

Contents.	PAGE.
The Inauguration Festival Jewel	141
The Palestine Exploration Fund.....	141
Masonic Notes and Queries	144
Correspondence	146
Masonic Memos.	150
CRAFT LODGE MEETINGS:—	
Metropolitan	151
Provincial.....	151
Mark Masonry.....	153
Laying the Foundation Stone of the Sheriff Court House and New Hall at Porfar	154
Masonic Presentation at the Worcester Cathedral	156
Laying the Corner Stone of the Masonic Hall, Carleton, New Brunswick	157
Literature, Science, Music, Drama, and the Fine Arts.....	159
Poetry	160
List of Lodge, &c., Meetings for ensuing week	160
To Correspondents.....	160

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1869.

THE INAUGURATION FESTIVAL JEWEL.

If we may judge by the tone of the letters we have received since the first meeting of the Stewards was held, we fear the result of the labours of Messrs. Wyon, the medallists intrusted with the execution of the Commemoration Medal, will not command general approval or satisfaction.

We do not propose to give currency to the sweeping complaints uttered by some of our correspondents, with regard to the character of the jewel and its suitability, as such criticism comes too late, and implies censure where it would be uncalled for, and, we must add, unmerited. Fault is found with the extravagant price paid for the number of medals struck, mounted, and cased; the sum of three pounds per jewel being considered an unreasonably high price for the article actually produced, including the cost of the dies. The want of sharpness in the impressions which have been exhibited, and the rough and unfinished condition of the surrounding edge are, however, fair subjects for criticism; as are also the great length of the ribbon and the mean character of the silver buckle by which the jewel is to be suspended. The ribbon should be shorter, and a flat *bar* would have been better than the thin wire used for the purpose.

The likeness of the M.W. the Grand Master on the obverse is excellent, and the subject on the reverse side is clearly and well defined; but the appearance presented by the medal is said to be that of a bad casting in pewter or lead (leaden dump-like), having the central position on each face "struck up" in a medal press.

It has been suggested in certain quarters that it is bad taste on the part of those who have to

wear the jewel now to complain about it; and also that any remarks made as to the jewels not being entirely satisfactory to all concerned, would be a reflection upon the art taste of those in the highest places, and be offensive to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and his distinguished relatives, who have already expressed their high approval of the jewel. Now, if it is to be thereby implied that it has in that respect been viewed and approved as a work of "high art," we think the desire to make things pleasant by those who so suggest can alone explain what in itself would otherwise be considered a libel upon those we look up to as patrons of art. But we do not understand such nonsensical sentimentality or squeamishness;—if brethren who have paid their six guineas as Stewards of the Festival conscientiously think that the jewel is not a really good design, or that it is badly executed, or is not worth the three guineas, it is clearly competent for them to express their opinion; and the Most Worshipful the Grand Master will not—as some would have us believe—be either annoyed at such criticism or the free and proper expression of opinion relative thereto. For ourselves, we shall await the ceremony of the presentation of the jewels at the next Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, when we shall have an opportunity of seeing them and judging for ourselves. Meanwhile, we consider it right—from an engineering point of view—to allow the rising steam pressure to blow-off freely and at once, instead of to accumulate unnecessarily.

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The following is the quarterly statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund from April 1 to June 30, 1869.

The Executive Committee desire to express their very strong sense of the activity, intelligence, and ability displayed by Bro. Lieut. Warren in the conduct of the works at Jerusalem. It would be difficult to find a man more qualified for the prosecution of such works, requiring as they do, great tact, judgment as to the most likely spots for excavation, and the most unwearying personal activity and courage. He has now been in Jerusalem for a period of two years and a half. His staff at first consisted only of Sergeant Birtles; it was then increased by the addition of Corporals Duncan and Hanson, and afterwards by that of Corporals Ellis, Cock, Mackenzie and Turner. Of

these Sergeant Birtles was invalided home in the spring of last year, but on recovery went out again. Of him Bro. Warren speaks in the highest terms. Corporal Duncan unfortunately died in August 1868. Hanson was sent home by Bro. Lieut. Warren; Turner was invalided home. There remain now, therefore, Sergeant Birtles and Corporals Ellis, Cock, and Mackenzie.

Leave was granted by the War Office in March 1868, to draw stores from Malta, which has been found of great service.

Bro. Lieut. Warren's original instructions were to excavate as close to the Haram Wall as possible permission was, however, granted him in April, 1868, to dig elsewhere if he thought proper, a permission of which he has availed himself to work at Bir Eyub, the Virgin's Fountain, and the Muristan.

It is not necessary for the report of the Executive Committee to contain any account in detail of Bro. Warren's work. This will be found in his letters and in the published "statements of progress." The Executive Committee, therefore, only call the attention of the General Committee to the main points of interest. These are Robinson's Arch, with its aqueducts, circular pools, and subterranean canal; Wilson's Arch, with its chambers and passages; the discoveries in the Haram Area itself, in the Birket Israel, at the south wall, on the Hill of Ophel, and, above all, at the south-east angle, where the letters have been found.

It may be thought due to their successors that the Executive Committee should add a few words with regard to the future—as to the plan on which the society should proceed, and the objects it should seek to attain.

It may be assumed that a large majority of our subscribers would agree in regarding Jerusalem itself as the special object to which we should direct our attention so long as important points in determining its topography are left obscure, and so long as circumstances render systematic excavation possible. And having conclusively shown that the work of excavation at Jerusalem can be carried on, when intelligently directed, without arousing opposition—which until the arrival of Captain Wilson in Jerusalem in 1864, had made many despair of the practicability of the work undertaken by our society—it would be most imprudent to relinquish the ground we now occupy, so long as funds are forthcoming to enable us to keep

our party together, and there remains work for them to do. Some other party might step in and rob our society of the fruits of our long toils in the past.

The two principal points of interest are the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Jewish Temple. It is not the duty of the Executive Committee to point out the bearing on this latter point of Bro. Warren's discoveries in the neighbourhood of the Haram, but none will depreciate their importance. Bro. Warren's work will not require to be done again—it is a *κέρμα ἐς ἀεί*. But it has served to bring out into even stronger relief the supreme importance of excavations within the Haram enclosure itself. Our past work has shown that certainty as to the extent northwards and eastwards of the Herod's Temple, and as to the site of the Castle of Antonia, cannot be attained to by excavations on the outside of the Haram alone. Much has already been done by Captain Wilson and Bro. Warren; by Dr. Barclay, Messrs. Catherwood, Arundel, and others, in determining the character of the ground and of the remains within the Haram, both above and below the present surface; but it is only necessary to refer to the literature of the subject, deducing from the same premises widely different conclusions, to show that the information now accessible to us is very incomplete. The fortunate accident of the falling in of the roof of an old vault in heavy rain, and the yet more fortunate circumstance of there being a person at hand competent to turn the accident to the best account, has pointed out one part of the ground where further exploration promises most important results.

There are other points within the Haram Area itself; the reputed passage, for instance, under the cave of the Kubbet Es Sakhra, and the character of the substructures of the Mosque El Aksa and its appurtenances on either side of the double passage. Here Bro. Warren's addition to M. de Sauley's discoveries in the fact that the double passage has cut through, and is therefore latter than, other works, only serves to whet our curiosity as to the extent and character of that former work, and as to its author.

It would be interesting to ascertain whether Bro. Warren's conjecture as to the existence of a lower tier of vaults under the well-known vaults at the south-east angle of the Haram be correct.

The substructions of the Mosque El Burak re-

quire more detailed examination than Captain Wilson was able to give them.

It would be most interesting to trace out the extent of the scarped rock which shows itself at the Serai, at the north-west angle of the Haram, and the continuation of the double souterrain under the Via Dolorosa. Excavations about the Golden Gateway would probably verify or disprove Mr. Fergusson's conjecture as to its object and character. There remains much to be done along the west side of the Haram, especially north of Wilson's Arch, where the stream of running water was found but not traced. The covered aqueduct found at Robinsons's Arch has also to be traced north and south. It would be interesting to complete the investigations into the character of the buried part of the wall, and to endeavour to test the value of the conjecture which has been advanced that somewhere in the face of the Kedron Valley, deep buried in the *débris*, is to be found the tomb of David, of Solomon, and the tombs of the Kings of Judah.

On the south, the hill of Ophel, which has yielded such great results, has not yet been exhausted; and it would be useful to trace the Valley of Tyropœon, in the line pointed out by Bro. Lieut. Warren, to its junction with the Kedron. Turning to the Western Hill, it would no doubt be possible to recover the exact line of the ancient wall along the brow of the Valley of Hannon, and there is much ground unoccupied by houses between the brow and the wall of the modern city.

Interesting discoveries might, no doubt, be made as to the general line of the first wall of Josephus here; and as regards the remainder of the ground, it would not be advisable to dig at random on the mere chance of coming on objects of interest. If possible, it would be important to ascertain the character of the substructures of the "Cœnaculum."

Proceeding northwards, the most promising point seems to be the curious subterranean arched passage leading from Wilson's Arch in the direction of the Jaffa Gate. If followed out along its course, it might bring us to the three famous towers of Herod, Hippicus, Pharclus, and Marianone, whose site is generally looked for in this direction.

This seems the most probable means of recovering a starting-point, and consequently the course of the second wall of Josephus. This part of the city is so encumbered with buildings that syste-

matic excavation appears impracticable. We can only hope that some luck accident will put us on true scent, and that there may be persons on the spot ready to follow up the scent at once. The only open space, viz., the Muristan, in this part of the city, has been already explored by Bro. Warren, and the result seems to be almost conclusive that the second wall cannot have passed through it.

North of the city walls, notwithstanding the great facilities offered to every inquirer, we are yet in want of a thoroughly complete and trustworthy examination to determine, once for all, whether the ancient city ever did extend beyond the line of the present northern wall. And, finally, there is the curious system of rock-hewn water passages in the Kedron Valley below the Bir Eyub, discovered by Bro. Warren, which still have to be traced to their commencement, when funds are available for this purpose.

Beyond Jerusalem itself our work may be said to have been only begun. The Executive Committee desire much to extend the operations of the fund to the other objects set forth in the original prospectus if they can see their way to doing so without interfering with the progress of the works at Jerusalem.

A plan has been laid before them for continuing the work which has been commenced by the Sinai Survey Fund, and completing the map of Palestine. It is proposed, if the sanction of the government can be obtained, to place the survey (as it has been done in Sinai) under the superintendence of the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, the Palestine Exploration Fund undertaking to raise the necessary funds. By this means the cost of the survey would be very much diminished, and the report and plans published free of all expense to the fund. The Executive Committee now have this proposal under their consideration.

Some progress has been made in collecting materials for a complete map of the country but we are advised that in order to complete the work thus begun, we ought to provide ourselves with a sufficient sum to enable us to push the work to a conclusion at one effort. Desultory efforts by weak parties appear to be the most expensive in end. Then there were the other great cities, Jezreel, Samaria, Hebron, Masada, Gaza, Askelon, Kadesh-Naphtali, and round the lake of Tiberias, Bethshan, and Nazareth; and to examine and excavate the site of Jericho, to determine which

has hitherto eluded Bro. Warren's efforts. We have been unable as yet to undertake the investigation of the geology of the country, and so the money entrusted to us for that purpose, together with that for the purpose of the museum, remains on deposit still. The contributions to the Flora and Fauna of the country by Dr. Tristram and others remains yet to be supplemented, and much may be done in meteorology.

In conclusion, the Executive Committee are of opinion that the time has come when it will be desirable that the General Committee of the society should consider what should be their future policy. It will probably be agreed that no interruption should take place in Bro. Warren's present work at Jerusalem; that the party should be retained there, at least until the setting of the hot weather. And the Executive Committee would advise that, as heretofore Bro. Warren should be requested to confine himself as far as possible to the neighbourhood of the Haram itself, to avail himself of every possible opportunity of examining the interior of the Haram, and of any promising opportunity which chance may offer in any other part of the city; that he should be requested to report on the advisability of excavations made to the north of the city, and what probability there may be of our being able to work anywhere near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and north of Wilson's Arch. It will be for the General Committee to determine whether after the setting in of the hot season, and supposing the liberal support of the public to be continued, we should still pursue our investigation at Jerusalem, or turn our attention to other perhaps not less important work.

The thanks of the society are especially due to Dr. Chaplin, who has given his gratuitous attendance to the members of our exploring party during the whole period of the sojourn at Jerusalem. This has been no sinecure office, as is proved by the loss we have sustained by illness. Dr. Chaplin also took charge of the excavations during Bro. Warren's absence in England, in the summer of 1868, and has at all times been ready to afford all possible help to our work.

The committee desire also to express their obligations to Bro. Eldridge, the British Consul-General at Beyrout, who has kindly undertaken the meteorological observations at that station, which he is conducting with great care and efficiency.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

POPERY AND ROMAN CATHOLICS.

At page 127 "Catholicus" asks what connexion my remarks at page 108 had to do with Freemasonry. In answer to which, I beg to state that Popery takes ado with Freemasonry, consequently Freemasonry cannot help itself, but *volens, volens* is made to have ado with Popery. It is Popery that takes the initiative. The two systems as such are entirely opposite and antagonistic in principle and practice. Freemasonry respects the right of private judgment, but Popery would annihilate both. Freemasonry, however, while standing firm as a rock on the defensive, hurling back the waves of Popish bigotry which dash against it, is yet ever ready to hold out the right hand of fellowship to all good men, even although they be Catholics. It can adopt the *man*, although it must reject the *system*. Were Popery only "the faith" of Roman Catholics, my remarks might have been superfluous, but Popery is more.—
PICRUS.

FREEMASONRY AND SAXELBY.

Perhaps Bro. "Saxelby" would kindly inform me how "Freemasonry" in the sense that Bro. Buchan means, viz., consisting of *speculative* Masons chiefly, without any *bona fide* operative intentions, is "older than 152 years." I have the Act of Parliament he refers to, and also the Book of Constitutions, A.D. 1723, but in neither do I find any evidence to support Bro. Saxelby's position.

It is only for the evidence of the existence of * speculative Freemasonry 500 years ago, to be presented and confirmed by competent judges, to make me a decided convert to the fact; but until then I cannot agree to "pin my faith" to mere statements. The term *lodge* was employed in the *constitution* of 1723 as synonymous with *chapter* (vide page 59).

It is also worthy of note that in neither editions of the Constitutions published by the Grand Lodge of England is there to be found any reference to the Royal Arch in the eighteenth century, and no mention of the degree in any edition of the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Scotland whatever.—W. J. HUGHAN.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

As "new brooms" are proverbial for "sweeping clean," a "new member" may perhaps be expected to show great alacrity in assuming to interpret the regulations of the Order. But to a somewhat older member like myself it appears very clear that the Grand Lodge is the supreme governing power in the Craft, and that the Grand Master is the highest representative of that power. The Grand Lodge and the Grand Master acting together may therefore confer on the Prince of Wales whatever rank they choose, and if an entirely new title is required, the Constitutions can be constitutionally altered for the purpose. As to the un-Masonic title of *Grand Patron*—utterly unfitted for a fraternity in which social distinctions merge in a common brotherhood—I am surprised that the independence of Scotchmen

* *I.e.*, Morethan Masonry.

has not revolted against it, and I hope it will never be adopted in England.

I confess myself wholly unable to understand what "A New Member" means in writing of the Prince as "shunted out of the way." The whole Craft welcomed H.R.H. when he joined the Order, and however we may differ as to the particular title which the Prince is to receive, new members and old members alike will be glad to know that he is "one of us."—J.A.H.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES—"J.A.H." AND "A NEW MASON."

With all deference to authorities, I cannot for the life of me see how Bro. J.A.H. (a much respected correspondent of the *Freemasons' Magazine* and a sort of international Freemason) can be considered in error anent the contemplated distinction of Past Grand Master being conferred on H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. What is there new or strange about the fact? Have we no precedents for such a course? Is our learned and revered Grand Master about to commit an innovation? If not, why such a question about his Lordship's intended honour to the "Heir of the Crown of England?"

We have only to consult the records of the past to find that H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester and H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland were both complimented by receiving the rank of *Past Grand Masters* and presented with aprons under the Grand Mastership of Lord Blaney, and, what is more to the point, H.R.H. the Duke of York had the same compliment paid him, although he was *initiated abroad*. Later, in the 18th century, when H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland was Grand Master, A.D. 1790, Edward, Duke of Kent, initiated at Geneva, and H.R.H. Duke of Sussex, initiated at Berlin, were permitted to rank as Past Grand Masters.—W. J. HUGHAN.

MASONRY RATHER OLDER THAN 150 YEARS.

In last number the Act of Parliament, 3, Henry 6, cap. 1, Anno Dom. 1425, was quoted, which Act makes it felony to assemble chapters and congregations of Masons. The Act *de facto* has never been repealed, but in the 2nd part of Coke's Institutes, page 99, it explains in what manner the Act becomes of non-effect.

"It is ordained and established that no congregations and confederacies shall be made by Masons in their general chapters and assemblies, whereby the good course and effects of the Statutes of Labourers are violated and broken, in subversion of law: and if any be, they that cause such chapters and congregations to be assembled and holden shall be adjudged felons.

"The cause wherefore this offence was made felony, is, for that the good course and effect of the Statutes of Labourers were thereby violated and broken. Now all the statutes concerning labourers before this Act, and whereunto this Act doth refer, are repealed by the Statute of 5 Eliz. cap. 4, whereby the cause and end of the making of this Act is taken away, and consequently this Act is become of no force or effect: for *cessante ratione legis, cætas ipsa lex*. And the indictment upon this Statute must contain that those chapters and congregations were to the violating and breaking of the good course and effect of those Statutes of Labourers, which now cannot be alledged,

because those statutes be repealed. Therefore, this would be put out of the charge of Justices of the Peace."

There is no mention in 3rd Henry 6, cap. 1, of benefit of clergy, and the writer of the Constitutions of Freemasons says that the Act "*affected only the working masons*"—that is, the operatives, not the speculative or higher orders. Whether operative or working masons were entitled to the benefit of clergy is deserving consideration. The learned or theoretical Masons were, of course, all clerical. The writer of the Constitutions says that the Chief Justice Coke was a Freemason, he died in 1634, but his 2nd part of Institutes bears date 1642, the very year the prayer-book was printed in which K. Char the martyr is mentioned, and which 1642 Bro. Melville asserts to be a Masonic point.—SAXELBY.

JOINING BRETHERN AND INITIATIONS.

Your esteemed correspondent, Bro. H.H., may rest assured that Bro. B. is quite correct in stating "that no person can be initiated, neither can any joining member be admitted on the same day that a new lodge is opened and consecrated." Although it is not so stated in the "Book of Constitutions," that is the custom or rule *now* under the Grand Lodge of England; but some little time since Bro. H.H. was quite in order by acting otherwise. The fact is, however, that this new arrangement has been made in consequence of the irregularities of unconsecrated lodges, and the delay often found to occur between the time the dispensation for temporary work was granted and the day of the consecration. In our own experience, we have known more than a year to have passed before the consecration of a lodge, and actually a new Master to have been elected and installed, in consequence of which when the warrant was read on the formal day of constituting the lodge, and the names of the officers were read over, the W.M. nominate was a P.M., and the J.W. was actually the W.M. From what I have heard, my experience has been that of many, and therefore the present rule is a most judicious one, and will be found to be in the main very beneficial, in the provinces especially.—W. J. HUGHAN (PROV. G. SEC., CORNWALL).

MASONIC DISCIPLINE.

Crux does good in ventilating some questions and inducing brethren to think about them; but, as he disregards the history and practices of the Craft at home and abroad, and evolves his conclusions from his own imagination or observation, there are too many of his conclusions which cannot be accepted.

The answer as to assistant officers, which he impugnes is ancient and correct, according to the basis on which it is framed, and it is the attempt to set things right which deprives us of many ancient relics without giving us anything really better.

Having got a Pythagorean trinity in the three superiors, another trinity was sought for in the three inferiors, and the more readily found, as the fourth of the inferiors was in the outer regions, without the door of the lodge room, but within the precincts of the outer enclosure. His position and functions are very well maintained in foreign lodges.

The strained attempt to get a number 3 is abundantly illustrated in the lectures. It may be that,

apart from the philosophic desire to profit by a perfect number, as in 5 and 7; there was also consciously or unconsciously, an endeavour to work out a system of mnemotechny or artificial memory. Those who commit these matters to heart know how the memory is assisted by the scheme of having to supply the requisite number of conditions or reasons or answers.

As to violating the order of proceeding in naming the O.G. before his superiors, this is surely a rhetorical or logical straining, for the mention of his office in no wise affects his precedency or that of the others. It may just as well be objected to that the O.G. is asked about before the W.M., and that the scale in this instance is from the junior upwards, or, more strictly, from the outside to the inside.—H.C.

“H.C.” AND “A MASONIC PHENOMENON.”

Bro. H.C. has certainly informed us of a very curious instance of a brother having been initiated, passed, and raised in three different quarters of the globe and in three languages. It is but another illustration of the universality and unity of Freemasonry. I remember once visiting a lodge at Redruth, Cornwall, when there were four initiations at once, consisting of two *Lewis* and *Twins*, making a wonderful quartette and another Masonic phenomenon.—W. J. HUGHAN.

JOINING BRETHREN AND INITIATIONS.

Your esteemed correspondent, Bro. “H.H.” is quite correct in stating he does not find in the Book of Constitutions any authority for my saying that “no person can be initiated on the same day that a new lodge is opened and consecrated.” My authority for saying so, was not derived from the Book of Constitutions, but from a letter written by the present Grand Secretary to a W.M. designate of a new lodge, and of which letter the W.M. designate allowed me to take a copy. The portion of it referring to the point in question is as follows:—“In consequence of irregularities that have in some cases taken place, I think it well to remind you that no person can be initiated when a new lodge is opened, neither can any joining members be admitted at such meeting, and further that no lodge can be held by the petitioners until the lodge has been duly consecrated and the Master Designate installed.” Bro. “H.H.” says “he is quite sure that in point of fact admissions of new members of the Order and the performance of the ceremonies therewith, have in many cases taken place on the day of the opening of a new lodge.” This no doubt may be so, and possibly may constitute some of “the irregularities” mentioned in the extract from the Grand Secretary’s letter. Until the by-laws are adopted in open lodge, which I believe is never done at the consecration ceremony, I must confess I do not see how it would be prudent to initiate any persons, as there would be no by-laws in existence to point out the duties they owed to the lodge, and which should, strictly speaking, be signed on the evening of initiation, if the brother announces his intention of becoming a subscribing member of the lodge, as is invariably the case. For almost similar reasons I do not see how it would ever be safe to propose any persons for initiation or brethren for joining at the consecration ceremony, unless there are some by-laws in existence to regulate the same.—✠B✠

In Liverpool the medical men are about to try an experiment. At a meeting of the members of the profession, held on Tuesday, it was resolved that the local sick benefit societies should be requested to increase the rate of payment to the medical officers from 3s. to 4s. yearly for each society member.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents

FREEMASONRY ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO YEARS OLD.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I shall take it kind if you will find space in your columns for the enclosed letter, which I sent to the *North British Daily Mail* here, in answer to some correspondence which had been going on relative to the antiquity of Freemasonry. By doing so, I think that Bros. R. Sanderson (page 109) and Saxelby (page 128) will find their notes answered; and as the opinions of Bros. Hughan and D. M. Lyon are included, it will be all the more valuable.

Operative Masonry and an Operative Mason’s Society, it must always be remembered, is quite a different thing from Speculative Masonry with its doctrines and rituals. The Reformation, I consider, helped to clear the way for the introduction of the latter.

Yours fraternally,

W. P. BUCHAN.

“To the Editor of the *North British Daily Mail*.”

“Sir,—In your issue of 30th ult., I made the assertion that speculative Masonry, or Freemasonry, ‘originated and sprang up since the Reformation,’ and, in fact, was only about ‘152 years old.’

“This brought out an opponent hailing from Greenock, who, under the signature of ‘R,’ in issue of 2nd inst., said that ‘speculative and operative Freemasonry were both practised in Scotland at the time when our most ancient buildings were erected,’ and this he said was ‘easily proved’! On 4th inst. I replied, desiring him to lead some of his proof. On 6th inst. ‘R.’ answered by delining to lead his asserted proof on the transparent plea of want of time, telling us, however, that he has ‘sufficient evidence to convince himself of its existence in Scotland in 1145.’ He also, while leaving the field, states that it is my place to dis-prove, not his to prove, the assumed existence of Freemasonry previous either to the Reformation or the 18th century A.D. Now I shall leave the intelligent, unbiassed, and truth-loving portion of your readers to judge the meaning of this. A champion comes forward boldly asserting that he can ‘easily prove’ an affirmative, yet, when asked to do so, he retreats, manfully leaving the antagonist he feared to grapple with to prove a negative.

“The action of ‘R.’ in this matter is an exact copy of the course pursued by the valiant Harapha, in Milton’s ‘Samson Agonistes,’ only our Greenock hero will not get off quite so scatheless as his Philistian predecessor, simply because that, notwithstanding all his careful reticence, he has made two slips by which, just catching the extreme points of his mantle, I manage to drag him to me. Yea, ‘R.’—

“‘Thou oft shall wish thyself at Gath to boast
Again in safety what thou wouldst have done.’

“The slips I refer to are these, viz.: In his first letter he tells us his ‘Mother Lodge’ is the ‘Ancient Stirling,’ and in his second letter he mentions the date ‘1145.’ Therefore, as by adding two and two together we get four, so by putting these two statements together, we in all likelihood, discover that the-

grand foundation upon which 'R.' rests when he disputes 'the dictum of Professor Cosmo Innes'—one of our most accomplished Scottish historians and antiquarians—about the supposed existence, &c., of Scottish lodges about or before the middle of the 12th century, is the pretended Charter said to have been granted to 'the free Masons in Stirling,' by David I., on 'the fifth day of March,' 1471!*

"Poor 'R.,' I am sorry to disenchant you; but this imaginary rock upon which you rest is simply a quicksand, for this pretended charter is, I consider, an impertinent forgery, manipulated during last century and probably since the first edition of Nimmo's history of Stirlingshire was published in 1777. Its phraseology is comparatively modern, and the minute distinctions it enters into are those of a much later day, it is also twin brother to our celebrated Glasgow writ, the one document containing exactly word for word (according to our English versions) about 90 per cent. of what the other contains; therefore, friend 'R.,' take my advice, and say nothing at all the next time you feel a desire to champion the pretended immense antiquity of Freemasonry.

"In your issue of 7th inst., a new Masonic champion comes forward under the formidable cognomen of 'St. John's,' but I am sorry to see St. John in this case wielding such a pointless lance and bestriding such a footless roxinate. Why the lance couldn't pierce silk paper, and the steed, unable to carry its rider safely off the field, leaves him lying prostrate on the ground loudly crying, 'Who ever heard of a fraternity of Weavers?'"

Now 'St. John's,' as you say, we know that 'Masons' lodges are dedicated to saints,' but so also are Protestant churches, at least they are named after them; but such a fact is no proof that either have anything to do with Roman Catholicism, and both are anything but favourites with Rome. Then, as to a 'weaver's fraternity,' that is nothing extraordinary; there were weaver's fraternities in existence long before speculative Masonry was instituted, and although the introduction of machinery has now sent the weavers down the hill a bit, yet, as is well known, things were different with them for ages previously. The operative free-weavers had their sodality, fraternity, or brotherhood, centuries ago, just as the free-masons or free-cordiners had theirs, and in the minutes of Glasgow St. Mungo Lodge, 25 Sept., 1784, we find notice of the Glasgow 'King's free linen weavers.'† So here we have free-weavers as well as free-masons, and for the meaning of the word 'freemason,' in the 17th century we read the well-known Rosling Charter, 1628, which mentions the 'Deacones, Masteres friemen of the Maissones and Hammermen' as 'deacones, maisteris and freemen of the saidis vocations,' *ergo* a free-mason or a free-

hammerman then simply meant a mason or hammerman who was free to work at his trade, and before doing so he had to work his 'essay,' to show he was capable of serving his Majesty's lieges. And to show how baseless are the pretensions upon many points of the Masonic fraternity, we find that in all the long period which elapsed in Glasgow between 1604 and 1843 (239 years) we do not find a Mason ever elected as 'Deacon-convener,' whereas we find the weavers five times, and the fraternity of St. Crispin, *alias* the cordiners or shoemakers, have one of their Craft 13 times 'Deacon-Convener.' I should not be astonished to discover that the cordiners of the 16th century or so, had at least as many, if not even more 'secrets' than the then Masons. Between 1843 and 1857, we find two Masons as 'Deacons-Convener.'

"I do not consider that the Masons, as things were previous to 1720 or so, were capable of keeping alive any such rituals and Masonic ceremonies as we now have; even with all the privileges now possessed, I am utterly unable to recall either the name or remembrance of any operative mason here, master or man, who ever performed the ceremonies in my hearing. Upon this point Bro. Lyon observes,—'It should also be borne in mind that previous to the introduction of speculative Masonry into Scotland, the number and quality of officers necessary to direct the affairs of lodges were not such as could render practicable the working of any very elaborate ritual. A Deacon, Warden, Clerk (who was no Craftsman), and Officer, were the only officials in Mother Kilwinning till December, 1735, and in some other lodges till a later period; and, with such a meagre array of officers, how, by any possibility could the *dramatis personæ* of speculative Masonry have been sustained?'"

"I shall now proceed to grapple more closely with the subject, and prove that not only was there no speculative Masonry or Freemasonry in existence before the Reformation, but not even before the 18th century, A.D. The best way to do this is to examine the old books of the Masons themselves, and see what they say. Well, such has been done. I have examined old records of different sorts bearing both directly and indirectly upon the subject, but can find no evidence to prove that the Masons' societies of the 17th or former centuries varied in any essential particulars from the other trades, any further than that the masons were masons and the cordiners were shoemakers. Then, I may refer to that well-known Masonic Lodge, 'Mother Kilwinning,' which has records from 1642, or to the old lodge of Edinburgh, 'Mary's Chapel,' which has records from 1598. Well, had speculative Masonry or Freemasonry been practised by either of these lodges previous to 1717 their minutes would surely have said so. Yet what does our Masonic historian, Bro. D. Murray Lyon, say, who went through the former some time since, and who has been lately examining the latter? He says, no later than 10th inst., 'The Reformation was indeed the precursor, but could not be said to have had a special or direct bearing upon Freemasonry.' Again he says—'Non-operatives cannot be shown to have to any extent been admitted members of lodges before 1634, and then only they were admitted as fellows of the Masonic craft, just as in our day the Prince of Wales or any other non-professional gentleman may be received as an honorary member of the Fish-

* A copy of this document is given in the Magazine for March 17, 1860, page 210. See also Magazine for June 20, 1863, page 490. I perceive in the *N.B. Daily Mail* of the 18th inst., "R." returns to the charge minus his "proof," but asks me how "Desaguliers and Co., managed to get hold of the old lodge charters!" I know of some pretended old charters manufactured since A.D. 1717, but not of any real "old lodge charters" in existence before then that Desaguliers and Co. could have got hold of; however, we shall be glad to hear about "R.'s" *discoveries*.

† See page 124.

monger's Society. Such admission had something to do in paving the way for the more easy adoption of the speculative Freemasonry that was afterwards manufactured by Desaguliers & Co. From what I have seen of Mary's Chapel records I am convinced that this is right, and that 1721 may be pointed to as the date of the formal inauguration in Scotland of the English system of Freemasonry as manufactured by Desaguliers, Anderson, & Co.'

"Then let us hear what our talented Brother W. J. Hughan, of Truro, says, viz.:—'The crafts were provided for from the 15th century, and afterwards, without any special distinctions for masons. "Wrichtes and maisons" were often classed together, and certainly there was nothing special in the latter, so far as may be gathered by the Acts of Parliament. We read of the wardens and deaknes of crafts, but never as applied exclusively to Masonry. Why? Surely because that as a body it contained nothing requiring different legislation to the others. Some centuries ago it was provided that the sums of money "Employed by any corporation, guild, fraternity, company, or fellowship of any mystery or craft towards the maintenance of any priest, anniversary, obit, lamp, light, or the like," had to be paid yearly as a rent charge to the King, his heirs,' &c.

"From the foregoing we learn two things—First, that there is no documentary evidence yet discovered, nor, I fear, discoverable, of the existence of Freemasonry previous to the last century; but that the mass of documentary evidence extant points to the period of the reign of George I. (1714 to 1727) as the time when Freemasonry, its doctrines and rituals included, was instituted. Second, without going further back at present, the mass of documentary evidence extant, from the 14th to the 17th centuries, proves that the mason's lodge, society, corporation, or fraternity, was just the same as the other trades societies or fraternities; and the 'luge' at first was simply the shed or erection in which the masons worked, as in the Aberdeen Burgh Records, fifteenth century, we read of a mason contracting 'to mak gude service in the luge and vteuche to the bigin,' &c. (That is to say—that he engaged to work in a faithful and tradesmanlike manner, both in the lodge and out of it, towards the erection of a certain building then going on). And not only was the fraternity idea strong in the crafts, but even the whole community of a town was sometimes taken as a brotherhood, as at page 448 of Aberdeen Burgh Records, Spalding Club, date 1530, it speaks of 'brithers within ane gude toune dwelland.' The whole of the extracts upon this page are of the utmost interest to the Masonic student as showing how ideas, &c., that were openly practised in the sixteenth century, were afterwards adopted by the Masons in the eighteenth century as part of their special secrets and private property. I might have copied it off, but I fear I am perhaps taking up too much of your space as it is.*

"Lastly, now a few words anent the Master Mason degree. In the old operative lodge there was the apprentice who came to learn his trade, then the

fellow-of-craft and master, who employed men to work for him. There was also the master of the lodge, which was an office not a degree. When admitted into the lodge the apprentice seems to have received a word, and any ceremony used in giving it was simple indeed; in fact, I am not prepared to say that the entry of an apprentice mason, in the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, say, was in any particular point different from that of an apprentice cordiner. However, being once admitted, our apprentices were now eligible to be present at all meetings, no matter what business was transacting. Previous to the eighteenth century there was no such thing as a 'Master Mason's degree,' at which none but those who had received that 'degree' were present; for at the admission of all masters and fellows, apprentices were bound to be present by the rules, consequently, had any 'degree' been worked, the apprentice would have seen it. It could not, therefore, be a secret or separate degree. In reference to this, Bro. Hughan says, 'No proof of the 3rd degree having been worked as a degree, apart from any other degree, and confined to members only of that degree, anterior to the 18th century has ever been given. Let those that say that such ever occurred before produce the necessary documentary evidence. Mere traditions and legends can be produced to prove the greatest absurdities, and the most palpable lies in creation.' Then Bro. Lyon says, 'It has hitherto been pointed to in proof of the antiquity of the 3rd degree that Robert Moray, a soldier, was made a Master Mason in 1641, in Mary's Chapel. He was not made a Master Mason, but, like some other non-operatives, had an honorary connexion with that Mason's society." Bro. Lyon also positively asserts that the 'Master Masons' of operative times were simply *bona fide* employers of labour, and not until after 1717, but in or before 1735, was the 'degree' of Master Mason ever worked in Mother Kilwinning Lodge.

"I may here observe that Desaguliers visited Mary's Chapel Lodge in Edinburgh 1721. He was Grand Master of England in 1719. He was a great mathematician, mechanic, and natural philosopher, and no doubt to his position and influence Freemasonry was greatly indebted at its start. In Buckle's 'History of Civilisation,' Desaguliers is said to have been 'the first who popularized natural philosophy.'

All this, therefore, brings me to the conclusion I started with, viz., that the Reformation preceded Freemasonry, and that said Freemasonry is only about a century and a half old, and that there was no Master Mason 'degree,' or anything like it, worked until after 1717. I challenge all and sundry to bring forward the least substantial proof of the contrary. And as for Royal Arch Masonry and the whole host of chivalric degrees, they are all based upon speculative Masonry, and sprang up after it, and are all less than a century and a half old.—I am, &c.,

"Glasgow, 12th August, 1869. "W.P.B."

BIBLES, &c., AND DECAPITATION OF BRO. MELVILLE (p. 129.)

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

Dear Sir and Brother, — Our mystery-monger, adopter, and mudifier of other people's ideas is at

* See page 88 ante. I may observe here that the *Mail* of 13 inst. kept out the portion of my letter referring to the Stirling Charter, &c., consequently "R." is unaware of what is in store for him.

his old work again, *enlightening* us with his usual amount of mistakes and false statements. I do wish he would try to understand what he is writing about *himself* before beginning to teach others.

It is most amusing to watch how barefacedly he adopts all corrections as *Masonic discoveries* of his own; nothing puts him about; his career appears to me to be that of one copying out bits of other people's books and ideas, without the ability to make up a connected and consistent whole.

Hoping, and certainly wishing, that he may yet learn to write more sensibly and carefully—give him another chance before taking off his head.

Yours fraternally,
PICTUS.

REVISION OF THE RITUALS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have lately seen one or two notices—not in your columns, I believe—of an alleged revision of the Masonic Craft Ritual, under the authority of the Board of General Purposes, with an intimation that the matter is in so forward a state that the new form recommended has been introduced in the working of a lodge near London.

This is a subject which I have during the last few years brought before your readers in various forms, and it is one of great importance. Certainly, if anything in the way of change be contemplated, it ought to be done in the most public and authoritative manner, and proper means should be taken to collect and compare the forms adopted by brethren of acknowledged literary acquirements, as well as of skill, reputation, and experience in the art.

Nothing should be done secretly or clandestinely, for the variety of opinions and practice is so great, that even under the most favourable circumstances it will be very difficult to satisfy, and to obtain the concurrence of, their respective advocates. In support of this remark, it may be observed that I have heard brethren express their intention to disregard the change in the titles of two of the officers adopted by a resolution passed at the June meeting of the Grand Mark Lodge, as to which there was much difference of opinion, and this is a fair sample of what may be expected in the case of changes in the Craft and Royal Arch degrees. In the latter especially, many hold that there is great cause for revision, which should be undertaken by scholars in Biblical love and in Hebrew. Again, it will be vain to order such changes unless means be adopted to make them familiar known in all lodges working under English warrant. One course to this end, which appears to me imperative, is to have a recognised lodge of instruction in London, such as that of "Unions" under the sanction of the Lodge of "Emulation," held every Friday evening at the Freemasons' Hall, which I imagine may be regarded as the best existing guide. In addition to this, there should be qualified and recognised instructors, as well as paid inspectors of all private lodges. It will be requisite, in order to secure efficiency, to adopt a considerable amount of supervision, which will undoubtedly entail such an expense as to require great caution and consideration. Nevertheless, money so laid out would probably be well and wisely spent, in order to obtain uniformity; this question was well ventilated in your columns some time ago, and some valuable suggestions were made. They may perhaps have given rise to the movement, if such there really be, for a revision of our ceremonies.

I lately heard of an opinion expressed by a Past Master to the effect that it is not necessary for a W.M. to be acquainted with and able to work the several ceremonies, so long as there is any P.M. of the lodge who

can officiate for him. From this I so thoroughly dissent that I never vote for a brother to occupy the chair unless assured that he is able efficiently to conduct the whole of the work of the lodge, and I think that this ought to include the lectures on the different degrees. Many who hold the same opinion are satisfied with the promise of a candidate for installation that he will get up the ritual, a promise which is often not kept. The votes being taken by ballot, and there being sometimes many who are legally eligible and from whom the selection is made, there appears no opportunity of ascertaining the competency of each, except the preliminary question put on installation. "Are you able and willing to undertake the management of the lodge?"—a question which is always answered in the affirmative, even when the brother is quite unacquainted with the rituals, a course I could not conscientiously follow. As it appears to me, no one should be elected to fill the first chair of a lodge until he has satisfied a competent tribunal that he can effectively perform all his duties, and work the ceremonies with a considerable amount of impressiveness, so as really to make a candidate feel that he is entering on solemn obligations and obtaining new and important light, not merely joining a body of jolly good fellows, who are obliged, for form's sake, to pass through a certain ordeal, which may become unmeaning and a mockery from the carelessness or ignorance of the administrator. Nothing tends so much to bring Freemasonry into contempt with the uninitiated, as the knowledge that some of its rulers are men of but scanty mental qualifications, except perhaps the exhibition of moral delinquency and bad habits, which doubtless are at variance with our principles, but not under the circumstances assumed to be so by many of the external world. Allow me to add that, though probably opinions vary on the criticisms and suggestions of your correspondent, "Crux," he is doing good service by his articles on Masonic Discipline and Ritual.

Yours fraternally,

H. H.

NEW LODGES AND NEW MEMBERS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—It is evident that your correspondents have misunderstood each other's meaning on the subject of initiating candidates and affiliating brethren during the same evening in which the consecration is performed. The law upon the point, as well as the sense of the "Constitutions," and the wording of the ritual are as clear as daylight. If a lodge meet for the first time *by authority*, it obviously can neither make nor affiliate persons. It matters nothing whether that meeting be held by constitution, consecration, dispensation, or provisional warrant, provided it be the *first* meeting. Without a previous meeting of the lodge under authority, the ceremonies of initiation and affiliation cannot be performed in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the chapter relating to "Proposing members," in the Constitutions." The other ceremonies of passing and raising, for which no previous notice is required, may of course be performed. It is worth remarking here that there is no such term as "consecration of a lodge" in the "Constitutions." The word used is "constituting," or constitution; the word "consecrated" is employed only once in the description of the manner of conducting the ceremonial. The actual "consecration" is but a small part of the proceedings, and yet Masons have fallen into the not uncommon error of putting a "part for the whole," and thereby demonstrating what claims they have to being considered sound "geometricians." In the "Irish Constitutions" the term "dedication" is also mentioned, and it is curious that, although there is not the slightest allusion to it in the "English Constitutions," yet it is inserted in the "obligation" of the E.A.

in our ritual. This will be more particularly pointed out as I proceed with my articles on "Masonic Discipline." It forms only another instance where there is a want of consistency and uniformity between the ritual and the "Constitutions."

Upon principle, I think the permission granted, or which may be assumed to be granted, by authority to the members of an intended lodge to hold meetings and perform all the ceremonies and functions of Masonry, before it is constituted, radically unsound, and one that might be rescinded with great advantage to the prestige and honour of the Fraternity. It implies one of two circumstances. Either that we are so eager to obtain new members and new lodges that we cannot request a reasonable and proper delay, or that the "executive" is so poor in officers qualified to conduct the ceremonial of "constitution," that a very long notice is required before one can be rendered available for the service. In fact, the very pertinent question presents itself, what is the use of the ulterior ceremony of "constitution," if the lodge can perform all the requisite Masonic functions without it? But can it? I have assumed that a lodge meeting under a dispensation can. The "Constitutions" says that "the Grand Master may issue a dispensation, authorizing the brethren to meet as a lodge." I take it the phrase "meet as a lodge," is equivalent to a temporary constitution of the lodge, and endows it with all the privileges conferred upon any regularly constituted similar body of Masons. Otherwise, it is quite obvious the brethren do not "meet as a lodge." If they are debarred from exercising any of the Masonic prerogatives which belong to a lodge, and which fall as a matter of course within its jurisdiction, they cannot be said to "meet as a lodge." In this case, the "dispensation" stands in the place of the warrant of constitution, and there would be no impropriety in referring to it as such, when presenting it to a candidate. On the other hand, if the phrase "to meet as a lodge" simply implies, as it very probably may, that the brethren may assemble, open up through the several degrees and close down again, and, in fact, merely go through their Masonic "facings," the difficulty is to draw the line where their power begins and where it end. If they cannot initiate or affiliate, pass or raise, can they propose a candidate or member? If a "dispensation" confers merely partial powers upon a lodge, then it is nothing more nor less than the "temporary constitution of an irregular lodge," and a practice not to be desired among Masons. Not having seen an actual "dispensation," I cannot say whether it is explicit respecting the powers it confers, or whether it is couched in the same vague and unsatisfactory phraseology as the "Constitutions" themselves. If it simply authorises the brethren to "meet as a lodge," I only trust that opinion is unanimous respecting the signification of the phrase. The only analogous instance that presents itself to my mind at the present moment is that of a church. All the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England service may be performed in a church without its being consecrated, although it cannot be properly considered ecclesiastical property until it has been consecrated. It is quite true that, in an extended sense, any Masonic quorum may hold a lodge, but the absence of the warrant of constitution would nullify any attempt to make, pass, raise, or affiliate. But, in the instance referred to, the "warrant" is virtually replaced by the "dispensation," and it is difficult to perceive that it is not endowed with the same authority as its ultimate successor. At any rate, whatever may be the real state of the case, it would be well in the revision of the "Constitutions" to render the whole question beyond doubt, and to introduce a little more lucidity in this as well as in many other instances.

Yours fraternally,

CRUX.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS

UNIVERSAL MASONIC CALENDAR FOR 1869.—A few remaining copies of the second edition are for sale at a reduction of 25 per cent.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—OCTOBER ELECTION.—Votes are earnestly solicited in behalf of Frank Loud, aged eight and a half years, No. 49 on list of candidates. Girls' School votes will be equally acceptable for exchange. His late father, Bro. William Loud (who died suddenly on the 23rd of May, 1869, leaving a widow and nine children), was initiated in the Prince Edwin Lodge (No. 125), Hythe, in which he held the office of Warden. He was also a member of the Invicta Lodge (No. 709), Ashford, from its foundation, in 1857, until his decease, and has been a subscribing member to Grand Lodge for eighteen years. His widow and eight of the children are entirely dependent upon their friends for support. The case is strongly recommended.

Votes are earnestly solicited on behalf of George Albion Coombs, son of the late Bro. George Albion Coombs, who was a member of No. 700, and a licensed victualler, at Shooter's Hill, Woolwich: died 18th May, 1866, leaving two orphan children depending upon their friends for support. Proxies thankfully received by Bro. J. Ewart, Royal Carriage Office, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

The death of Bro. Wm. J. Newman, long connected with, and of late years Superintendent of the Exhibition Department, Crystal Palace, and member of the Crystal Palace Lodge (No. 742), whose talents and amiability endeared him to all who enjoyed the pleasure of his acquaintance, has deprived his family of their means of support, as well as of their best and dearest friend. His brethren in Freemasonry are desirous of testifying their respect for the memory of their late brother by presenting one of his sons, who is of suitable age, for education in the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. In furtherance of this object, votes are earnestly solicited in favour of his son Herbert Horace Newman, for the election in October next. The case is strongly recommended by several influential brethren as a most deserving one. Proxies for Girls' School, or the Benevolent Institution, thankfully received for the purpose of exchange. Communications and votes may be forwarded to Bro. W. H. Harper, Crystal Palace, S.E.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SUSSEX.—The annual meeting will take place on Friday, the 27th inst., at the Music Room of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, at half-past two o'clock punctually. The R.W. Bro. Lord Pelham, the Prov. G.M. will preside. The banquet will be held at five o'clock at the Banqueting Room of the Pavilion.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DORSET.—A meeting will be held at Sherborne, on the 30th inst., at twelve o'clock, under the presidency of Bro. J. Gundry, the Prov. G.M.

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

PORTRAITS of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., M.W.G.M. Mason of Scotland, can now be obtained at this office, price 3s. 6d. each. Copies, with ornamental border and Masonic emblems printed in gold, on large size paper, can be had, price 10s. 6d.

CLERICAL APPOINTMENT.—Bro. the Rev. Robert James Simpson, *M.A.*, late of Oriel College, Oxford, and vicar of Slough, has been appointed to the valuable and important rectory of St. Clement Danes, London. The patron is the Marquis of Exeter, and the living is worth £630, and capable of large increase. Sir R. Palmer, Mr. W. H. Smith, *M.P.*, the Messrs. Twinings, bankers, and many others, take a deep interest in the welfare of the parish, and are active supporters of the rector. The new rector will enter on his charge in the beginning of September. The Rev. W. O. Thompson, *M.A.*, formerly curate of Old Windsor, succeeds Bro. Simpson, as vicar of Slough. Bro. Simpson has won golden opinions from the good people of Slough. We learn that during his residence there he has built four schools and two teachers' residences, increased the number of children in the schools by upwards of 150, got the schools out of debt, and left them with a balance of £42 on the right side. By a judicious disposal of glebe land he has increased the value of the living by nearly £100 a year. He has almost, if not quite, wiped off the debt which he found on Chalvey Church, he has raised £80 for lighting Old Upton Church, and opened an evening service there, and he has given an additional service at Eton Union, of which he was chaplain. Bro. Simpson has also originated a subscription, to which some £5,000 or £6,000 was promised, for the purpose of building a new parish church for Slough. The inhabitants of Slough and its vicinity, although gratified by the advancement of their vicar, have much cause to regret the termination of his ministrations among them."

REMOVAL OF LODGE.—The Gosport Lodge (No. 903), formerly held at the Star Hotel, is now removed to the India Arms Hotel, High-street, Gosport. The lodge meets on the second Tuesday in every month.

METROPOLITAN.

STABILITY LODGE (No. 217).—This lodge met at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Monday, the 16th inst., at 5.30 p.m., by special summons for an emergency, to confirm the minutes of the last regular lodge held in April, and of the emergency in June, and to clear off arrears of work for the vacation. The *W.M.*, Bro. Edward Hughes, presided, and was supported by Bros. Brodey, *P.M.* and Treas., *S.W. pro. tem.*; Truscott, *J.W.*; Warsup as *S.D. pro. tem.*; Drummond, *J.D.*; Belcher, *I.G.*; G. A. Taylor, *P.M.* and Sec.; and Bland, Warsup, Thorp. The lodge was opened in the first degree, the summons convening the meeting was read, and the minutes of the two previous meetings were read and confirmed. Mr. Henry Wilson was introduced and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Bro. Warsup was examined and complimented on his proficiency by the *W.M.* The lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. Warsup was passed to the degree of *F.C.* The lodge was resumed to the first degree, and Bro. Taylor announced that in conjunction with certain of the brethren an application was about to be made for a warrant to hold a chapter of *R.A. Masons*, under sanction of Stability, No. 217, which would, of course, be at the same hotel as the lodge, and requesting those desirous of joining, to forward their names to him as early as possible. Nothing further being offered, the lodge was closed in due form, and with solemn prayer. This being, as stated above, an emergency, the customary banquet was dispensed with. Visitors were, Bro. Waterall, *I.G. 22*, and Bro. Hopkins, King Hiram, 86.

CRYSTAL PALACE LODGE (No. 742).—This prosperous lodge met at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, on the 5th inst. Bro. S. Foxall, in the chair. The minutes of the former meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for the admission of Mr. Edward John Whall, and it being unanimously in his favour, he was duly initiated. Bro. Marshall having answered the usual questions, was duly passed to the second degree. All the work was well and admirably done. No further business being before the lodge it was closed in the usual form, and the brethren then retired to the elegant banqueting room, and

a very excellent and *récherché* banquet, supplied by Bros. Bertram and Roberts, the viands and wines being of first-rate quality. The *W.M.* proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and several excellent speeches were made. Among the visitors were—Bros. Raynham Stewart; H. Carey, *P.M. 87*; Cottebrune, *P.M. 733*; Pope, and Chase. Some very excellent harmony emanated from several brethren, more particularly Bro. Smith, the Organist of the lodge, who sang his humorous song of the "Evening Party." After spending a very pleasant evening the brethren returned to town.

MIDDLESEX.

TWICKENHAM.—*Strawberry Hill Lodge (No. 946).*—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on the 28th ult., at the Grotto Hotel. The lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for the admission of Mr. Adolphe Seidler, and it being unanimously in his favour, the *W.M.* initiated that gentleman in a very perfect and careful manner. It was proposed, seconded, and carried that a summer banquet should take place in September. The lodge having been closed, the brethren sat down to a very excellent banquet, where some very capital speeches were made and responded to, and some excellent harmony from Bro. Smeed, *P.M.*, and others. Altogether a very pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.

Provincial Grand Lodge.

On Thursday, the 12th inst., the Provincial Grand Lodge of the province of Devon, assembled at the Royal Hotel, for the transaction of business. There was a large attendance from all parts of the province, and the business transacted occupied a large portion of the time set apart for it previous to the dinner. The *R.W. Bro.* the Rev. John Huyshe, *M.A.*, *G.M.*, presided, supported by Bros. L. P. Metham, *S.W.*, *D. Prov. G.M.*; W. J. Meymott, *P. Prov. G.W.* for Surrey, and a large number of *P. Prov. G.* officers. Bros. Lieut.-Colonel Elliott, *R.M.*, *S.G.W.*; H. Walrond, *J.G.W.*; Revs. J. R. Nankivell, and J. Dickenson, *G. Chap.*; W. G. Rogers, *G. Reg.*; Isaac Latimer, *G. Sec.*; J. J. Mackenzie, *S.G.D.*; C. Elphinstone, *J.G.D.*; W. H. Maddock, *G. Supt. of Works*; Browning, *G. Dir. of Cers.*; Bartlett, *Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.*; J. Sadler, *G. Sword Bearer*; G. G. Nicholls, *Org.*; W. F. Windeatt, *Acting Org.*; Witheridge, *G. Purs.*; J. Gregory, *G. Tyler*; J. Rogers, *Assist. G. Tyler*; W. H. Geachias, *W. Easton*, Major Yates, *G. Warren*, J. Austin, and W. Oram, *G. Stewards*, occupied their respective positions within the lodge. Amongst those present were the following brethren:—

James Ferris, *P.M.*; George Downe, *W.M.*; S. S. P. Blight, *P.M.*, *P. Prov. G. Org.*; J. N. Blake, *S.W.*; John Way, *S.W.*; F. Horspool, *R. Anning*, Edwin Roseveare, *J.W.*; R. Lose, *P.M.*, *P. Prov. G. Purs.*; Edwin Patten, *J. B. Gover*, *P.M.*; H. W. Thomas, *H. Williams*, *H. Moffat*, *Wm. Hill*, *John S. Phillips*, *P.M.*; John Davis, *Wm. Amery*, *W.M.*; *Wm. K. Michell*, *P.M.*; George Hilson, *W.M.*; James Wharry, *J. Filburn*, *John Pepper*, *J.D.*; James Montgomery, *J.W.*; James Ellis, *J.W.*; Thomas Meshinick, *P. James*, *P.M.*; A. Lethbridge, *James Greenfield*, *W.M.*; Thomas Oliver, *J.W.*; T. W. Greenfield, *W. R. Northway*, *W.M.*; T. W. B. Forster, *J.W.*; W. R. Northway, *J.G.*, *I.G.*; Aaron Woolf, *P.M.*; H. Miller, *P.M.*; Thomas T. James, *Samuel Chapple*, *P.M.*; R. Dowse, *P.M.*, *P. Prov. G.S.D.*, *Treas.*; I. Watts, *P. Prov. G. Treas.*; Edward Murch, *P.M.*, *P. Prov. G. Org.*; J. Maben, *P.M.*; William Browning, *P.G.D.E.*; John Port, *Dir. of Cers.*; Thomas Hunt, *S.S.*; John Lynn, *J.W.*; John Pridham, *S.W.*; Thomas Chapman, *P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.*; John Walker, *J. W. H. Hawton*, *P.M.*, *W.M.*; M. Paul, *J.W.*; J. H. Bowman, *John R. H. Spry*, *P. Prov. S. Dir. of Cers.*; Francis Codd, *P.M.*; James Bennet, *S.W.*; James H. Kents, *John Beer Witheridge*, *P. Prov. G. Purs.*, *P.M.*; Joseph Matthews, *P.M.*, *P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works*; John W. Tripp, *P.M.*; Wm. J. Taylor, *Edward Murch*, *P.M.*; Edward Thomas, *J. Purse*, *J. B. Price*, *P.M.*; W. F. Windeatt, *S. Cotton*, *J. M. Hefly*, *W.M.*; M. Brown, *W.M.*; W. H. Gillman, *J. T. Warn*, *T. C. Lewarn*, *James P. Phillips*,

S. Zeffertt, Vincent Bird, P.M.; E. Basset, and numerous other brethren.

The R.W. Prov. G. Master opened the lodge in due form, and Bro. the Rev. J. Dickinson, Prov. G. Chap., invoked the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe on their labours.

The Prov. G. Sec. then read the minutes of the several Grand Lodges that had been held during the past year. There were some incidental discussions arising on these minutes. In reply to Bro. Watts, it was stated that the Committee of Petitions consisted of the D. Prov. G.M., the Treasurer, and Secretary. Bro. Watts suggested subsequently that the committee should consist of the W.M. of each of the lodges, and that they should meet once a quarter at Plymouth. An amendment was moved to this by Bro. Cock, who said he came more than a hundred miles to attend this meeting, and he thought that there should be something like fairness, and that the meetings should be held alternately at Exeter and at Plymouth. He moved an amendment to this effect, and it was carried by a large majority. It was agreed that the meetings should be quarterly, and that each lodge should be requested to nominate either the W.M. or a delegate to act for the year.

The Prov. G. Sec. also read the returns of the different lodges. Some of these had only just been sent in, whereas they ought to have been made before the end of February. The balance to credit of the Prov. G. Lodge was estimated to be about £106; but as it could not be exactly stated from the cause mentioned, a discussion arose upon the difficulties of getting in the returns. It was suggested that the returns should be sent in, printed, and sent round to the lodges before the end of June. The Prov. G. Master said that if there were any lodges that did not send in their returns by that time, he should make it a rule, however painful to him it might be, to preclude these lodges receiving any appointments to the Prov. G. Lodge—a determination which elicited loud cheers.

Another question arose as to the amount that had been received during the past year for fees of honour from the members appointed to office in Prov. G. Lodge. In consequence of the absence from England of Bro. J. P. Ley this could not be stated with certainty: But Bro. Cann, the permanent G. Treas., stated that he had that morning, since he entered the room, received several fees. The Prov. G. Sec. had also received some, and there were others to come in. [Since the meeting the writer of this report has received a letter from Bro. Ley, stating that he had received £13 13s. fees.]—Bro. S. Jew, P. Prov. G. Treas., spoke of the neglect in these matters in past years, and urged that the law should be enforced, that no officer who had not paid his dues should be permitted to rank as a Prov. G. Officer. He moved that there should be a scrutiny of the accounts since the year 1859, for the purpose of ascertaining what dues were unpaid. The matter was one of importance in every point of view, as it was from these fees that the Fortescue Annuity Fund received additions. Bro. the Rev. J. C. Carwithen suggested that the time should be confined to the period from 1861, and this was unanimously agreed to.

The Committee on Petitions recommended votes of £10, and two sums of £5 each, shown to be given to certain applicants, which was agreed to.

The D. Prov. G. Master stated that he should act at the next meeting as G. Steward of the Girls' School, to which he intended to contribute ten guineas as his subscription, and he called upon the Prov. G. Lodge to subscribe liberally towards this institution. He proceeded to show that little was done by Devon, as compared with other provinces, in behalf of this institution, and concluded an eloquent appeal by moving that 25 guineas be voted from the funds of Prov. G. Lodge to this object.

The motion was seconded by Bro. Col. Elliott.

Bro. Clase proposed that it should be 50 guineas; but the Prov. G. Master said that their funds would not allow of so large a sum being thus appropriated, and the vote of 25 guineas was unanimously agreed to. £10 was also voted to the Widows', and £10 to the Benevolent Fund.

The Treasurer next read a statement of the Fortescue Annuity Fund, in account with Bro. John Pope, the Treasurer. The account showed receipts to the amount of £116 15s. 8d., and payments to the amount of £87 5s. 9d., leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £29 9s. 11d. The assets showed investments: Amount on land debentures, £1,100; ditto, Devon and Exeter Club, £200; cash in Savings' Bank, £45 17s. 7d.

The Prov. G.M. then proceeded to the appointment of his officers.

On the motion of Bro. Rodd P.M., seconded by Bro. Dowse P.M., Bro. T. S. Bayly, P.M. of Lodge Sincerity, was appointed G. Treas. L. P. Metham, P.M., P.G.D. of England, D. Prov. G.M.; Capt. Tanner Davy, P.M., P. Prov. G., Prov. S.G.W.; Major G. H. S. Yates, P.M., Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. John Dickenson, P.G. Chap., Prov. G. Chap.; Dr. William Langley Pope, Chap., Prov. G. Chap.; Levett Prinsep, W.M., Prov. G. Reg.; Wm. Goddard Rogers, P.M., Prov. G. Sec.; Wm. H. Geachias, W.M., Prov. S.G.D.; J. J. Hambly, P.M., Prov. J.G.D.; J. S. Phillips, P.M., Prov. G. Supt. of Works; James Hawton, P.M., Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; George Warren, P.M., Prov. G. Assist. of Cers.; Josiah Austin, P.M., Prov. G. Org.; Wm. Cotton, P.M., Prov. G. Sword Bearer; Peter James, P.M., Prov. G. Purs. Stewards: Wm. Easton, P.M.; Wm. Oram, P.M.; W. K. Mitchell, P.M.; F. Codd, P.M.; C. S. Willshire, P.M., W.M.; Samuel Jones, P.M., W.M. James Gregory, Prov. G. Tyler; John Rogers, P.M., Prov. Assist. G. Tyler.

The remainder of the business transacted was of no public importance.

Shortly after four o'clock, the brethren, to the number of 122, sat down to an excellent cold collation, supplied by Bro. Pearse, the lessee of the Royal Hotel. The R.W. the Prov. G.M., the Rev. John Huyshe, presided, and was supported on his right by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Metham, and on his left by the Prov. G. Chap., the Rev. J. Dickenson, and by other Grand Officers. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Elliott, P.S.G.W. in the absence of Bro. Capt. Tanner Davy, S.G.W., who was, we regret to say, prevented from being present by illness, occupied the vice-chair.

Grace was said by the Prov. G. Chap., and after dinner by the Rev. Wm. Langley Pope, D.D., Chap. of the Dartmouth Lodge.

After dinner, the Prov. G.M. proposed "The health of the Queen," which was drunk with due Masonic loyalty.

Bro. Windeatt presided at the piano, and Bro. Knowsley ably led the singing, taking several solos.

In the course of the evening, Bro. James Rowe, a veteran Mason of more than seventy summers, sang with remarkable vigour and ability, the fine old national song, "Hail to thee, England," and the beautiful ballad, "Come, welcome once more. Bro. Thomas and Bro. Clase, also sang other songs with marked ability.

In proposing the next toast, "The R.W. Bro. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Past Grand Master of England," the Prov. G. Master remarked that the toast was premature. It was intended to give His Royal Highness the honour of Past rank, but he had not got it yet. Every one of them would regard with pleasure the day when they could hail him as their brother, and he was sure that he would be well pleased to be called by that name—our Royal brother the Prince of Wales. Air—"God bless the Prince of Wales."

In proposing "The M.W. the G.M. of England, Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, K.T.," the Prov. G.M. spoke in terms of the highest eulogy. The Earl of Zetland had been their Grand Master for twenty-five years. It was true that their brethren in Ireland had in his Grace the Duke of Leinster a Grand Master who had most ably presided over them for fifty years. But the Earl of Zetland came next in length of services, and he did not say one word exceeding the praise he deserved, when he said that he had never seen a Grand Master who came up to him.

Bro. Metham, D. Prov. G.M., proposed as the next toast, "The R.W. the Provincial Grand Master of Devon, Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, M.A., P.G. Chap. of England." The toast was received with an outburst of enthusiasm. Everything, Bro. Metham remarked, that the Prov. G.M. had said of the Earl of Zetland might be applied to himself. He trusted that he might be long spared to preside over them, and that during their lives there might be no occasion for any one to succeed him. Of his many good qualities he would not say a word, for they all knew them as well as he did.—Air, "Auld lang syne."

The Prov. G. Master, in acknowledging the compliment which had been so warmly accorded to him, expressed the gratification he felt at the song which had followed it; and in reference to the sentiment of that song remarked that fifty years had now nearly passed since he first put on the Masonic apron. It was a long time to look back, and he could not but feel that that very beautiful song touched a warm responsive chord in his heart. No doubt "auld acquaintance" should not be forget. He applied this sentiment to his desire not to forget his obligations to his brethren, and what was due to each and all of them; which he always endeavoured, as much as possible, to remember. He

next adverted to the desirability that care should be taken as to whom they admitted to the Craft, for it should never be forgotten that the moment a man passed the door of a lodge with his apron on, they were bound to protect him as a brother, and to receive him as a brother. They should take care, therefore, that they did not admit into any of their lodges a man who had been rejected elsewhere.

A number of other toasts were proposed and speeches made, and after a very pleasant day, the toast list having been got through, the company separated about half-past six o'clock.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 471).—On Wednesday, the 11th inst., a lodge of emergency was held at the Masonic Hall, Dock-street, for the purpose of raising Bro. Lemuel Raymond, of the ship *Abegail*, of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, who was initiated in this lodge in December, 1867, and passed to the degree of a F.C. Mason in February last, and although very many of the members are away at the sea-side, yet there was a very good attendance, including two military brothers from the barracks. Bro. Parnall, W.M., presided, and the lodge having been opened in duo form, the minutes of the last meeting were read, also the requisition for calling this lodge of emergency, which had been duly signed by two members. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Raymond was examined as to the progress he had made as a F.C. Mason. His answers being highly satisfactory, he retired, and the lodge was opened in the third degree, when the brother before-named was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., the ceremony being most ably and correctly rendered by the W.M. The lodge was closed to the first degree, and the Secretary incidentally mentioned that the petition to the Board of Benevolence for relief to the widow of Bro. Stevens, voted at the last meeting, had been sent to Grand Lodge, and £15 had been paid to the widow, which she had most gratefully acknowledged. The lodge was then closed in harmony at nine p.m.

PONTYPOOL.—*Kenard Lodge* (No. 1258).—The regular monthly meeting of the members of this lodge took place at the Clarence Hotel, on Monday last, and was very well attended. We noticed in the room some brothers from Hereford, Leominster, Abergavenny, Malta, Whitehaven, and other places. The W.M., Bro. Bartholomew Thomas, presided with his usual good tact and taste. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot took place, when Mr. George Jacobs and Mr. William Davie, of Pontypool, were unanimously admitted. The lodge was then raised to the third degree, when Bros. Lloyd, Bunning, Davey, Greenway, Sandbrook, Thomas, Jones, and Ellis, were raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s, the ceremony being most ably rendered by the W.M. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, and Edward Kennard, Esq., of Blaenafon Ironworks, being in attendance, was duly initiated as apprenticed Freemason. The Secretary brought up the Craft by-laws for approval, and it was suggested that a printed copy be sent to each member prior to the next meeting, when the same be discussed, and if approved, duly passed. Two gentlemen were then proposed for initiation, and the lodge was closed in harmony at eight p.m. This new lodge is thriving wonderfully, and we augur, in a very short time, it will be second to none in importance in the province.

NORTH WALES.

LLANDUDNO.—*St. Tudno* (No. 755).—On Monday, the 16th inst., a lodge of emergency was held at the Freemasons' Hall. Present:—Bros. W. F. Chapman, W.M.; T. C. Roden, P.M.; Gooch, S.D.; Rev. John Henn, Chap.; H. Warren, and other members. Visitors:—Bro. E. Kent, S.W., *Fletcher Lodge*, 1,031; Bro. J. L. Kennedy, J.D., *Holt Lodge*, 1,246. At the request of the W.M., Bro. E. Kent acted as S.W., and Bro. Kennedy as J.W. The lodge was opened in duo form, and with solemn prayer, by Bro. Dr. Roden, who occupied the chair of K.S. The ballot was then taken for Mr. Thomas Blackwall, of Llanrwst, and declared to be unanimous in his favour; he being present, was admitted properly prepared, and received into the light of Masonry according to ancient form, the charge being delivered to the candidate by Bro. E. Kent, the acting S.W. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Hollins, being a candidate to be raised to the degree of M.M., was examined as to his proficiency as F.C., and having answered the usual questions satisfactorily, was entrusted and retired. The lodge having

been opened in the third degree, Bro. Hollins was admitted, and duly raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The lodge was closed down in peace and perfect harmony. We must congratulate the members of this lodge on their possession of the beautiful building they have erected for the purposes of Freemasonry, which confers not only honour upon themselves, but is an ornament to the town. Likewise upon the efficient working of the lodge, and without being invidious, more particularly to mention the untiring exertions of the W. Bro. Dr. T. E. Roden, P.M., whose zeal in the cause of Masonry, correct knowledge of the working of a lodge to its minutest detail, and love of the Craft, has rendered his name a pillar of strength, not only in this, but other provinces.

SUFFOLK.

SUDBURY.—*Stour Valley Lodge* (No. 1,224).—*Installation Meeting.*—This lodge met at the Private Lodge Rooms, Market Hill, on Thursday, the 12th inst., the following brethren being present:—Bros. Thomas Holland, W.M.; J. H. Rinder, S.W., and W.M. elect; J. H. Chambers, J.W.; G. King, sen., S.D.; J. Parker, J.D.; G. Martin, Sec.; F. Wheeler, I.G.; W. Sholl, O.G.; J. P. Okey, Org.; Bros. Hill, Harding, Emmerson, Lewis, Cossie, Reed, Greenwood, Jennings, and others. Visitors, Bros. John Terry, Installing Master; Fitch, Lusia, Scott, Gooch, Last, Pettitt, Lazlet, Harewood, Evans, and other well known brethren. Lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, it was duly raised to the second degree, and Bro. W. Jennings being present, and answering the necessary questions in a very satisfactory manner, he was entrusted and withdrew, when the lodge was opened in the third degree, and W. Jennings raised by the W.M., in his usual capital style. Bro. Terry then proceeded with the installation ceremony in that able manner so well known amongst a great number of London and provincial brethren, and Bro. Rinder having been invested as W.M., appointed his officers as follows: Bros. Holland, I.P.M.; Chambers, S.W.; G. King, sen., J.W.; Holland, Treas.; Parker, S.D.; Okey, J.D.; Wheeler, I.G.; Sholl, O.G.; Lewis, Steward; and Emmerson, Dir. of Cers. No other business being before the lodge it was closed in form, and the brethren retired to the Rose and Crown Tavern, where a most sumptuous repast was provided by the hostess, to which ample justice was done. The cloth having been withdrawn, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, the new W.M. showing that the gavel was placed in good hands. After spending a very happy *ré-union* the brethren separated in peace and harmony. In the course of the evening a very handsome P.M.'s jewel was presented to Bro. Holland, and well worthy was this able and courteous brother of receiving it. His worth has been fairly tested during his year of office, he having at great expense and trouble succeeded in forming the lodge, and not only forming it but bringing that quality of brethren into the lodge that are quite capable of holding up the prestige of our ancient Craft. We may add that the jewel was valued at fifteen guineas, and reflects the highest credit upon Bro. H. T. Lamb, of St. John's-square, Clerkenwell, it being like all the jewels we have known to come from this establishment—worthy of the house. We may also note that a very handsome blue silk banner and pole were presented to the lodge by the W.M., Bro. Rinder, which will reflect no small share of credit to the lodge when called upon to take at the Provincial meetings.

MARK MASONRY.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—*The United Artillery, Engineer, and Rifle Volunteer Lodge* (No. 108).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Carnarvon Hall, Weston-Super-Mare, on Monday, the 9th inst., when the following officers were present: Bros. F. G. Irwin, P.G. Overseer as W.M.; F. Vizard, S.W.; Clarke, J.W.; Cox, Sec. and acting M.O.; Inskiss, J.O.; Townsend, Reg. of M.; Parsons, Tyler. The W.M. opened the lodge with solemn prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, the ballot was then taken which proved unanimous, and the following candidates were then admitted and advanced to the honourable degree of Mark Master Masons in due and ancient form. Bros. Lieut. H. Wiltshire, S. Harvey, and Sidney Jones, the brethren were highly pleased with the solemn and impressive manner in

which the ceremony were performed by the W.M., who again selecting one of the brothers as a candidate went through the ceremony of advancement and explained in detail very fully the working of this beautiful degree. Several propositions having been made, the lodge was closed in solemn form and with prayer, the brethren then adjourned to a supper supplied by Bro. Host Kirkbride of the York Hotel, separating at ten o'clock p.m.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE SHERIFF COURT-HOUSE AND NEW HALL AT FORFAR.

The proceedings at Forfar on Thursday the 5th inst., in connection with the presentation of the freedom of the burgh to the Earl of Dalhousie, and the laying of the foundation stones of the new Public Hall and Sheriff Court House, passed off so auspiciously that the recollection of them will not easily be effaced from the memory of those who witnessed them. The state of the weather on such occasions is always of the greatest importance. The day opened bright and sunny, but during the morning the clouds slightly overcast, and although it rained several times at Forfar, the showers came just at a time when they interfered least with the *éclat* of the gathering. Only once, when the foundation stone of the hall was being laid, could the rain be said to interpose a barrier, and then, by the determination of Lord Dalhousie, not the slightest disappointment occurred to any. It was fitting that some expression of the public estimation of the gift should be pronounced; and no expression could have been more appropriate than that of yesterday. Many celebrations might have been organized, but none in which was denied to the general community the right of manifesting their approbation of the deed would have been satisfactory. The magistrates and town council deserve all the praise which could be bestowed on them, for it is well enough known that the arrangements were made entirely by them. A pleasing accompaniment to the laying the foundation stone was the presentation of the freedom of the burgh to the Earl of Dalhousie, the Lord Lieutenant of the county. His lordship's official position in the county, coupled with the many generous acts he has performed, eminently entitled him to such an honour. The Town Council have long recognized his Lordship's claims, but postponed making acknowledgment of them until he had given a still further proof of his attachment to the ancient burgh by the active part he took in the day's ceremonials.

The Court-House buildings are being erected on an elevated site on the west side of the prison, and the principal entrance is in the centre of the south front, facing the town. The style of the architecture is Flemish Gothic, having moulded stepped gables, with crocketed pinnacles and gurgols at their angles. Over the entrance door is an ornamental balcony supported on stone corbels and buttresses. The windows have mullions, transoms, and hood mouldings; and the principal feature of the building appears to be a circular tower, which rises from the north-west angle and terminates with a conical roof.

The cost, exclusive of site, will be about £9,000, and the following is a list of the contractors:—Mason work, A. & J. Stewart, Crieff; joiner work, Morrison & Bremner, Dundee; iron work, Stirton and Gibson, Dundee; slater work, Andrew Butter, Coupar Angus; plaster work, D. McBeth & Son, Dundee; plumber work, A. Milne, Forfar; gas fittings, J. Milne & Son, Edinburgh; heating, Robt. Ritchie & Son, Edinlurgh; Clerk of Works, Mr. John Ross.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone was performed with due Masonic honours. The members of the Grand Lodge and the Masters and Wardens of Daughter Lodges assembled in the Sheriff Court Buildings at half-past twelve o'clock, when the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form. The brethren in general assembled at the Market Muir, Forfar. The Grand Lodge having been adjourned, the members put themselves under the immediate direction of the Grand Directors of Ceremonies, and the other brethren were arranged by the Grand Marshals according to the seniority of their lodges on the roll, under the superintendence of the masters and office-bearers of their respective lodges.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland was represented by the following brethren:—The Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., M.W.G.M. of Scotland; Bros. Dr. R. Beveridge, Prov. G.M. of Aberdeen, Acting Deputy G.M.; Colonel Kinloch, of Kilrie, Past Substitute G.M.; W. Mann, S.G.W.; W. Officer,

J.G.W.; W. A. Laurie, W.S., G. Sec.; Wardrop, G. Architect; W. Mann, G.S.B.; A. Hay, G.J.; Dr. G. Dickson, S.G.D.; F. L. Law, J.G.D.; John Coghill, Chief G. Marshall; John Laurie, G. Marshall; W. M. Bryce, G. Tyler; H. R. Kay, President Board of G. Stewards; C. Mackenzie, J. MacDuff, P. Swinton, J. Bryce, James Reid, John Reid, G. Stewards. The brethren then, by way of Castle-street, proceeded to the Court House, headed by the Forfar Rifle band.

The following lodges were represented:—Lodge of Edinburgh, 1; Scoon and Perth, 2; Montrose Kilwinning, 15; St. Michael, Crieff, 38; St. Thomas, Arbroath, 40; Operative, Dundee, 47; Ancient Dundee, 49; St. Ninian, Brechin, 66; St. Andrew, Perth, 74; St. David, Dundee, 78; Forfar, Kilwinning, 90; St. Nicholas, Aberdeen, 93; Glamis, 99; St. John Operative, Coupar Angus, 105; Royal Arch, Perth, 122; St. James, Brechin, 123; Incorporated Kilwinning, Montrose, 182; St. George, Aberdeen, 190; Forfar and Kincardine, Dundee, 225; Caledonian, Dundee, 254; Airley, Kirriemuir, 286; Panmure, Arbroath, 299; Camperdown, Dundee, 317; Lour, Forfar, 309; Neptune, Aberdeen, 375; Minto, Lochgelly, 385; Rifle, Edinburgh, 405; Albert, Lochee, 448; Broughty Castle, 486.

On arriving at the Court-House, the daughter lodges drew up, and made way for the members of the Grand Lodge, which, as usual, brought up the rear of the procession. The members of the Grand Lodge, together with the brethren of the daughter lodges, afterwards proceeded to the north-east corner of the building, where preparations had been made for the ceremony of laying the stone. Among the noblemen and gentlemen on the platform were—Lords Dalhousie, Strathmore, and Airlie; Sir George Ramsay, of Bamff; Mr. Powrie, of Reswallie; Provost Mitchell, Montrose; Provost Yeaman, Dundee; Mr. George Webster; Mr. Leng, of the *Dundee Advertiser*; Mr. Patterson, of Kinnettles; Rev. Dr. Taylor. Miss Young occupied a seat beside her uncle, the Earl of Dalhousie.

Dr. Taylor, Prov. G. Chap., having offered a solemn prayer, the G.M. called upon the various officials to perform their several duties, and during the time the stone was being lowered the band played the Old Hundred. This done, the corn and wine and oil were poured on the stone. In the cavity of the lower stone were deposited two bottles containing the valuation roll for the county (the last printed copy), the valued rent roll, the register of voters, copies of all the county newspapers, Rodgers' Almanac, roll of the public officials in Forfarshire, including the contractors for the works, as well as all the current coins from half a farthing up to a sovereign. Over the cavity was a plate bearing an inscription in the following terms:—

"The foundation-stone of the Court-Houses was laid on the 5th day of August, 1869, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., &c., Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland. John Whyte, Esq., Provost; Brown and Wardrop, architects, Edinburgh."

After the usual forms had been executed, the band struck up "The Merry Masons."

Lord Dalhousie then said—My Lords and Gentlemen of the County of Forfar, and all here present,—I have now to announce to you that, according to your request, I, as Grand Master Mason of Scotland, have laid the corner stone of this edifice. The edifice upon which we have just been employed as Masons is one that is intended to be the seat of justice in this county. It is not before such a building was wanted that this has been provided out of the county funds; and I most earnestly pray that the purpose for which it is intended may be fully and faithfully carried out within its walls—that here justice may be administered in all its purity, truth may be spoken in all its sincerity, and that the judgments which shall be delivered upon cases within these walls and from the bench may command the respect of all on account of their impartiality and correctness. Brethren, when this building is finished it will be an ornament to this ancient burgh, and the county may take some pride in having contributed its part to fill up a vacuum where such a building was much wanted. But, my lords and gentlemen of the county, and for the county meetings, at which business of the greatest importance is carried on—I say that your duty will not be carried out to its full extent if you do not add to this building accommodation for yourselves. And, moreover, supposing—as I hope it is not improbable—that we in the county wish to pay due respect to the fair sex of the county; I say it is right and proper that we should have a building to which we can invite them with decorum and propriety, and entertain them as the county ought to entertain ladies. And now, brethren, having said this much, I will not detain you

longer, except to utter a most fervent prayer that in the conduct of this building no accident may occur to life or limb, and that all may be finished as satisfactorily in the conclusion as the commencement has been satisfactorily this day.

This concluded the ceremony at the Court-Houses.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW HALL.

Bro. Reid's Hall is being erected at the north end of the town, not far from the new court-house, and is to be somewhat similar in style. The windows and door openings, however, are to have pointed arches. Circular turrets are to be placed at the upper angles of the front gable, and along the side walls bold projecting buttresses. An ornamental oriel window is to be corbelled out from the upper part of the west gable, and on the front towards the street the arms of the town are to be boldly carved. The hall is to be seated for 1,200 persons, and measures about 100ft. by 55ft., and from the floor to the ceiling, which is arched, 35ft. It is to be lighted by windows at the sides and end, and also from the roof. At one end of the hall there is to be a gallery, and at the other a raised platform and recess for an organ. Beyond the Hall are retiring, or cloak rooms, over which is a large supper room, with pantry and other accommodation. Several doors of exit have been provided for all, being made to slide, and of large dimensions. The apartments are to be warmed by means of hot water pipes, and artificial lighting is to be effected by star-light pendants. No expense seems to be spared by the liberal donor to make the building comfortable as well as ornamental, and we understand the cost will be nearly £4000.

When the various officials had arrived on the platform, Bro. Reid presented Lord Dalhousie with a handsome silver trowel. It bore the following inscription:—

"Presented to the Honourable the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland, on the occasion of his services of laying the foundation-stone of the Public Hall in Forfar, 5th August, 1869. Presented by Peter Reid, jun., confectioner, donor of the hall."

It was furnished by Mr. Marshall, Princes-street, Edinburgh.

Bro. Reid in making the presentation, said—Most Worshipful Grand Master,—I have the honour of presenting you with this trowel, to be used by you at the interesting and solemn ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a public hall for the benefit of the population of the Royal Burgh of Forfar. You have been invited by our worthy Provost to come and do this work, and in the most worthy and courteous manner you have responded to his call by appearing among us to honour us with your presence and services, which, I know, will be duly and gratefully acknowledged. On my own account, I venture to ask your acceptance of the trowel as a small token of my regard and gratitude. May I hope it will occasionally turn up to view among your other cabinet stores, to remind you of a happy day spent in a good work in your own county town.

Lord Dalhousie, in thanking Bro. Reid, said—I accept with great gratitude this very handsome trowel which you have presented to me, in order to complete a work which does honour to yourself and reflects credit upon the town in which you have been born and brought up. I can say no more at present than that I shall endeavour to use this in the manner in which you wish, and lay the foundation of the building, which I trust will redound to your credit, and be most useful in this ancient burgh.

The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone was commenced by Dr. Taylor offering up another prayer, and the usual formula was gone through. In the cavity of the stone were placed two glass globes, containing in addition to copies of the different newspapers printed in the county, various documents, and a certified copy of Bro. Reid's letter to the Provost, dated 11th Feb., 1869, gifting the hall, and copy of minute of the council, and articles and conditions of roup by the Magistrates and Council of the piece of ground at a penny of feu-duty on which the hall is built, with copy of the minute of enactment of Mr. Reid as purchaser for the purpose of building the hall—the foundation of the hall up to the level of the street being built by the magistrates and council; also a list of the contractors, the current coin of the realm, a tin case containing a packet of the celebrated rock made by the donor, Mr. Reid, and a song composed by Mr. Colin Sierrwright, Forfar, in honour of the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the hall, and sung for the first time at the banquet at the close of the ceremony. There was likewise

the following inscription on parchment narrating the ceremony:—

AT FORFAR,
In the Thirty-third Year of the Reign of Queen Victoria,
and
On the Fifth Day of the Month of August, of the Christian Era,
Eight Hundred and Sixty-nine,
And of the Masonic Epoch Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-nine,
THE FOUNDATION STONE
OF
THE NEW PUBLIC HALL,
Situated in the Brechin Road, Presented to the Burgh of Forfar
BY
PETER REID, Confectioner,
Was laid with Masonic Honours

BY
The Right Honourable the Earl of DALHOUSIE, K.T., K.C.B., &c.,
Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland,
Assisted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Provincial Lodge of Forfarshire, and by Deputations from numerous Daughter Lodges of this and other Provinces,
In presence of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, Clergy, Trades and other Societies, Forfar Volunteer Rifle Corps, the Workers in the Linen Factories of the Burgh, &c., and a large assembly of the Inhabitants of the Town and County.

In the top of the cavity was placed a plate bearing the following inscription:—

"The foundation-stone of this hall was laid on the 5th day of August, 1869, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland. John Whyte, Esq., Provost. Brown and Wardrop, architects, Edinburgh."

At the conclusion of the ceremony,

Lord Dalhousie spoke as follows:—Provost Whyte, Magistrates, Council, and inhabitants of Forfar—It is usual, upon an occasion of this kind, for the Master Mason who lays a foundation stone to address you upon the purposes for which the building is intended to be erected; but in the present state of the weather, and seeing that we shall have another opportunity of speaking upon this subject shortly, I intend to be very brief. I cannot, however, avoid addressing those who may not have the privilege of attending the banquet to be given by the magistrates—I cannot, I say, avoid addressing a few words to them in congratulation on the event which has taken place to-day in this ancient burgh. It is pleasing, my friends, at all times to see erected for the benefit of the middle classes, and of the operative classes, institutions such as these; but when we see these institutions the gift of an individual whose fortune has been made amongst you, who has been brought up and reared in your own locality, and who generously applies the gifts which God has given him for the benefit of his fellow citizens, it is indeed a proud scene to witness—a proud ceremony to assist at. In an humble profession our friend Mr. Peter Reid commenced his career in this town, and he has realized a fortune, which has not only given him very great satisfaction in rearing, but has distributed the sweets of life in which he has dealt; and we may say that no foundation could be more secure than that which is founded on a rock. It is the rock of Forfar. And so, my friends, let us be grateful to our friend Mr. Reid for this splendid donation. I have just been engaged in another ceremony—laying the corner-stone of that which is hereafter to be a place where justice is to be administered. Let me hope that this institution, of which we have now laid the foundation stone, may from time to time diminish the work in the place above, by spreading amongst the community such intellectual cultivation, such a knowledge of morals, and, coupled with the exertions of our clergy, such a general knowledge of those principles as shall rear the inhabitants of Forfar in virtue and all good principles, and rob that place up there of a great many of its inhabitants. Ladies and gentlemen, I will now close the operations in which I have just been engaged, thanking Mr. Reid for having given me, as Grand Master Mason for Scotland, the opportunity of bearing my hand in so important and so benevolent a labour; and I will dismiss the brethren all now, to meet again in the Grand Lodge, in the Sheriff Court Buildings, where I will then close the lodge with all due ceremonies. Brethren, before we go, I beg to ask you to join me in three cheers for the Queen.

Three cheers were then given in a ringing manner.

Lord Dalhousie—Brethren I will now, before Bro. Peter Reid makes a few observations in return for those I have just made, with the view of inciting him onward, give three cheers for Bro. Peter Reid.

Three cheers were also given with great enthusiasm.

Bro. P. Reid then stepped forward amid great applause, and said:—Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Mason, and fellow-townsmen,—I beg to return you my most sincere thanks for the gracious reception you have given me, and now that you have witnessed the completion of this imposing and solemn ceremony, I hope the work will be carried on with vigour, and that there will be no unnecessary delay in its erection; but that on the contrary, we will soon be in possession, and have many happy hours within its walls. I must also congratulate you on the magnificent demonstration you have made to honour the occasion. The like, perhaps, has seldom, if ever, been equalled here—testifying as it does, to such a deep and general approval of my work among you. I again thank you for all your kind countenance and support. Hoping that you may spend the remainder of the day in joy and rejoicing over this day's proceedings, and with many happy anticipations, I now bid you adieu.

The procession, having been re-formed, then marched to the Court House buildings, and afterwards dispersed.

A banquet was subsequently held at the town hall.—*Dundee Advertiser.*

MASONIC PRESENTATION AT THE WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

(Communicated by LUPUS.)

THE ANCIENT CRAFT.

A curious old Craft is the Freemason's, with its quaint legends, its noble instances of rescue from difficulties and from death, and its grand charities which absorb the great revenues of the time-honoured fraternity. What speculations have been wasted upon the weighty secret of the Mason since the time of the Roman occupation, to say nothing of the period of his older, but perhaps apocryphal, tradition; all the same speculations ending in the firm belief that he has no secret at all! What books, too, have been written, published, and bought, showing to all comers the full, true, and particular words, signs, and tokens by which to know a Mason!

If the early traditions of the craft be apocryphal, there can be no doubt that its existence as a guild is of very respectable antiquity. In 1827 a fragmentary sculpture (now preserved at Goodwood Park) was found at Chichester, which, on being pieced, was found to bear a votive inscription, in which the College of Masons dedicate a temple to Neptune and Minerva for the safety of the family of Claudius Caesar. Another Roman sculpture has been discovered which bears the Masonic emblems, and which probably ornamented the lintel of a lodge-room. The first Master Mason whose works are extant in England and his name authenticated is William of Sens, who was assisted and succeeded by William the Englishman in the completion of the choir of Canterbury Cathedral in the year 1179. Not far from this date we learn, from a Cottonian MS., that the Master-Mason William Anglus completed important restorations at Canterbury Cathedral. In the 13th century Adam de Glapham and Patric de Carlile, "magister cœmentariorum et carpentariorum cum septem sociis," were employed to build Caernarvon Castle. In 1292 Henricus de Ellerton is called "magister operum," and in the same century Michael de Cantuariâ, "cœmentarius," is employed upon St. Stephen's Chapel. In 1306 Richard de Stowe was the Master-Mason of Lincoln Cathedral, and Nicholas Walton was "magister-carpentarius." From 1300 to 1319 Henry Latomus is found employed on Evesham Abbey. Henry de Yeveley, who was buried in the church of St. Magnus, near London bridge, is designated as "Freemason to Edward III., Richard II., and Henry IV." In the reign of Richard II. "Master Yeveley" was chief Mason of the new work then in progress at the church of Westminster, and received for his fee 100s. a year, with 15s for his dress and furs. An indenture dated 1st April, 1395, is still extant which contains Yeveley's contract for erecting the "tomb of fine marble" still in Westminster Abbey, which was then undertaken to commemorate the reigning Sovereign and his Queen, Anne, daughter of the Emperor of Germany, then recently deceased. The indenture is made between the King on the one part and Henri Yeveley and Stephen Lote, citizens and Masons, on the other. Yeveley's will is dated 25th

May, 1 Henry IV., and Stephen Lote was an executor. Yeveley died in 1400. William of Wykeham was "magister operum" at Windsor Castle in the reign of Edward III. In the compotos of payments, in 1429, of the Cathedral of Canterbury, the names of the masters, warden, and Masons are all recited. In 1444 John Wastell and Henry Semerk were Master-Masons of King's College. In 1480 and in 1499 Edward Seamer or Semerk was Master-Mason of St. George's Chapel, Windsor; wages one shilling a day. From 1500 to 1506 John Cole was Master-Mason at the tower and spire of Louth, Lincolnshire. These instances, collected from authentic records, could be multiplied to a considerable extent if space could be afforded for the detail.

The execution of the plan of George Heriot's Hospital, in Edinburgh, was superintended by various "master masons." William Wallace was first appointed to this office, and on the 3rd of August, 1620, the treasurer is ordered to pay him "for his bygone paynis and extraordinarie service done in ye frame and building of said wark the sum of £100 scottis, and in time to come as he deserves promis to consider him." He was succeeded by John Mylne, from whose monument in Greyfriars Church we learn that he was the sixth royal master-mason by descent, from father to son, to seven successive Kings of Scotland.

In 1684 at the Warwick Quarter Sessions, the rate of wages is ordered: "Freemason 1s. 4d. without board, 5d. with; penalty for taking above this rate, twenty-one days' imprisonment."

The statute-book of England bears testimony to the existence of the Craft in early times, as the following instances will testify:—By the 34 Edw. III., cap. 9, it is enacted—"That all alliances and covines of masons and carpenters, and congregations and chapters, ordinances and oathes betwixt them made, shall be from henceforth void and wholly annulled." The 3 Henry VI., cap. 1, declares, "that such chapters and congregations shall not be from henceforth holden;" offenders were adjudged to be felons, "and that all the other masons that come to such chapters and congregations be punished by imprisonment of their body, and make fine and ransom at the King's will." After this we find the Craft apparently viewed with more favour, for by 2 Edward VI., cap. 15, it is provided, "That no person or persons shall at any time after the first day of April next coming, interrupt, denie, let or disturbe any free-mason," &c.

Two principal colleges were formed at Strasbourg and Cologne by the master-masons of those grand Cathedrals, and regulations were formed which were religiously preserved under the strong sanction of good faith and secrecy. Of these ancient brethren we find shadowy trace in the legend of Strasbourg Cathedral.

We however must not gossip too long, nor indulge our archaeological proclivities too freely, or we shall have no room for the Freemasons of Worcestershire.

Although no traces remain in the English lodges of the operative period of the guild, still the members of the venerable Craft in the fair province of Worcestershire do not neglect the objects which called their skilled fraternity into existence. Upon the death of the much respected P.M., Bro. Joseph Bennett, in 1862, the two Worcester lodges testified their regard for his memory, and their desire for the adornment of their noble cathedral, by the erection of the beautiful window which may now be seen between the baptistry and the north transept.

The cost has been about £600, which has been subscribed by the Masons of the province. On Tuesday afternoon, the 10th inst., it was formally presented to the Dean and Chapter by Bro. Royds, Prov. G.M., in the presence of a large number of Freemasons, who had assembled from the various lodges in the district in compliance with a notice which had been sent by the Prov. G. Sec. At two o'clock the members of the several lodges assembled at the Chapter-house, which had been kindly placed at their disposal by the Dean and Chapter, and there the brethren assumed their Masonic costume. At half-past two o'clock the doors of the Chapter-house were closed to all but the initiated, and a Prov. G. Lodge was opened, the following brethren being present:—The R.W. Bro. Royds, Prov. G.M.; W. Bro. J. Barber, M.A., D. Prov. G.M.; Bros. E. Giles, W. Masfield, S. Smith, W. H. Jones, W. Woods, L. H. Kenwick, the Rev. H. Richardson, H. Wilson, G. T. Bloomer, W. Smith, Henry Agar, W. Wink, the Rev. C. G. Ridgway, E. T. Wright, M. Smart, J. W. Stone, R. T. Baker, J. Everal; W. Lea Smith,

C. D. Faulkner, T. Hobbs, R. L. Campbell, D. A. Cooper, C. H. Bayley, W. Bristow, R. Woof, S. M. Beale, W. Meredith, the Rev. R. Cattley, W. Webb, the Rev. R. Sanders, W. Underwood, G. Parsons, E. L. Harrison, G. W. Grosvenor, W. T. Adcock, M. Dennison, W. L. Fauzett, A. T. Hancock, W. Cobley, W. Holland, T. M. Hopkins, L. Nicholas, R. Smith, S. Corkran, J. T. Bennett, D. Kendall, T. Groves, R. T. Horley, A. Brown, F. N. Gosling, E. Watton, W. Caldicott, J. Fitzgerald, T. E. Lucy, H. Cross, J. H. Lucy, E. Turner, W. W. Lavers, W. Done, W. Woods, T. Troman, B. Brooks, C. C. W. Griffiths, T. Baxter, C. F. Pideock, — Blundell, J. Newton, S. Baldwin, and E. S. Wilson, late of the Union Lodge (No. 389), Carlisle.

At the conclusion of the Prov. G. Lodge, the Very Rev. the Dean was introduced to the Masonic body assembled, when a procession was formed to the Cathedral in the following order:—The Very Rev. the Dean, the Rev. Canon Wood, and the Rev. Canon Wynter; the Revs. R. Sanders, R. Cattley, and W. Rayson; the lay clerks and choristers; the Prov. G.M., D. Prov. G.M., P. Prov. G. Officers, S.W., J.W., Chap., Treas., Reg., Sec., S.D., J.D., Supt. of Works, Dir. of Cers., Sword Bearer, Org., Stewards, brethren of lodges.

The usual afternoon services was performed in the Lady Chapel, the officiating clergymen being the Rev. R. Cattley and the Rev. W. Rayson. The anthem was taken from the 133rd Psalm, "Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." At the conclusion of the service the lodge proceeded to the transept, accompanied by the clergy, when the following ceremony took place:—

Prov. G. Master: Worshipful Deputy, why are we here?

D. Prov. G. Master: With deference we assemble on this sacred spot by our humble means to add ornament to a building dedicated to the worship of the Most High.

Prov. G. Master: How do you thus intend to act?

D. Prov. G. Master: Funds having been raised in our province we have devoted them, we trust, to a good purpose; our Treasurer attends, and can account.

Prov. G. Master: Worshipful Treasurer, you have had funds entrusted to your care, what are they?

Treasurer: Enough to answer a good purpose.

Prov. G. Master: Have you them in hand?

Treasurer: No, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, it is no part of a Mason's duty to hold funds if he knows where and how he can well employ them.

Prov. G.M.: What do you produce?

Treasurer: A document, which, with your permission, I will hand to our Prov. G. Sec.

Prov. G.M.: Prov. G. Sec., you have my commands to read the document.

The Prov. G. Sec. read a formal receipt for the cost of the window.

Prov. G.M.: Let it be deposited in the archives of our Provincial Grand Lodge. Brethren of this province, this window is now ours. Prov. J.G.W., what are your wishes?

Prov. J.G.W.: Prosperity to our Order.

Prov. G.M.: Prov. S.G.W., your wishes?

Prov. S.G.W.: That the light of heaven may fall upon our handywork.

Prov. G.M.: Brethren, little remains for us to do. The noble pile, designed and built by members of our Order in ages past, finds us a place to add our mite. Long may it be an ornament to this house, dedicated to the worship of the Most High. Very Rev. Mr. Dean and Canons of this Cathedral: As a Mason, and as the head of the Masons of this province, I am this day called upon to execute a proud and loyal duty. It is to present to you and your Canons this humble gift of the Masons in this province. Long may you and your officers be spared to see it; and when you look upon it perhaps you may be inclined to say, "O, wonderful Masons!"

The Very Rev. the Dean, who spoke with considerable emotion, said: I think myself, and my opinion has been confirmed by the advice of those on whose judgment and experience I place the greatest reliance, that I shall not desecrate this holy edifice or transgress the bounds of duty and decorum if in accepting this noble and beautiful gift I offer you a few remarks, which I should not have done had it not been inscribed with this motto, not only "for the adornment of this cathedral," but "to the glory of our God." I stand here to-day to discharge a threefold duty,—I have to thank you on the part of myself and the canons of this cathedral church for your munificent and beautiful contribution. I beg to thank you as the chairman of the Restoration Committee for this addition to our building;

and as an incumbent of this diocese I have also to thank you for the interest you have shown in the chief parish church of this diocese; for it is a great mistake to suppose that the cathedral belongs exclusively to the Dean and Chapter. It belongs to every person in the diocese, although we are appointed its guardians and custodians, and bound under the most solemn oath to advance its glory and its stability. But you have not been unmindful of the responsibility which has been thrown upon you. Independently of those contributions which enabled us to carry on our work, we have had several gifts from private individuals, which will be looked upon hereafter with the greatest admiration and interest. The site which you have chosen for your window is, I think a most happy selection. It is placed far above the power of any casual accident, and it will throw its sober light on the principal monument of our cathedral which the chisel of Ronbillac has sculptured to the memory of that great champion of truth and Protestantism, Bishop Hough. I cannot, gentlemen, claim to be a member of your fraternity, but in one respect I do feel that I am entitled to claim kindred with you. In the second lesson for this evening's service we heard the apostolical admonition, "Let brotherly love continue," and though I cannot claim the proud privilege of being a member of your Craft, I can claim that I am associated with you in most earnest endeavours, which have been continued through a life now extended beyond the usual duration of human existence, in my earnest, anxious, prayerful, endeavours to promote "Peace on earth, and good-will to men." That you may each of you continue in the exercise of those good works for which you are so distinguished, may God in his infinite mercy grant! You may go to your homes assured that the present Dean and Chapter will guard your beautiful gift with the greatest care; and when they are laid in the grave they will hand it over to their successors, who will not be less careful of it, and who will point out to succeeding generations, this splendid token of your liberality, piety, and love.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the brethren returned to the Chapter-house in procession, when lodge was closed and the outward signs of the order disappeared. Subsequently they assembled at the Crown Hotel, when about 40 brethren sat down to an excellent banquet (served in the most admirable manner by Bro. Fuggle) under the presidency of the Prov. G.M. The toasts of "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal Family;" "The Grand Master of Freemasons, the Earl of Zetland;" "The Deputy G.M., the Earl de Grey and Ripon;" "The Prov. Grand Master, the R.W. Bro. Roys;" "The Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. John Barber;" "The Visitors;" "The Provincial Officers past and present;" "The Dean and Chapter of Worcester;" Messrs. Lavers, Barraud, and Westlake, the artists of the window;" "The Grand Secretary" "Grand Treasurer;" "To all poor and distressed Masons;" "The Host of the day." The brethren separated at an early hour, unanimously gratified with the proceedings of the day; and thus ended a meeting of which the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire may long be proud.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE MASONIC HALL, CARLETON, NEW BRUNSWICK.

The corner stone of the Masonic Hall at Carleton, was laid on July 30th. It was feared by many that the turn-out would not be as large as desirable, but as the hour of two approached it was evident by the large number of well dressed gentlemen moving along the streets in the direction of Ritchie's building that these fears were groundless.

At half past two the city band, under the direction and leadership of Mr. Landry, arrived in front of the building, and almost immediately after the members of the fraternity filed out in full regalia, with banners flying, and formed into a line of procession, under the guidance of Bro. James A. Harding, Sheriff of St. John, Grand Marshal, in the following order:—1. New Brunswick Lodge; 2. Leinster Lodge; 3. Union Lodge of Portland; 4. Hibernia Lodge; 5. St. John's Lodge; 6. Albion Lodge; 7. New Brunswick Chapter; 8. Carleton Chapter; 9. The Union De Molay Encampment of Knights Templar; 10. Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, escorted by 11. The St. John Encampment of Knights Templar.

St. John has seen many Masonic processions, and some composed of larger numbers than that of yesterday, but never any to compare with it in point of display. The regalia of the Blue Lodges, and even the bright crimson sashes, and crimson bordered aprons of New Brunswick Chapter, or the red and blue diamond sashes, &c., of the Carleton Chapter were not unfamiliar, but the brilliant, not to say superb appearance of the Union De Molay Encampment, in their long flowing robes of white, their crimson velvet head gear, and their golden bilted swords, and the green sashes over black, plumed hats (from the establishment of C. & E. Everett), and gilded tipped lances of the St. John Encampment, were quite new and striking in this city.

In glancing over the line at various points as it marched past, we could not but remark the fine, manly forms and handsome, intelligent faces of the vast majority of those connected with the Order. Evidently the bulk of the good looking men of St. John belong to the Craft, a fact which the young ladies will not fail to take note of. Indeed, it is seldom that so many really fine looking men can be got together as were to be seen in the line of the procession yesterday.

Moving along Canterbury-street till all had filed out of Ritchie's Building, the word was given, and three hundred and forty men with waving banners, pennons and streamers, in rich regalia and carrying their various emblems, marched down King and Prince William-streets, with the sounds of martial music, to and upon the ferry boat. The streets and windows of the houses on the line were crowded with well dressed ladies and gentlemen, all anxious to obtain as good a view as possible.

On the Carleton side the procession was received by the members of Carleton Union Lodge, who fell in with the ranks, and then the line of march was up Rodney and King-streets and through Charlotte-street to the site of the hall, the foundation stone of which has been laid. The position is a very eligible one, being on the side of the hill with a good outlook, and from a glance of the plans we judge the building will present a very fine appearance. Flags floated from the tops of poles and flag-staffs all round the building, and the outside platform was crowded with ladies, who appeared quite anxious to witness the mystic ceremonies. The Grand Lodge, accompanied by the chapters and encampments, passed inside the basement walls upon an inner platform, and the Blue Lodges filed outside and congregated about the south-east corner where the stone—a fine freestone block—hung suspended from a derrick ready to be dropped into its place.

All being in readiness the G. Org. Professor Card, and a picked choir of ladies, sang the Opening Ode "Hail Masonry divine," to the air of the "National Anthem," the fraternity, and indeed, some who were not, joining in and making a fine burst of harmony. Three verses were sung and then Bro. Richard N. Knight, W.M., of Carleton Union Lodge, stepped forward and presented to Bro. B. L. Peters, the M.W.G.M., a handsome silver trowel with the request that he would lay the corner stone with the usual ceremonies.

The trowel, heart-shaped, was of solid silver, weighing five ounces. It was set into a handle of imitation satin wood, and was a finely executed piece of work from the house of Messrs. A. & J. Hay, silversmiths, King-street. It bore the following inscription, beautifully engraved by Mr. James Venning, of Germain-street:—"B. Lester Peters, Esq., Grand Master of New Brunswick. Presented by Carleton Union Lodge, No. 8, F. & A. M., at the laying of the corner stone of the Masonic Hall, Carleton, July 1869."

The M.W.G.M. in accepting the trowel replied to the W.M. of Union Lodge that he should be very pleased to do as he wished, and to that end had summoned the Craft, that they might assist him in the work with all the ancient and honourable ceremonies.

The Grand Master then called upon the G. Treas., Bro.

W. H. A. Keans, M.P.P. for the city of St. John, to read the scroll to be deposited in the aperture of the stone with the jewels, which was as follows:—

"By the favour of Almighty God. On the thirtieth day of July, A.D. 1869, A.L. 5869, and in the thirty-third year of the reign of Our Most Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, the corner stone of this Masonic Hall was laid by Benjamin Lester Peters, Esquire, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of New Brunswick, attended and assisted by the Grand Lodge and various lodges and brethren of this jurisdiction, in accordance with the ancient usages of Freemasonry, which may God prosper. Building Committee:—Bros: Richard N. Knight, Chairman; Charles Ketchum, Edwin J. Wetmore, John V. Ellis, Henry Leonard, Jarvis Wilson, George H. Clarke, and William J. McCordock. Trustees of the land for Carleton Union Lodge:—Richard N. Knight, Edwin J. Wetmore, and George H. Clarke. Architect:—John A. Munro.

"Carleton Union Lodge (No. 767), was founded by warrant granted by the Grand Lodge of England, dated 21st March, A.D. 1846, and the officers were installed on the 24th June of the same year. John S. Clark was the first Worshipful Master. On the re-numbering of the lodges in 1863, it received the No. 524. In September, 1867, it united with other lodges in the province in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, and received its warrant as No. 8, dated A.D. 1868.

"The Officers of the Lodge at the present time are:—

"Bros. Richard N. Knight, W.M.; George H. Clarke, S.W.; John N. Moore, J.W.; Jarvis Wilson, Treas.; Charles Ketchum, P.M., Sec.; James A. Clark, S.D.; John Thompson, J.D.; Henry S. Clark, S.S.; Daniel Mullin, J.S.; Benjamin Tippet, Jr., I.G.; James S. Eagles, Tyler; William J. McCordock, M.C.; Henry Card, Org., Carleton, St. John, N.B."

This scroll was beautifully engrossed on parchment, enclosed in a tin box and, together with copies of all the city newspapers of the day previous, and samples of the silver and copper coinage of the Province, was deposited in the stone.

The G.M. and his assistants then laid a bed of cement upon the lower stone, and called upon the Grand Chap., Rev. Dr. Donald, who invoked the Divine blessing upon the Order, the building, the workmen, and the community, praying that spiritual graces might adorn the lives of the people, and that they might live in peace, contentment, and happiness. At the close the stone was slowly lowered into its place, whilst the following hymn was being sung with choir and organ accompaniment to the grand Old Hundredth tune:—

"Supreme Grand Master! God of Power!
Be with us in this solemn hour!
Smile on our work; our plans approve;
Fill every heart with hope and love.

Let each discordant thought be gone,
And love unite our hearts in one;
May we, in union strong, combine
In work and worship so divine."

The R.W.D.G.M., Bro. W. Wedderburn, then applied the square, and reported that he found it laid true. In like manner the S.G.W., Bro. B. R. Stevenson, M.P.P. for the county of Charlotte, applied the level, and Bro. G. Stickney, of St. Andrews, Acting Junior Grand Warden, applied the plumb and reported all correct. The G.M. then announced that he found the stone proved, it had been well and faithfully laid, and the Craftsmen had done their duty.

Silver vessels were next brought forward and their contents scattered or poured upon the stone, the Grand Master taking them separately and bespeaking the blessings of which they were emblems. The first

vessel contained corn, the emblem of Plenty, and as it was cast upon the stone the brethren sang :

"When once of old, in Israel,
Our early Brethren wrought with toil,
Jehovah's blessing on them fell
In showers of Corn and Wine and Oil."

The next contained wine, the emblem of joy and happiness, and then was sung :

"When there a shrine to Him alone
They built, with worship sin to foil;
On threshold and on Corner-Stone
They poured out Corn and Wine and Oil."

The last contained oil, the emblem of peace and unity, which was poured out with the closing verse of the ceremonial hymn :

"And we have come fraternal bands,
With joy and pride and prosperous spoil,
To honour Him by votive hands
With streams of Corn and Wine and Oil."

The G.M. then offered a prayer that the blessings of Heaven, might descend upon the people of Carleton, upon the workmen, and all engaged on the building that no accident might befall them, that when completed it might be used only for good purposes, and that all present might receive a plentiful supply of the corn of nourishment, the oil of contentment, and the wine of joy.

Then, turning to the architect, Bro. J. A. Munroe, Jr., he said : "To you, Sir, is entrusted the building of this hall, the corner-stone of which we have now laid in due and ancient form. I now place in your hands these plans and working tools with the full confidence that you will carry on the work to a full and successful termination.

The choir then sang the Anthem, "The Earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof."

The ceremony of laying the corner stone being now completed, the procession re-formed in order as before, and marched into Lancaster-street, thence along the road leading round Queen's-square to St. Point, along Union-street and up Rodney-street to the public hall, where a collation was spread by Carleton Union Lodge. After the company had been refreshed by a participation in the good things so handsomely provided, M.W. G. Master B. Leter Peters, rose, and on behalf of the Brethren, Companions and Sir Knights, tendered to the Carleton Union Lodge a hearty expression of thanks, the brethren supporting what he had said by a tremendous round of cheers. The G. Master then made a short but happy speech, in which he adverted to the noble effort of Carleton Union Lodge in erecting a hall for Masonic purposes, and expressed a hope that the example thus worthily set would be followed by lodges in the various rural districts, and especially by the brethren in the city of St. John Proper. He also urged upon the city brethren to bestir themselves at once in the matter of a Temple for their own use, the glory of God, and the honour of the Craft. It was not necessary, he said, that the edifice should be one of such magnificence as to necessitate the expenditure of an immense amount of means; for in such case its erection would be protracted to a period to distant from the present. What the Craft needed was a building in which they might comfortably and conveniently exercise their ancient rites. The Grand Master then in a very felicitous manner thanked the brethren of the Blue Lodges, the Companions of the Chapters of Royal Arch Masons and the Sir Knights of the Encampments for their hearty response to his invitation to be present. Cheers were then given for Carleton Union Lodge and the Grand Master, after which the procession again formed and marched across the square to King-street, down King-street to Union street, along Union-street to Rodney-street, down Rodney-street to the Ferry

Landing, where the steamer was awaiting their arrival.

On reaching the east side of the harbour the procession marched to Prince William-street, along which it passed to Queen-street, up Queen-street to Charlotte-street, along Charlotte to Princess-street, down which it proceeded to Ritchie's-building, where the members of the various lodges, Chapters, and encampments, disrobed and separated for their homes.

The public interest was quite as great on the return as at the start, although the hour was that usually devoted to tea, but the people thronged the streets the whole way and appeared very much pleased at what they saw.

It is well to have to record such a very successful demonstration in every particular, reflecting, as it has, the highest credit upon the order here. We trust it will long continue to flourish and exert a benign influence wherever its power extends.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, MUSIC, DRAMA, AND THE FINE ARTS.

Mr. Morley, the new editor of the *Star*, is engaged on a life of Turgot.

Mr. Ruskin has been appointed Professor of Fine Arts at Oxford University.

Mdlle. Nilsson is engaged to appear at the Grand Opera, Paris, on the first of next year.

Mdme. Demeric-Lablache, the contralto, has signed an engagement for the San-Carlos Theatre at Lisbon.

Miss Fowler has assumed the management of the Charing Cross Theatre, and will shortly bring out *Le Petit Faust*.

Bro. Garden, we believe, has accepted an engagement for three months at the Theatre Royal, Great Yarmouth.

Salvator Cherubini, son of the great composer, himself Inspector of the Fine Arts, died last week at Neuilly, in his sixty-eight year.

Madame Ristori has arrived in Brazil, and received with almost royal honours. Her first appearance was made in the *Medea* of M. Legouvé.

An ingenious Yankee calculates that seven miles of violin strings vibrated at one time during the performance of the Boston Peace Jubilee.

The King of Bavaria has decided to celebrate in future the birthdays of Gluck, Mozart, Beethoven, and Weber by gala performances in the Munich Theatre.

Mdlle. Déjazet has determined to take her farewell of the French stage, which she has graced for so long a period. Her last appearance will be in a play by M. Sardon.

Alexander Dumas will bring out in November his "Dictionnaire de Cuisine," the most prolific novelist of the age being, it is said, likewise the best cook of modern times.

Mr. Alfred Wigan's medical advisers have ordered him to the German waters. Mr. Wigan will return to the Gaiety in October, by which time it is hoped that his health will be completely re-established.

The Marquis and Marquise de Caux are in Homburg, where the Marquise sings for fourteen nights; then for two at Baden; after which she returns to Paris, gives M. Bagier October, and then goes to St. Petersburg.

Bro. Antoine de Kotski, the well-known pianist, intends making a tour through England, Scotland, and Ireland, in company with Bro. Catalani and Mdlle. Luigia Leale, whose names are well known at our great festivals, and several other talented artists. Bro. Antoine de Kotski is the son of the late Grand Master of Poland, and we hope he and the rest of the company will find in their artistique tour the patronage of the lodges of the towns where their concerts are given.

Joachim's salary at the new Berlin Conservatoire is to be 2,000 thalers per annum. He will also have leave of absence to play at concerts, and to fulfil his engagement with Mr. Chappell of playing a week in England for one hundred pounds.

Madame Lucca has obtained from the Emperor of Russia a cancellation of the engagement she had contracted with M. de Guedenoff for two seasons unexpired. Thus she will belong exclusively to the Berlin opera during the winter.

A new series of Sacred Concerts will be inaugurated in Exeter Hall in October. Mdle. Nilsson has been secured as principal soprano, Mdme. Trebellias contralto, and the chorus will be sustained by Mr. Henry Leslie's Festival Choir.

An enthusiastic party of antiquarians lately made a laborious excavation at Ossian's tomb, at Glen Almond (or what is supposed to be the grave of the ancient bard), and were successful in discovering some fragments of—a champagne bottle.—*London Scotsman.*

Dr. Gedge of Caius College, Cambridge, late assistant to Prof. Humphrey, is about to accompany Sir Samuel Baker into Africa as head of the medical staff, as well as to investigate the natural history of the district, and collect specimens for the Viceroy of Egypt.

We learn, through the French Atlantic cable, that the eclipse of the sun on the 7th inst., (invisible here) was observed to great advantage in New York and the States generally. Great darkness prevailed, and in some parts of the west the sun was totally eclipsed. The phenomenon greatly alarmed the black population.

Norwich Musical Festival will open on Monday, the 30th inst. A selection from an unpublished oratorio by Mr. Pierson, "Hezekiah," and a sacred cantata by Mr. Horace Hill, a local composer, are the only novelties. The festival at Worcester commences on the 6th September, when Mr. Arthur Sullivan's new oratorio, "The Prodigal Son," will be produced.

Poetry.

FAITH.

By Mrs. L. A. CZARNECKI, authoress of "Hero of Italy," and other poems, &c., wife of Bro. Czarniecki.

Faith is the strongest shield
That guards us in the strife
Of worldly cares and ills,
Which haunt the path of life.

Faith pours a blessed balm,
Giving a sweet relief
Unto the wounded soul,
And strengthens its belief.

Faith cheers the stricken heart,
O'erflowing it with love
To all our brethren here,
And He who reigns above.

Faith smooths the rugged rocks,
On which we oft are drivon.
It opens wide the gates
Leading up to heaven.

Faith bids us onward go,
Lifts off the earthly load,
Till onward free we stand
Before the throne of God.

LIST OF LODGE, &c., MEETINGS FOR WEEK ENDING 28TH AUGUST, 1869.

(Abbreviations.—F.M.H., Freemasons' Hall; M.H., Masonic Hall; M.T., Masonic Temple; Tav., Tavern; Ho., Hotel; R. Rooms; L., Lodge; St., Street; Sq., Square.)

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS.

Monday, Aug. 23rd.

LODGES.—Tower Hamlets Engineers, George Ho., Aldermanbury; De Grey and Ripon, Angel Ho., Great Ilford.

Tuesday, Aug. 24th.

LODGES.—Industry, F.M.H.; Southern Star, Montpelier Tav., Walworth.

Wednesday, Aug. 25th.

LODGES.—United Pilgrims, Horns Tav., Kennington; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham; Temperance in the East, Private Assembly Rooms, 6, Newby-pl., Poplar.—CHAPTER. Union Waterloo, F.M.H., William-st., Woolwich.

Thursday, Aug. 26th.

Gen. Com. Female School at 4.—CHAPTER.—Canonbury, George Ho., Aldermanbury.

Friday, Aug. 27th.

CHAPTER.—Belgrave, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Sunday, Aug. 22nd.

Joppa, Rose and Crown, Fort-st., Union-st., Bishopsgate.

Monday, Aug. 23rd.

Union Waterloo (for M.M.), King's Arms, Woolwich; Temple, Old George, St. Mary Axe; Justice, Royal Albert, New Cross-road, Deptford; St. James's Union, Swan Tavern, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square; Industry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-st.; Salisbury, 71, Dean-st., Soho; Camden, Adelaide Tav., Haverstock Hill; Westbourne, Running Horse, Duke-st., Grosvenor-sq.; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham.

Tuesday, Aug. 24th.

Strong Man, White Horse, Little Britain; Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich; Faith, Fisher's Restaurant, Metrop. Dis. Railway, Victoria Station; Domestic, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell; Jordan, Alwyne Castle, Canonbury; Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; British Oak, Silver Lion Tav., Pennyfield, Poplar; Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney; Royal Union, Hotel de Cologne, Haymarket, Prince Frederick William, Knights of St. John Tav., St. John's-wood.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Metropolitan, George Hotel, Aldermanbury.

Wednesday, Aug. 25th.

Eastern Star, Royal Ho., Burdett-st., Mile-end-rd.; Confidence, Sugar Loaf, Great St. Helens; Merchant Navy, Silver Tav., Burdett-rd., Limehouse; United Strength, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town; New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton; St. Mark's, Mawby Arms, Mawby-st., S. Lambeth; Peckham, Edinboro', Castle Tav., Peckham Rye; Temperance in the East, George the Fourth, Catherine-street, Poplar.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—St. James's Union, Swan Tav., Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.

Thursday, Aug. 26th.

Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Fitzroy-sq.; Kent, Duke of York, Borough-rd.; Globe, No. 10, Old Bond-st.; United Mariners, Three Cranes, Mile End-rd.; St. John's, Hollybush Tav., Hampstead; Manchester, Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-sq.; Tranquillity, Sugar Loaf Tav., Great St. Helen's, St. Mary Axe; Whittington, Crown Ho., 41, Holborn; Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tav., Deptford; City of London, Shepherd and Flock Tav., Bell-alley, Moorgate-st.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Joppa, Prospect of Whitley Tav., 57, Wapping-wall.

Friday, Aug. 27th.

Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.; St. Luke's, Pier Ho., Chelsea; Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-rd., Deptford; Union's (Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.), Freemasons' Hall; United Pilgrims, Horns' Tav., Kennington; Wellington, Lord Duncan Tav., Broadway, Deptford; Belgrave, Duke of Wellington, Spring-gardens, Charing-cross; St. James's, Gregorian Arms, Jamaica-row, Bermondsey; Lily, Greyhound Ho., Richmond; Doric, Three Cranes, Mile End-rd.; Rose of Denmark, White Hart, Barnes, Surrey; Metropolitan Lo. of Instruction, George Ho., Aldermanbury.

[This information is extracted from the "Universal Masonic Calendar," published at 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, and brethren who may detect any inaccuracies are respectfully requested to communicate the same to the Editor.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

BRO. CZARNECKI will kindly receive orders for advertisements in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, "The Universal Masonic Calendar" and "The Artizan" Engineering Journal.

SEVERAL communications stand over until our next.