 86 were present:—Bros. Douglas, W.M.; Major Craig, S.W.; Major Thomson, J.W.; Dr. W. H. Graham, John Keown, J.P.; W. Keown, M.P., J.P.; Dr. Cross, Strangford. There were also in attendance—Bros. W. Keown, D. McCutcheon, W. Anderson, J. R. McConnell, W. Mearns, and J. Russell—members of lodge 367. There were also present the three following representatives from Belfast:—Bros. J. Gelston, P.M., 22; M. M. Ward, W.M., 59; and James McGladdery, P.M., 97. The business of the installation having been concluded, the lodge was closed in ancient form. A number of the brethren then retired to the refreshment-board, where a sumptuous entertainment was in readiness. Bro. W. H. Garner occupied the chair, and Bro. W. Johnston the vice-chair. Bro. Garner proposed the health of the newly-installed W.M. in suitable terms, and it was responded to by Bro. Johnston, who proposed the health of the visiting brethren. Bro. Gelston replied, wishing every success to Lodge 86, under the guidance of its newly-installed W.M. The brethren having engaged for some time in friendly conversation, the interesting proceedings were brought to a close.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Chapter was held in Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 4th inst., the following members of Grand Chapter being present:—Comps. W. Pulteney Scott, as Z.; J. L. Creation, as H.; Benj. Head, as J.; Samuel Rawson, P.D. G. Supt. for China; John Hervey, E.; John Savage, as N.; Rev. Charles R. Davy, P. Soj.; H. Grissell, 1st Assist. Soj.; N. Bradford, as 2nd Assist. Soj.; E. J. McIntyre, G. Reg.; Henry Browse, Sword Bearer; Henry Mugeridge, Standard Bearer; John Thomas, Dir. of Cers.; R. J. Spiers, P. Standard Bearer; E. S. Snell, P. Sword Bearer; J. Smith, P. Dir. of Cers.; also Companions William Smith, C.E., P.Z. 33; J. Nunn, P.Z. 820; J. Brett, P.Z. 177; H. G. Buss, P.Z. 177; F. Bennoch, P.Z. 2; J. Boyd, Z. 534; A. D. Loewenstark, Z. 185; W. M. Bywater, Z. 19; J. R. Sheen, P.Z. 185; F. Adlard, P.Z. 214; G. Lambert, P.Z. 7; W. Ough, P.Z. 749; T. Robinson, P.Z. 753; W. Young, P.Z. 203; L. Merick, H. 534.

[We shall give a report of the business transacted, in our next issue.—ED. F. M.]

METROPOLITAN.

JOPPA CHAPTER, (No. 188). A convocation of this chapter was held at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on the 26th ult. This was a meeting for the installation of principals, Comps. J. Lazarus being initiated Z., and Littauer as H. The ceremony was very ably performed by Comp. Goring. Chapter being closed a banquet followed to which twenty-five sat down. A pleasant and harmonious evening was spent.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM CHAPTER (No. 753).—A convocation of the above chapter was held on Wednesday, 28th ult., Comp. F. G. Baker, M.E.Z., in the chair. Bros. Richard Lonsdale, No. 382; J. W. Claisens, 382; H. Lynn, 704; James Carter, 753, were exalted in a very impressive manner by the M.E.Z., supported by his officers, Comps. Hardy, H.; Houghton, J.; T. Foxall, P.S., and Past Principals Robinson, Sims, Caultcher, Stacey, Frost, and Adams. The chapter being closed the Comps. adjourned to a sumptuous banquet. The usual toasts were given and responded to. Comps. Davis (554), Coote, and Garrat sang some very good songs.

DORSETSHIRE.

WIMBORNE.—*St. Cuthberga Chapter*, (No. 622).—A convocation of this chapter was held on Wednesday, October 28th, pre-

sent Comps. H. Ward, M.E.Z.; C. R. Rowe, P.Z. as M.E.H., (in the unavoidable absence of Comp. Heath), E. W. Wyndham, M.E.J.; B. J. Kerridge, P.Z.E.; J. Clifton, N.; F. Tanner P.S., and others. The ballot was taken for Bro. Thomas Ledder, Sec. 622, which proved unanimous in his favour. He was then admitted and exalted to this supreme degree in ancient and solemn form, the historical, symbolical, and mystical lectures being given by the M.E.Z., in a most impressive manner. There being no further business the chapter was closed in solemn form.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD.—*Chapter de Burgh* (No. 424).—The annual meeting of this chapter was held on Thursday, 22nd ult., at the chapter room, Gateshead. The minutes of preceding chapter were confirmed, and the companions elected were duly installed and invested in their various offices, viz., Comps. R. J. Banning, Z.; G. A. Allen, H.; B. Hugill, J.; John Stokoe, E.; Richardson, N.; R. B. Reed, P.S.; R. F. Cook, A.S.; Curry, Janitor. A resolution was adopted that the chapter hold their future meetings in the new Masonic Hall. The financial report showed the funds to be in a flourishing condition. The companions then sat down to their usual annual dinner which has become so noted as the perfection of a well appointed and comfortable spread, and finished the evening in a harmonious and happy manner.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

ST. MARK'S LODGE OF MARK MASTERS, (No. 24).—On Monday 2nd inst., at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury this lodge met Bro. H. C. Levander, A.M., W.M. presided. The minutes of previous lodge meeting were unanimously confirmed. Apologies were sent for non attendance of candidates; audit committee reported a balance in the Treasurer's hands. The lodge was closed. Present Bros. T. Wescombe, S.W. and Treas.; J. G. Marsh, J.W.; R. W. Little, P.M. Sec.; F. Walters, P.M. R. of M.; Rev. W. B. Church, M.O. and Chap.; J. Mc Kiernan, J. O.; H. Parker, Org., and others. Visitor Bro. R. Watts, P.G.S.B., P.M. Refreshment followed labour.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

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

The second meeting of this body since the adoption of the plan of holding "Moveable Grand Lodges"—or meetings of Grand Lodge in the Provinces—was held at Worcester on Wednesday, the 21st ult., under the auspices of the Lechnere Lodge, No. 59.

The Mayor of Worcester, Bro. W. Webb, having most kindly granted the use of the Guildhall, the accommodation placed at the disposal of the members of the lodge for the fitting reception of Grand Lodge, left nothing to be desired. The rooms were suitably decorated, the banners being numerous, prominent amongst which was the very handsome banner of the Grand Lodge, borne for the first time to-day.

The Lechnere Lodge was opened at half-past two in the afternoon, the W.M., R.W. Bro. Sir Edmund Lechnere, Bart., M.P., P.G.W., in the chair.

Ballots were taken for three brethren, whose names had been duly inserted in the summonses, viz.:—Bros. Sir Frederick A. Gore Ouseley, Bart., P.M., St. Michael's Lodge, 1097; Robert Thomas Baker, Worcester Lodge, 280; and Bro. William L. Smith, Worcester Lodge, 280, and were declared to be in the affirmative.

It was then announced the M.W.G.M. and officers of the Grand Lodge demanded admission, when the brethren stood to order, and the procession entered as follows:—Bro. F. H. Winterbotham, G. Steward; W. Bros. Frederick Davison, P.G. Org., Richard Spencer, P.G.S.B.; C. Swan, P.G.S.B.; V. Bros. W. L. Wallace, P.G.D.; T. W. Swinburne, P.G.D.; C. C. W. Griffiths, G.S.D.; Frederick Binckes, G. Sec.; Thomas Meggy, G.M.O.; Reverends C. J. Martyn and C. W. S. Stanhope, Grand Chaplains; Dr. Henry Hopkins, G.J.W.; Rev. G. R. Portal, M.A., R.W.D.G.M.; W. W. B. Beach, M.P., M.W.G.M.

The W.M. and officers offered their seats to the Grand Master and Grand Officers, which were declined, and the customary salutations having been made, the W.M. proceeded to advance to this honourable degree the three candidates named above;

the ceremony being performed in a manner to elicit the commendation of the G.M. and others.

The Lechnere Lodge was then closed, the various positions vacated by the W.M. and officers, and Grand Lodge opened in solemn and ancient form. The minutes of the summer convocation held in London in June last, were read for information; upon which followed the consideration of the recommendations of the General Board, having for their object to impart additional *prestige* and importance to the banquet assemblies held after the regular meeting of Grand Lodge in June and December.

Copies of these recommendations had been sent to every Grand Officer, past and present, and to the W.M. of every lodge, with a request that in each case "assent" or "dissent" might be signified. Thirty-four replies from Grand Officers had been received, of which thirty were "favourable"; two "favourable to a qualified extent"; and one "unfavourable"; and from lodges, six that were wholly favourable, and one favourable to a qualified extent.

After considerable discussion the communication took the form of resolutions for confirmation by Grand Lodge at its next regular meeting, as follows:—

That the fee of honour 5s. now payable by every brother on appointment as Grand Steward be abolished.

That the Installation Festival after the meeting of lodge in June, be under the management of the "Board of Grand Stewards," who shall provide the entire entertainment, including music, &c.

That every brother attending shall pay for his dinner ticket, if taken before the day of meeting, 15s.; if taken on the day of meeting, 17s. 6d., including wine and dessert; the deficiency (if any) to be paid by the Grand Stewards.

That Grand Stewards shall hold substantive rank as Grand Officers, past and present, and wear the distinctive clothing.

That for a period of three years the festival after the meeting of Grand Lodge in December, shall be a "Charity Meeting," under the management of a "Board of Stewards," composed of brethren offering their services as representing lodges, who shall each pay a deposit fee of £2 2s. towards the expenses of the festival.

That ladies be admitted to dine at the same table with the brethren.

That the price of the dinner ticket be—single, to admit a brother, one guinea; double, to admit a lady and a brother, one guinea and a-half.

The proceeds of the festival to be paid to the "Grand Mark Fund of Benevolence."

That brethren serving as Stewards, and contributing an individual donation of five guineas, or a collection of ten guineas, shall be entitled to wear a distinctive Bar on the Ribbon of the jewel of the degree, and an additional Bar for every additional Stewardship under similar conditions.

That the fee of honour paid by the Grand Standard Bearer, and by the Grand Pursuivant, be one guinea, instead of ten shillings and sixpence.

That a "Lodge of Improvement" be held one hour before the time fixed for the meeting of Grand Lodge in June and December, at which the "Ceremony of Advancement" shall be worked, the presiding W.M. to be nominated by the W.M. G.M.

A complimentary address was voted to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the officers of Grand Lodge on the happy occasion of the visit, which the Grand Master most warmly acknowledged.

A cordial vote of thanks to Bro. W. Webb, Mayor of the City, was carried by acclamation. Bro. Webb in returning thanks expressed himself as delighted at having the honour of receiving a visit from the Grand Mark Lodge during his Mayoralty, and as exceedingly pleased by the opportunity of doing what in him lay to facilitate its reception. Grand Lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form. The banquet was held at the Bell Hotel at seven o'clock, the table covered with delicacies, and closely packed with guests who evinced every appreciation of the provision made for their comfort and enjoyment. The M.W. G.M. presided faced by R. W. Bro. Sir E. A. H. Lechnere, Bart., M.P., P.G.W., and supported by the Dep. G.M., Bros. A. H. Royds (Craft Prov. G.M. Worcester), Rev. Sir J. Gore Ouseley Bart., Capt. J. H. Barber, (Craft Dep. G.M. Worcester) and other brethren of distinction.

The next regular meeting of Grand Lodge will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, London, on Tuesday 1st December next, at five o'clock p.m. precisely.

RED CROSS OF ROME AND CONSTANTINE.

ROMAN EAGLE CONCLAVE, (No. 6).—On Saturday evening the 24th ult., a meeting of No. 6 on the Roman Eagle Conclave of the knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, was held at Andertons' Hotel, Fleet-street. The chair was taken at five o'clock precisely, by the Eminent and P. Sir Knt. William, F. H. Quilty, K.G.C., M.P. Sovereign, Eminent Sir Knt. Henry C. Levander, M.A. being Viceroy Eusebins. Amongst the other Sir Knts. Comps, present were, Woodman, M.D., Harrison, M.D., R. W. Little, P.S., P.M., &c., &c., G.R., J. Brett, K.G.C., &c., Weaver, Org., Foulger, H. Thompson, C. E. Thompson, Ormond Perrot, Smith. The only visitor present being Sir Knt. Mayo, of the Plantagenet Conclave. The minutes of the last assembly of the conclave were read in the absence through indisposition of Sir Knt. A. A. Pendlebury, K.G.C., read by Sir Knt. Woodman. Sir Knt. Levander was elected M.P. Sov., Woodman Viceroy; Quilty, Treas., and Gilbert, Sentinel. When the business had been concluded the conclave was closed with solemn prayer. The assemblage then adjourned to the banqueting hall where dinner was served in first class style. The cloth having been drawn and grace said, the M.P.S. gave "The Queen and Christian Masonry," drunk in the usual manner observed in the Order. The health of Lord Kenlis, W.M. of the Order followed to which the S. briefly alluded as his excellences were well known, an example of his abilities having lately been shown at the recent resuscitation of the Order. The toast was drunk with honours. The S. called upon the conclave to rise and drink to the health of Sir Frank Martin William, G.E., and the rest of the grand officers coupled with the names of Sir Knts. Little and Woodman grand officers. Sir Knt. Little responded and expressed his gratification at the manner in which the Order had progressed. He thought they might well look forward to a happy and glorious state of things when the Red Cross Order was placed on the footing it was justly entitled to. Sir Knt. Woodman also returned thanks and said he was satisfied christian Masonry would go on and prosper. Sir Knt. Levander proposed the health of Sovereign Quilty. He was sure they could not have had a better man than they were fortunate enough to secure in the person of Sir Knt. Quilty. He had discharged his duties with great carefulness and precision, and he concluded by wishing him long life and happiness. The toast was heartily received. Sir Knt. Perrot accompanied by Sir Knt. Weaver sang in an excellent manner "When other lips," Sov. Quilt responded in a suitable manner. It would always be a source of gratification to him to remember that the Roman Eagle Conclave took its first flight under his guidance. If, however, it had lost a few of its feathers he hoped it would soon get a fresh plumage. He concluded by proposing the health of Sir Knt. Mayo's visitors which was done equal justice to. Sir Knt. Mayo rose with a great deal of pleasure to return thanks. Sir Knt. Weaver played in excellent style the "Danish Quadrilles." Other toasts and songs were given and the rest of the evening was passed in uninterrupted harmony.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND FREEMASONRY.

Mr. Shirley Brooks indulged the other day in some caustic remarks respecting the declinature of the Prince of Wales to become a Freemason. *Punch*, to which Mr. Brooks is a very old and valued contributor, has tickled the subject with the straw of his exuberant fancy, and, to complete Jerrold's phrase, the country has "smiled plenty." Freemasonry and Freemasons are too important, and bulk too largely in our social system to be disposed of by a pleasantry. We are not supposed to know aught of their mysteries, and it is on this ground that the Prince has declined to ally himself with what, by an unusual expansion of meaning may be called a secret society. Secret societies are unquestionably foreign to the English character and temperament; and, although we admire the Prince's prudence in refusing to blindly associate himself with a system of which he knows nothing, we are afraid an improper inference may be deduced therefrom. What are the general purposes of Freemasonry? With the pretensions of the Freemasons to a marvellous antiquity we have little to do,

Nor need we follow those who advance such claims through the mystic windings of elaborate chronology. It has been said that it is easier to come down from a remote ancestor like Adam, than it is to trace the various families of man up to him. Let us, therefore, take it for granted that the "Free and Accepted Masons" have as cogent reasons for going no higher than the building of the Tower of Babel for their origin, than the Highlander who declared that his progenitor had a boat to himself at the Flood. A long pedigree proverbially forms a very pleasing reflection to Scotchmen and Welshmen; how much more so the genealogy of a corporation which stretches through the mists and darkness, the very night and morning of history?—standing out a particular star in the human constellation, untouched by the rise and fall of nations, or dynasties, by the loftiest splendours, or the lowest degradations, through which mankind have passed. If the assertion has, as some of our readers may be disposed to think, the flavour of audacity, it is equally distinguished by touches of the sublime; for Masonry, by perpetuating the chief Christian virtues—Faith, Hope, and Charity—must, through all the stages of its career, have nourished and sustained the elements of pure religion. In that respect we can look upon its claim to having been originated in the pre-historic time with a reverend regard, and forget in the good it must have accomplished, all that savours of the fabulous and ridiculous. If we examine the estimates which the uninitiated or popular world would form, our respect for the institution must be sincere. That it encouraged the arts is unquestionable. In architecture it numbered among its body the Cyclops, whom the Freemasons speak of, not as mythical personages, but as those wonderful Masons, whose piles of hewn stone of ponderous dimensions still remain; the Greeks, who conspicuously proved that beauty moulded and shaped by human hands was "a joy for ever;" the Romans, their successors; the Saracens, whose inventive power was alone excelled by the ancient Greeks; and all the modern nations who have built upon and adopted with rare manipulation the models of the faded centuries. The sister arts, painting and sculpture, must have followed in the train of architecture, and these three, commanding a knowledge of the exact sciences tempt us to imagine that, could an ancient Egyptian rise from his cedar coffin in one of our museums, he would recognise many a "brother" gazing at his mummy form in profound speculation over the mysteries of his extraordinary nation and people. The Jews, too, the second ethnological mystery, must notice in the Mason the builders of their renowned Temple. Indeed, if Freemasonry is to be literally accepted, it can scarcely fail to be identified with all the grand structural creations of which there are any record. The wanderings of the fraternity, we are assured, can be traced to the ecclesiastical edifices of the middle ages; and if the strictly mechanical character of the order has been lost, it must be entirely attributed to the diffusion of that knowledge among the people of which the Freemasons were anciently the sole depositories. Being inseparably connected with the arts and sciences, literature must have found in them apt scholars; and how gratifying it must be to the Mason of an imaginative turn of mind to reflect that the "grip" Socrates gave to Plato has been "handed" down to him through Seneca, and the host of philosophers who bring us down to the Keplers, the Laplaces, the Newtons, the Bacons, and the Mills of modern times. There is something very satisfactory in such a conception. Within the last hundred years, to what an extent has not Freemasonry cultivated and disseminated the principles of religious and political liberty, exercising potent influence over the schools of thought? It has passed through many persecutions and tempests unscathed. Its vitality was, indeed, too great to be extinguished by any power that blindly arrayed itself against the true interests and irresistible instincts of humanity. In this (we do not

know, nor do we care, what thousandth or hundredth year of its existence, Freemasonry can only be viewed in its nobler modern aspect. It leads us to see that the nursing of the feelings of symbolised by Faith, Hope, and Charity draws mankind towards a common centre and strengthens the hands of all in the common good. It is estimated that at present, in round numbers, there are about 1,250,000 Free and Accepted Masons scattered over the face of the globe. Of this number some 150,000 are in England, 100,000 in Scotland, and 50,000 in Ireland. There are about 600,000 on the Continent of Europe, 300,000 in the United States, and 50,000 in other parts of the world. In England there are two or three thousand persons initiated every year. Notwithstanding Papal allocutions, the Masonic body is increasing everywhere. Hence, the question—What is Freemasonry? What does it mean? The answer is simple. It means benevolence—charity. The Masonic Order is the only institution in this country, and perhaps in any other, which can claim the merit of originating and supporting *five distinct* charities—five separate channels for extending benevolence to those who are unable to help themselves. First, The Royal Benevolent Institution for aged and decayed Masons and their widows; secondly, The Royal Freemasons' Charity for Female Children, who are lodged in a noble school at Wandsworth; thirdly, The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; fourthly, The Board of Benevolence, for granting sums of money monthly to distressed Masons, or the widows of Masons, who have been left in penury; and fifthly, a private charity fund, which is founded in most Masonic lodges, with the object of relieving those distressing and urgent cases of want which, we all know, occasionally arise among needy members of every Craft. To support these excellent charities, upwards of £20,000 is annually subscribed and distributed by the Freemasons of England and Wales with what beneficial results may easily be imagined. To extend the advantages to be derived from these institutions, especially from the schools, has been the persistent object of those immediately connected with their management, and no labour seems to have been spared to accomplish it. It is not an uninteresting fact, and it is certainly an honour to the fair sex, that nearly £1,000 has been subscribed to the building fund of the Boy's school—a splendid building recently erected at Wood Green, Tottenham, by the wives, daughters, and sisters of Freemasonry.—*Newcastle Daily Journal*.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THEATRE ROYAL ADELPHI.

The new drama of *Monte Christo*, lately produced at the above theatre, having been curtailed since its first representation without affecting any of its powerful incidents, has proved a success. The excellent acting of Messrs. Fechter, Webster, Bro. G. Belmore, A. Stirling, &c., and Mrs. Alfred Mellon, Mrs. Carlotta Leclercq, and Mrs. Leigh Murray was well appreciated by a very crowded house. The new scenery by Mr. Hawes Craven is very beautiful.

THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 14TH, 1868.

MONDAY, November 9th.—Lodges: Fortitude and Cumberland, 12, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. Royal Naval, 59, Freemasons' Hall. Confidence, 193, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. St. Andrew's, 222, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Peckham, 789, Edinboro Castle, Peckham Rye. Chapters. Mount Sion, 22, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Panmure, 720, Loughboro Hotel, Loughboro-road, Brixton.

TUESDAY, November 10th.—Lodges: Old Union, 46, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Burlington,

96, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Union, 166, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. St. James's Union, 180, Freemasons' Hall. Percy, 198, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. St. Michael's, 211, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. United Strength, 228, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell. Nine Muses, 235, Clarendon Hotel, Bond-street. Wellington, 548, White Swan Tavern, Deptford.

WEDNESDAY, November 11th.—Comps. R. M. B. Inst. at 3. Fidelity, 3, Freemasons' Hall. Enoch, 11, Freemasons' Hall. Union Waterloo, 13, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich. Kent, 15, Three Tuns Tavern, Southwark. Vitruvian, 87, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth. Justice, 147, White Swan Tavern, Deptford. Euphrates, 212, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Pilgrim, 238, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. Zetland, 511, Camden Arms, Kensington. Belgrave, 740, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Merchant Navy, 781, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse. Doric, 933, Masons Hall, Basinghall-street. Montefiore, 107, Freemasons' Hall.

THURSDAY, November 12th.—Lodges: Regularity, 91, Freemasons' Hall. Lion and Lamb, 192, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Friendship, 206, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. Bank of England, 263, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Polish National, 534, Freemasons' Hall. Canonbury, 657, Haxell's Hotel, West Strand. Lily Lodge of Richmond, 820, Greyhound, Richmond. Dalhousie, 860, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Capper, 1,076, Marine Hotel, Victoria Dock, West Ham. Chapter, Yarborough, 554, Green Dragon, Stepney.

FRIDAY, November 13th.—Lodges: Britannic, 33, Freemasons' Hall. Caledonian, 134, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. Bedford, 157, Freemasons' Hall. Domatic, 177, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.

SATURDAY, November 14th.—Lodges: London, 108, Freemasons' Hall. Phoenix, 173, Freemasons' Hall.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

ERRATA.—A MASONIC STUDENT.—In "Notes and Queries," of the 24th ult., page 330, 14th line from top, read "*latomi*" instead of "*latonii*," although the word is sometimes spelled "*lathonic*;" and "*magister*" in the 17th line should read "*magistri*." In the 27th line the proper words are "*maçoun*" and "*masoun*;" in the 30th "*Freemasonry*;" and in the 31st "*massoun*" and "*masouyn*." "*Norwood*" stands for "*Horwood*" in the 40th line, "*mas*" for "*mor*" in the 41st, and "*boys*" for "*leys*;" in the 42nd. In the 55th line "*Charter*" should read "*Chester*."

X.Y.Z. (AUSTRALIA).—In answer to our query, we were assured by the G. Sec. of Grand Lodge of Mark Masonry that the only correspondence he had had with the colony since May, 1867, was as follows:—

"18th May, 1867.—Certificates and forms for return sent as requested."

"28th January, 1868.—Forms for return and Books of Constitutions sent as requested."

"24th September, 1868.—Letters stating as above, with further forms and copies of Constitutions."

Last return from Sydney lodges dated November, 1867.

G. A. (DOVER).—We shall print the circular issued from Grand Lodge. This will answer your query.

G. SEC. OF G. L. OF IOWA.—Your two communications to hand the numbers shall be forwarded as requested, we will inform you next week how to remit. We have not received the proceedings to which you refer.

R. M. (St. John's).—Thanks for your communication, we shall insert it next week.