

Contents.

	PAGE.
Mysteries and Mysteries—By Reitam	421
Lodge Minutes, &c.—By Bro. W. P. Buchan	422
Freemasonry—Past and Present	423
Masonic Celestial Mysteries—By Bro. Henry Melville	425
How I Spent my Five Weeks' Leave	427
Masonic Jottings—No. 1	429
Masonic Notes and Queries	429
Correspondence	430
Masonic Memos.	432
Grand Lodge	432
CRAFT LODGE MEETINGS:—	
Metropolitan	433
Provincial.....	434
Ireland	436
Royal Arch.....	437
Mark Masonry	437
Literature, Science, and Fine Arts	437
Theatrical and Musical Notes.....	438
“Eastward, ho!”	438
Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution	439
List of Lodge, &c., Meetings for ensuing week	440
To Correspondents	440

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1869.

MYSTERIES AND MYSTERIES.

By REITAM.

In the MAGAZINES of the last few weeks, considerable space has been devoted to the so called “Masonic Celestial Mysteries” of Bro. H. Melville, which are certainly most Pagan and Egyptian in character, and will, I fancy, be all found to be based on *Sabeism*, or the worship of the Sun. We find the Sun worship to be the primal basis of all the worships and mysteries of antiquity, as being to every living thing on earth the most attractive and interesting of the heavenly bodies.

Mankind in an early stage of the world, could see nothing more frightful than the continued absence of this bright luminary, whose presence they considered was the happy influence which revives everything, and hence we find Sun worship at first direct, and then indirect, under symbolical forms, such as the Brahma of the Hindoos, Adonai of the Phœnicians, and Adonis of the Greeks. These are all symbolic representations of that principle of generation and perfection, which perpetuates and regenerates the world. All the legends of the ancients upon which is founded the systems of worship, or mysteries, are based upon the apparent progress of the Sun, which having reached the highest point of altitude in the South, begins figuratively to descend, and is finally overcome by darkness, represented in mythology by the evil principle, and then, when again returning to our hemisphere, he appears as the revived conqueror.

Thus we find the opposition of Typhon to

Osiris, of the Titans to Jupiter, and of Ahrimanes to Ohromaze, in the Persian mysteries.

In the Hindoo mythology, Brahma, the creator, represents the Sun in Spring, Shiva, the destroyer, the Winter Sun, while Vishnu, the preserver, is the ripening Sun of Autumn.

In the Persian worship, the mysteries of Mithras were celebrated in subterranean temples, and were of so terrible a nature that few aspirants survived the ordeal. In this initiation were seven distinct degrees. Mithras, as the Sun-God is represented under the form of a young man with a sword, which he is in the act of plunging into the throat of a bull. This is the Bull of the Zodiac, which sometimes, by the precession of the Equinoxes, has occupied the place of the Ram. In India the Bull is represented opening an egg with his horn, that is the vernal equinox opened in the sign of the Celestial Ram. In Egypt the Bull was called Apis, and the genius of evil, Typhon, was represented as a serpent, and worshipped by the Phœnicians at Tyre, whence the origin of the serpent worship.

I think it will be easy to recognise a similar meaning in the mysteries of the third degree, making H. A. B. to allegorically represent the Sun, as we have a legend exactly the same as the foundation of all primitive worships and mysteries, and carried down to the time of the Romans who celebrated the mysteries of Cybele, in which the slain and revived personage is Atys.

Be this as it may, Bro. Melville is pursuing a most extraordinary course, and one which is as difficult to fathom, as it is to explain his articles, their sense or their object, *Cui bono?* It may be most pertinently enquired. Does Bro. Melville wish to state or to prove the volume of the Sacred Law is a mere allegorical fable and solely points out the old Sabeism or Sun worship, or does he believe that Bull, Apis, of the Egyptians, is the prototype of the English nation?

Bro. Melville makes so many rambling and unconnected statements, that there is no possibility of finding out the mast to which his colours are nailed, and of arguing any *one* point with him.

I am very much inclined to think with Bro. W. P. Buchan, that it is “simply a very foolish attempt to turn the highly poetical and beautifully allegorical, yet simple language of the bible into a confused mass of mystical and pseudo astronomic nonsense.”

However to show Bro. Melville he is not the

only one who can indulge in astrological jargon, I will give him the following problem taken, I need not say, from an infidel point of view, and to my mind the *reductio ad absurdum*.

Like Osiris Mithras or Adonis, Christ came on the earth to destroy death and darkness, and was born at the Winter Solstice, the moment when the sun passes from the inferior to the superior signs.

Now take the sphere of Coronelli and observe what takes place.

On the 25th December, to a minute, the sun is at Capricorn, in the stable of Ægeus, son of the Sun, at the highest meridional point is the *Ass* of Bacchus, and the *Crib* or Manger, behind him is the *Waterbearer* or Cherubim, before him is the *Eagle of Janus* or *St. John*. In the superior hemisphere is the *Bull* and the *Celestial Lion*, in the East, the *Virgin* reposes, holding an infant in her arms, and having her feet supported by a *dragon*.

Near her is *Bootes*, the foster father of Horus, (the son of Osiris and Isis), and near him appears *Janus* with his *key* in his hand as chief of the twelve months. Upon the same line, toward the horizon is the star *Stephen*. *The Lamb* is couching, and in front of him appears the constellation of three stars called by astronomers the *Magi*.

This is the condition in the astronomical cosmogony on the 25th December. In the christian story, at the same moment, Christ is born of a virgin in a *stable*, between an *ox* and an *ass*, he is laid in a *manger*, and an angel appears to announce his birth. Near our Saviour and his Mother, is Joseph his foster father, who was a carpenter. On the next day, is celebrated in the catholic church, the festival of St. Stephen, and on the day after, that of St. John the Evangelist, always represented as accompanied by an eagle. St. Peter, the chief of the twelve Apostle carries the Keys of Heaven, and three kings of the East, or *Magi*. or wise men, bring presents to the new-born King. Now, will Bro. Melville kindly tell me, are not my mysteries as patent, and at the same time, as mysterious as his own.

I shall be glad to be told where my premises are wrong. There *may* be something more in the discoveries (so called) of Bro. Melville, than meets the eye of the uninitiated. There is more in Heaven and Earth, than is dreamt of, in the philosophy of everyday common place existence, and the "Masonic Celestial Mysteries" may

have their place, but I again ask, to what does all this tend? and what does Bro. Melville wish to elucidate? I pause for a reply.

LODGE MINUTES, ETC.—No. 10.

By Bro. W. P. BUCHAN, Grand Steward, Grand Lodge of Scotland.

(Continued from page 405).

FROM THE MINUTES OF GLASGOW ST. MUNGO LODGE (No. 27).

On 2nd Feby., 1794. Three brethren from St. David's Lodge were admitted members of St. Mungo's, "and paid each the usual dues of five shillings stg." The next two meetings are opened with prayer, and Masonic lectures are given.

In 1794. Agreed "that a Master's jewel should be commissioned from Birmingham, the price from £5 5s. to £6 6s."

On 1st May, 1794. At a meeting of the committee "agreed that each person should pay two shillings and sixpence besides his entry money for registraring his name in the Grand Lodge books, and likewise that each member initiated should be passed Fellow Craft the same evening."

On 7th May. "Agreed that the lodge should meet the first Wednesday of every month during the summer season, same as in winter."

On 10th June the Treasurer is ordered "to call upon such persons as were indebted to the lodge, and to require immediate payment; if not paid, to lodge the accts. with Alexr. Park, junr., Writere, to use diligence for recovery of the same."

On 12th June, 1794, a general meeting of the Glasgow Lodges was held. "There was laid before the meeting a letter from Br. Aitkenhead, Master of the Partick St. Mary's, and the Wardens and Secretary of that lodge, relative to the Partick Kilwinning Lodge, the minutes of the Grand Lodge of date the eleventh day of February, 1793, and a letter from John Roberton for the Secretary of the Partick Kilwinning Lodge respecting a dispute betwixt these two lodges.

These papers being read to the meeting, and the members having severally delivered their sentiments, it was resolved that the lodges of this city holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland ought not to hold communication with the Partick Kilwinning Lodge as a body or as individuals of that lodge in respect this meeting is of opinion that

lodges holding of the Kilwinning Lodge are irregular."

It was represented to the meeting by Br. Begg that of late certain persons pretending to derive authority from the Lodges of Dumblane and Lismahagow, had been in the practice of entering Apprentices in this city for these respective lodges, and also of passing Fellow Crafts and raising Master Masons, and that as he conceived these proceedings to be illegal, he had thought it prudent to state them to the meeting.* The members were therefore called upon to deliver their sentiments, which being done, it was resolved unanimously that the procedure of these persons alleging authority from the Dumblane and Lismahagow Lodges appears to this meeting to be illegal, this meeting being of opinion that these lodges had no right or title to delegate authority to any of their members beyond their own bounds. And therefore the meeting resolve to report the said proceedings to the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the end that such regulations and orders may be adopted by that lodge as may seem meet. These minutes are appointed to be reported to the Grand Lodge by Br. Begg, as Master of the senior lodge present, and by Br. Alexander Park, as Secretary elected to this meeting."

ALEXR PARK, Secy. JOHN BEGG, R.W.M.

In August, 1794. "The committee were in general of opinion that as the candidate was blind and could not distinguish colours, that he could not properly be admitted a member."

"The members of this committee were generally of opinion that the attendance they were often called to with respect to the particular business of the lodge as office-bearers, they were of opinion that the funds of the lodge should defray their expense, which should not exceed 4d. each. Agreed accordingly."

On the 29th Septr., 1794, two brethren "from the Operative Lodge of Banff, No. 121, were passed Fellow Craft, and afterwards raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons, having paid half a guinea each to the funds of the lodge, and admitted in consequence thereof full members of this lodge."

The two country lodges above referred to still continuing to make Masons in Glasgow, Br. Begg on the 23rd October, 1794, resolved to go to Edinburgh anent the matter, and shortly after

* The above reminds us of the origin of Cannongate Kilwinning Lodge (No. 2) in Edinburgh in 1677.

comes back with extract of Grand Lodge, which says, "that no lodge holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland has authority to make any members out of their own district under the severest penalty of being erased from the Grand Lodge books."

On the 3rd Dec., 1794, proposed to hold the coming festival in the Buck's Head Inn, when Bro. John Græme said "if the lodge would dine in that place he would take it as a particular favour, and put a guinea in the bottom of the first bowl of punch for the good of the lodge."

(To be continued.)

FREEMASONRY—PAST AND PRESENT.

No. 1.—OPERATIVE AND SPECULATIVE FREEMASONRY BEFORE A.D. 1716.

By Bro. W. J. HUGHAN, Prov. G. Sec. Cornwall.

The last few years will be remarkable, Masonically, for a considerable addition of evidence respecting the character of Freemasonry anterior to the eighteenth century, as likewise for an increase of published records of lodges during that eventful period. While some attempt to deprecate the study of our history, and speculations as to the origin of the fraternity, it seems generally to be admitted by intelligent brethren that the time has arrived for the *facts* of the Craft to be published, for all absurd stories and unhistoric statements to be abolished at once and for ever from our records, and for the history of the Order to be written, according to the laws of *evidence* rather than of fiction.

There are minute books of several lodges still in existence which date long before A.D. 1716, some as far back as the sixteenth century, and others preserved commence only a short while before the "Revival."

All such records that we know of, either from personal examination or published excerpts by competent brethren, decidedly confirm the fact that other candidates were admitted than operative Masons before the last century, although it is not certain that such brethren became officers before the middle of the seventeenth century.

The records of some of these lodges never mention aught of operative Masonry, either as a condition of Membership, or as the basis of organization, while others do. Among the latter class the old lodges are generally to be found, and were mostly instituted as much for the financial benefit of their

members as for the study of architecture, and in all probability very much more. We allude now to such lodges of whose character we may be certain of by the minutes of their proceedings still extant. We are not aware of any lodges before the "Revival" having worked the Master Masons' *degree* in any sense as it has been worked since as a degree. No records before A.D. 1717 mention three distinct and separate degrees, although without doubt such degrees were arranged by brethren well versed in the ancient order, who, while incorporating the old landmarks into the new system, carefully preserved the customs of operative Masonry, and the ceremonies of the lodges before the "Revival," and who, from having been admitted members of the Institution of former years, had a just claim to be considered the legitimate representatives and descendants of the operative Masons of the past, and the originators of that peculiar system of modern Freemasonry which was in fact a development or out growth of mostly operative and partly speculative Masonry of previous centuries.

We may say that the highest authority on the character of old lodge records we know of (Bro. David Murray Lyon) supports these views, and has most intelligently written much on this subject that will be valued so long as operative masonry is believed to be the parent of English Freemasonry.

The history of Freemasonry seems at present bound to be far from complete, although much that is valuable has been collected of late, and most carefully published by Bro. Findel, of Leipzig, who has just completed the second edition of his important work, and proved himself to be the best general Masonic historian of the day.

Since the issue of any trustworthy history of the Craft, the early minutes of the lodge formerly held at Haughfoot, Scotland, have been published in these pages by your contributor, R. S., and although they are mainly in accord with other lodge meetings held about the same period, it is desirable to remember their precise nature. Those preserved commence Dec. 22nd, 1702, when they whispered the word as before and the Master* Mason grips his hand in the ordinary way." Several candidates petitioned "to be admitted into the society of Masons and Fellow Crafts," consist-

* *i.e.*, the President, as with the old lodges at York, Kilwinning, Edinburgh, Banff, &c.

ing of Sir James Scott and others, who on being received were charged such fees as corresponded with their stations in life. No part of the records, which extend over a period of sixty years, exhibit any special connection with operative masonry, (in which respect, this lodge differs from most other old lodges) and its funds were applied for the relief of sick or distressed members and their dependants. *Five* members were allowed to admit qualified persons "to the society of Apprentices and Fellow Crafts," on the 27th Dec. 1704, and for many years subsequently, any infraction of this law was visited with fines. It was also made a rule, A.D. 1707 (27th December) that "ane year at least should intervene betwixt any being admitted Apprentice and his being entered Fellow Craft" "The word" generally describes the ceremony at admission, and is all that is vouchsafed to us of their mode of initiation. These minutes say nothing of *three degrees* according to the trustworthy account of the lodge by your contributor, and as the same can be said of the other records dating long before those of this lodge, we take it that it cannot be established that three *separate and distinct degrees* were worked before A.D. 1716, although that number subsequently contained what was *ancient* as well as what was *modern* of Freemasonry. No records allude to Grand Masters, Grand Lodges, Provincial Grand Lodges, or any such titles or designations before the last century, notwithstanding this fact however, lodges were instituted by several old lodges that virtually exercised a similar authority to that now vested in our Grand Lodges.

Of such the "Mother Lodge Kilwinning" is the most notable example of Masonry. From the 16th century, the "Revival" was chiefly operative, generally promoted for its usefulness either as a benefit society, a means of fraternity, or for purposes immediately connected with the trade of masonry, and was invariably of a simple and unpretentious character.

Bro. Hyde Clarke, a learned Mason, says he knows "little about Masonry, except in its morals, for most of the data have yet to be collected. Until we have facts it is of little use to build up theories." With him we cordially coincide, and in so doing, at once utter the doom of the "Ashmole" and other theories. We are told in "Chamber's Encyclopædia" that modern Freemasonry is an innocent mystification, unconnected either with the building art or with archi-

ture. "Its real founders were Elias Ashmole, and some of his literary friends." (*Vide* letter to Bro. Hughan from Bro. Charles Purton Cooper.) We know of neither records of lodges nor facts of history to confirm this statement, however plausible the theory may appear. The severance of modern Freemasonry from its original operative connections can only tend to destroy the link that binds the present form of Freemasonry with the Masonry of the past, and is in direct opposition to the evidence hitherto accumulated on the subject. The various manuscripts still in existence, extending over a period of four centuries, directly favour—in fact state—the connection of Freemasonry with operative masonry, and certain it is that the brethren who assisted in the change of organization and partly of character, of the Order A.D. 1717, were anxious to avow and prove their descent from their operative parent.

We cannot go over the ground again that we examined in our "Analysis of Ancient and Modern Freemasonry," but when time permits we are always ready to defend our position that the "Ashmole" theory is based upon insufficient evidence, and is opposed to existing documents dating before and since the initiation of Elias Ashmole, 16th October 1646. The *Sir Christopher Wren Theory* is equally untenable, for according to a MS. in the library of the Royal Society, this great architect was not initiated until A.D. 1691, although Dr. Anderson asserts he was appointed a Grand Warden about thirty years before! It seems to us then that facts so far warrant us in assuming that the present system of modern Freemasonry, consisting of Grand Masters, Grand Lodges, and three *degrees*, &c., had its origin in the second decade of the last century, and was a continuation in an improved form of the operative guilds or fraternities of the middle ages, which were descendants of still earlier *secret societies*.

MASONIC CELESTIAL MYSTERIES.

By Bro. HENRY MELVILLE.

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT.

PAPER V.

The celestial claim of Britannia having been adjusted, the grand palladium of Britons—the Magna Charta—deserves consideration and an enquiry as to whether the charter is, or is not, celestially recorded. The document preserved

with such veneration in the British Museum, purporting to be the original Charta signed by John, is a disreputable hoax, because anyone that can read may be convinced that John had nothing to do with the charter, that is, if the laws of England can be relied upon. John is mixed up with Masonic matters. Saint John formerly patronised Masonry; now, the Masons on a certain occasion patronised St. John. (Rev. iii., 20). John's celestial position is in Taurus, and Taurus, as shown, laps on the Gemini, therefore, at 106° is John and the Bull, and there let him remain for the present. To arrive at a fair conclusion respecting Magna Charta, history should be first examined, and then the Charta itself. After doing so, it may become questionable whether the Charta is of celestial application, and whether the history thereof is, or is not, celestial Masonry. Probably "Rastell's Pastime of People," bearing date 1529, may be reckoned as the first historical work that refers to the Charta, but Rastell is no authority. However, he informs us that King John was no saint, on the contrary, for that "he disinherited many men without assent of his lordes or any other counsel, and also would have disinherited the Earl of Chester because he rebuked him of his wickedness, for that he hyled his owne brother's wyfe, and lay by many other great lordes's doughters, and spared no woman that hym lyked." This John and "his lordes met besyde Stanys, at a place called Rumney Mede: and there agreement was made, and a charter made thereupon called Magna Carta: which charter anone after the kyng's brake." (p. 178). Then come authentic historians, such as:

Grafton's chronicle of 1558, but he gives no satisfaction about Magna Charta. He has, however, a graphical version of John's death:—"A monk went secretly into a garden upon the back side, and finding there a most venomous toad, he so pricked him with his penknife that he made him vomit all the poison that was within him. This done, he conveyed it into a cup of wine, and with a smiling and flattering countenance, he said thus to the king. 'If it shall like your princely Majesty, here is such a cup of wine as ye never drank before in all your lifetime. I trust this wassail shall make all England glad,' and with that he drank a great draught, the king pledging him." The monk dies, his intestines gushing out, and then the king dies. (p. 116).

Fabian's Chronicle of 1559, has it, "The King and Lords met with great strength on either side at Beream-downe, where a charter or writing was devised and made, and there sealed by the King, so that the barony was with it, contented and departed in peaceable wise every man into his country." (2nd vol., p. 35).

Holinshed's Chronicles of 1577, tells us that John's

charter was given under his "own hand in the meadow called Kuningsmede, or Rimemed, betwixt Stanes and Windsore," (p. 186); and then he gives an account of John's death somewhat differing from Grafton. The King had an ague, augmented "with his immoderate feeding on raw peaches, and drinking new cider." "He departed this life the night before the 19th day of October, 1216," (p. 194, vol. 3).

Speed's History of Great Britain, of 1611, mentions that John was constrained to comply with Magna Charta and Charta Forestæ, at Runingmead (p. 503).

Stow Annales, dated 1614, quotes Matthew Paris. "The barons called themselves the army of God, whereby such a fear came on the King that he durst not peep out of Windsor Castle, At length he appointed to meet with the barons in a meadow betwixt Stanes and Windsor, which appointment he observed, and there granted the liberties without any difficulty, the charter whereof is dated: Given under our hand in Runningmede, betwixt Stanes and Windsor, the 16th June, the 17th of our reign, unto which all the whole realm was sworn" (p. 172). In the same page, Stow says this year "Fishes of unwonted shape were taken in England, for they were armed with helmets and shields. In outward shape they resembled, and were like unto, armed knights, saving that they were far greater in proportion."

Baker's Chronicle of the Kings of England, a more modern work, 1730, A.D., informs us that King John promised to grant the Lords their demands; and so, in a meadow between Windsor and Stanes, called Runningmead, he freely consented to confirm their former liberties, and was content some grave personages should be chosen to see it performed. But the next day, when it should be done, he gets him gone to Southampton" (p. 71). John then appealed to the Pope, who issued a decree that the grant to the Lords should be void (it was not signed). The Lords did not care a rush for the Pope, who, being so informed, excommunicated them. John thrashes the barons, and within half a year had gotten all their castles as far as the borders of Scotland.

To decide from these historians that John signed Magna Charta, would be taxing too much the credulity of the reader; therefore to the document. The oldest known copy of the statutes of England is a duodecimo work printed in London by Penson, anno 1508. It commences with

Magna Charta, "Edwardus dei gratia," and ends "facto anno nono Henricii tertii." Then follows the Charter of Forests—not a word about John.

Statutes of England, entitled, "Magna Carta in F." (presumed to mean French), "whereunto is added more statutes than ever was printed in any one book before this time, Anno Domini 1539. Magna carta edita anno nono Henrici, 3 et confirmata, ann. 28, Ed. 1." Printed by Robert Redman.

Statutes of England. "The great charta, called in Latin Magna Carta, with divers old statutes." "The great charta made in the 9th year of King Henry the Third, and confirmed by King Edward the First, in the 28th year of his reign. Translated out of the Latin and French into English. This is an octavo, bearing date 1542, and was printed by Elizabeth, widow of Robert Redman.

A quarto volume is "a collection of all the statutes from the beginning of Magna Charta unto the present year of our Lord God 1579, newly translated into English." Magna Charta is indexed as being made by Henry the Third, and it thus begins—"We have granted to God, and by this our present charta have confirmed for us and our heirs for evermore that the Church of England shall be free, and shall have all her whole rights and liberties inviolable." Mag. ch., cap. 1.

There are four duodecimos, about 25 octavos, then come quartos, followed by numerous folios, of the statutes of England; but John has nothing to do with them.

Is Fabian, who published his chronicle in 1559, or is Holenshed of 1577, or Speed of 1611, or Stow of 1614, or Baker of 1730, are they, or is any one of them to be believed in preference to the Charta itself, the publication of which took place 50 years before any one of their chronicles were printed. Yet to imagine that these historians had no foundation for what they wrote would be accusing them all of deliberate falsehood. The question to be answered is, was *their* Magna Charta *our* Magna Charta, or did their Charta apply to the heavens? Our terrestrial Magna Charta has certainly no Masonic celestial interpretation, it being mere record of rules or laws applicable to human affairs. The esoteric version of the celestial Charta is this, the barons including dukes* oblige the Sun King John of 106 to confirm Magna Charta. This confirming implies a pre-existing compact and consequently refers to the lesser Charta of the forest opposite, where Pan dwelt, and where Nimrod and Diana annually went hunting the deer in the Royal domains on Easter Moon-day at 281, and there in Bethshemesh were the planets in conjunction at sunrise in 1186 there at 281 in the white horse Sagittarius by law is the smaller Charta, with a pen, and a cross for signature, and a royal seal, but no John. The celestial tiler Mercury is in Bayer and others pictured with a post-man's bag, into this bag he puts the document and carries it to 106 and there is John, but where is the pen to come from? In those times they had reed pens wherewithal to write. Look at Britannia (Virgo) and in her right hand see how lady-like she holds the identical reed pen required which by law reaches 111, and then arises the difficulty, for the pen is at 111, and John and the fingers of his right hand are at 106. The dukes and barons representing the whole realm calling themselves "the army of God," at

* Gen. 36, 40.

length force John, the sun-king to comply. They unite their forces at 111 with those of 106, that is they strike out for *dies non* in Cancer (which is usually done in Capricornus*) and then reduce the year of 365 days to be 360 the same as the degrees in the solar circle. Thus the pen is with John's hand and closing the 15 degrees of David, 121 reaches 106, so there is the actual document the Magna Charta, with the X for signature at 106. It was intended for publication for it is on the compositor's frame as copy to be set up for Guttenberg's press along side, and this can be confirmed by looking at any globe or celestial atlas, unless of very modern publication. At 106 is the right hand of Hiram who *pro temp.* is Grand Registrar, and has the custody of the privy seal which any intelligent brother can now discover, the bee, producing the wax with compasses from the equatorial pole, will be his guide. This then is the true Magna Charta recording the conjunction of the planets in the Gemini, and thus delineated by Ptolomaei in 1237, that is twenty-two years before the appearance of Fabian the historian.

Celestially there can be no difficulty for initiated Masons to understand Grafton's version of the toad, the monk, the penknife, and the cup of wine and the death of the monk and the sun king John, nor the least difficulty in comprehending the metamorphosis of the fish of "unwonted shape" Cetus, whose brilliants became armed with the helmet and shield of Mars, thus resembling "armed knights, saving that they were far greater in proportion."

HOW I SPENT MY FIVE WEEKS' LEAVE.

Being a Journal kept during an Excursion to Syria and Palestine in the month of May, 1868.

Route.—Leave Malta, April 29th; Joppa to Upper Bethoron, May 4th; Bethoron to Jerusalem, 5th; Jerusalem, 6th; Bethany, Bethlehem, Marsaba, 7th; Dead Sea, Jordan, Jericho, 8th; Bethel, 9th; Shechem, (Nabulus), 10th; Jenin, 11th; Jezreel, Mt. Tabor, 12th; Sea of Galilee, Tiberias, Cana, Nazareth, 13th; Carmel, Haifa, 14th; Beyrout, 15th; Beyrout, to Somma, over Lebanon, 18th; Baalbek, 19th, 20th; Ain Fijeh, 21st; Damascus, 22nd; Damascus to Beyrout, Antilebanon, 25th; Arrive at Beyrout, embark, 27th; Rhodes, 29th; leave Rhodes for Malta, June 1st; arrive at Malta, 4th.

LEAVE MALTA—JOPPA TO UPPER BETHORON.

The gaieties of the Malta season are over, or nearly so; the winter visitors are making off like rats from a sinking ship; all the officers who can

get leave, are packing up their mufti; young ladies are ruefully putting by their finery for another season; the mail steamers are crammed to suffocation, the walls are placarded with announcements of numerous auctions, the opera is to close in a week or two, and those unfortunate individuals who, like myself, cannot possibly get away for the summer, are making up their minds to settle down into that dreary state of chrysalis-like inanition, in which people here manage to exist, through the scorching sun, and sweltering siroccos of the hot season.

Imagine, then, the joy, with which I accept the hospitable offer of Capt. Whitethorn, of H.M.S. *Cupid* to take a passage with him to Jaffa, in order to see Jerusalem and the rest of the Holy Land! I feel that, as he says, "it is the very thing to set me up for the summer." There is no time to be lost, however, as he starts in two days, so I hastily forward my application for "Five weeks' leave," to which colonels and generals proving propitious, I quickly pack my carpet bag, pocket Murray, stick a box of cigars under one arm, a huge green-lined white umbrella under the other, and run off. I rather astonish the orderly, who, order-book in hand, is waylaying me at the door, by briefly telling him that I don't want to see it, nor need he trouble himself to bring it for the next month. Hastening on board, for it is getting late, and we are to start at sunset, I find that four other officers besides the captain, form our party. We almost immediately sit down to dinner, and hardly are soup and fish removed, when the quick motion of the paddles, and the refreshing draught in at the scuttles, warn us that we are under weigh, and the beautiful little vessel begins to jump about, like a spirited horse, which has had no exercise for a month. I must mention for the information of those ignorant in such matters, that the *Cupid* is one of the fleetest boats in the navy, and beautifully fitted up with cabins, and a charming deck-saloon, a capital place for a cigar. In short, that everything about her, from the maintruck to the keel, from the skipper to the cabin boy, is simply perfection. Coming up after dinner for a post-prandial cigar in the deck-saloon, I am startled by a ghostly apparition, springing up from one of the sofas. It was an unhappy Maltese telegraph clerk, very seasick, whom we had taken on board to convey with some two hundred messages to Syracuse, the submarine cable between that place and

* Luke 2, 2 Cyrene means the winter colure—Syria—Sirius meaning Egypt. Sirius was exalted with the Scarabæus and Anubis became Hermanubis.

Malta being, as usual, broken! Not wishing to witness the *dénouement* I remove to the deck. We are cutting beautifully along, at the rate of about 10 knots, which pace creates a nice cool breeze. A little fun is got up, by a lottery for the cabins, as there are not sufficient, and one of us has to sleep forward. Sawney draws the unlucky ticket. We retire early, as we expect to be in Syracuse harbour betimes, and intend getting up to see it. Awake next morning before six, I find that we are entering the harbour and hasten on deck with bare feet, sailor-like, my boots being in process of cleaning. A pretty harbour it is, with anchorage enough for any number of vessels. At this moment, however, an Italian man-of-war, a steam tug, and a few latine craft are all that it contains. Etna rises grandly at some distance, and lazily puffs smoke out of its snow-capped summit: all its lower part, however, is wrapped in a mantle of mist. We form no notion of its height till we put out to sea, which we do in an hour, leaving on shore the telegraph clerk, who is overjoyed at reaching terra-firma, nor do I believe he will ever be induced to return.

We are now fairly on our way to Jaffa, and the vessel gets more lively. What makes every one so pale? (the skipper and myself excepted). Alas! all succumb to circumstances over which they have no control. We pass many fine vessels under a crowd of sail the wind being for them and against us. On one ship alone I count about thirty sails set at once. Pretty doves flit around us, occasionally settling on the rigging. I am glad to turn in at eleven, having had a long day—about seventeen hours.

Next day (May 1), after a sound sleep, I arose to enjoy a lovely May Day. The vessel is much steadier, and all the party more amusing. We busy ourselves studying guide books, discussing routes, &c. Making twelve to thirteen knots per hour, we arrive at Jaffa about 5 a.m. on the 4th May. Here we find the fleet at anchor, rolling tremendously, like our own vessel, there being a heavy swell; and from the line of surf, it seems doubtful whether we can land. This Jaffa (the ancient Joppa) is a mere roadstead; there is no harbour, and from the sea it appears a miserable collection of flat-roofed houses on a small mound. On the north are a few palm trees, and what appears to be a mosque; while on the south side are only barren sand-hills, on which we cannot look without a feeling of indignation at the thought of the cruel massacre of four thousand men there,

perpetrated in cold blood by Napoleon in 1799. These men had laid down their arms under promise that their lives should be spared. Yet their hands were tied behind them, and they were led out to these sand-hills to be shot. For hours French troops were busy firing volleys into the fettered, defenceless crowd till not one was left alive. There also, before his retreat across the desert to Egypt, he had between four and five hundred of his own sick soldiers *poisoned*, that he might not be encumbered with them on the march. Altogether his proceedings at Jaffa did not tend to add greatly to his "glory." Jaffa is also interesting as having been the place where the cedars for the Temple were landed; where Jonah embarked; and where Peter stayed in the house of "Simon the Tanner." A message arrives from the Admiral, who, with a number of officers from the different ships, is going to make an excursion to Jerusalem, &c., stating that they are going to start at noon, and will be glad if we will join their party. Of course we are delighted at so kind an offer, which we gladly accept. After breakfast we pack up our traps, and having scrambled into the boat, which is no easy matter with the ship rolling so tremendously, we steer for shore. Landing is hard work, as the sea is boiling over the reef finely, and the landing place encumbered with a crowd of small craft. A hoist on the shoulders of an Arab, at last deposits us on Asiatic soil. A motley collection of Arabs seize on all our baggage, and we hurry up the filthy streets, which are crowded with donkeys coming in laden with oranges from the orchards near the town, which being on the land side, are not seen from the sea. On a small mound just outside the town, we find a crowd of mules, horses, Arabs, piles of luggage, &c., conspicuous among which is our dragoman, Michail el Hang, who turns out to be a capital fellow, very civil and intelligent. We are soon suited with nags, and it is wonderful to watch the celerity with which the baggage is disposed of. Huge canvass bags are filled with carpet bags, portmanteaus, etc., and then slung one each side on mules. Our cook rides gaily along on a mule, which also carries his portable stove, cooking utensils, or supply of charcoal, and fowls, mutton, etc., which are to furnish dinner in the evening. He is busy plucking the fowls as he rides, and sing monotonous Arabic ditties the whole way. Punctually at 12 we start, and at the same moment the guns of the fleet salute the depar-

ture of the admiral. Our route lies for the first mile or two, through orchards of oranges, apricots, etc., I never saw more splendid oranges, nor finer and more abundant fruit, I purchase as many as my havresack will hold, and very grateful they proved before we had crossed the plain of Sharon.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC JOTTINGS.—No. 1.

BY A PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

OUR MASONIC HISTORY.

Our Masonic history is, for the most part, conjectural and imaginary. Hence it is a concatenation of contradictions. It is not to-day what it was yesterday, and it will not be to-morrow what it is to-day.

RATIONALISM—SPECULATIVE MASONRY—GERMAN WRITERS.

Desirous of instruction respecting the rise of our Rationalism, we go to German writers; and, desirous of instruction respecting the rise of our speculative Masonry, we also go to German writers.

PYTHAGORAS.

Pythagoras and his disciples and successors for many centuries, with their notions of the Deity (perhaps Emanation, perhaps Pantheism, certainly not our Monotheism), and with their Metempsychosis, could not have possibly known our Freemasonry.

BABYLONISH CAPTIVITY.

Take the 20 volumes of the present series of the *Freemasons' Magazine*—can it be asserted that three writers—can it be asserted that two writers of communications on the subject of the Pre-Christian Antiquity of our Masonry were aware of the Jews having been unacquainted with the doctrine of the Soul's Immortality until the Babylonish Captivity?

TRADITION.

Neither the Ashmole theory nor the German theory is inconsistent with our tradition that speculative Masonry existed in the 17th century.

ASHMOLE AND HIS FRIENDS.

Many think that Ashmole and his friends only got together the speculative elements which had long been floating about amongst the Rosicrucians, the Templars and the operative Masons.

THE NON-OPERATIVE MASONS 1650—1700.

According to Bro. Findel, in the latter part of the 17th century, 1650—1700, the non-operative

Masons brought forth from the ancient guild-chests the mouldering records of the lodges, and revived the old traditions, usages, and customs of the fraternity, rejecting what seemed to them unsuitable for the age in which they lived, or else remodelling to make it suitable.

HISTORY OF ENGLISH FREEMASONRY.

My experience, 1831—1838, will not allow me to believe that a reliable history of English Freemasonry can be written until, for the earliest centuries amongst other materials, all records, and for the later centuries, amongst other materials, all family letters, shall have been thoroughly examined.

THE YEAR 1717.

The year 1717 is the year which gave us the term "Grand;" and it should seem to be the year which gave us what is infinitely more precious—it should seem to be the year which gave us Toleration.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER MANNINGHAM.

See the *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. 19, page 133, and the present volume, pages 331 and 339. The copy of the portion of the correspondence between the Grand Lodges of England and Holland which Bro. Hertzvold has printed, was some weeks ago added to a Masonic Collection in Lincoln's Inn Library, after a transcript had been made of the two omitted paragraphs; otherwise it should at once have been forwarded to Bro. Hughan. But he will not, I apprehend, find that to procure a little book from the Hague is more difficult for a Mason resident in England than for a Mason resident in France. In compliance with the request of a correspondent, whose curiosity in the matter is not very intelligible, the two omitted paragraphs are subjoined:—

"The three questions you ask me the Constitution Book will resolve. The Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, always presides in *Grand Lodge*; and, whenever they honour a private lodge with a visit, the Master of such lodge immediately resigns the chair if they choose to accept it; for they have votes, and preside over all lodges by virtue of their high office. When they visit in form, they always take the chair; but, if the visit is private, they accept or refuse as they think proper. The Grand Wardens never act as Grand Wardens but when the Grand Master or his Deputy presides. If the Master of the lodge is absent, the Past Master or the Senior Warden supplies his place, just as the private regulations of such lodges direct.

"Our Healths in lodges are first; the King and the Craft, with 3 × 3; next, the Grand Master, with 3 × 3, thirdly; the D.G. Master and G. Wardens, with 3. Then we drink Past G.M., foreign brethren of distinction by name, as the Emperor, King of Prussia, &c; after—the general toast of the Craft."—C. P. COOPER.

MASONIC SONG.

Can you, or any of your readers inform me where I can purchase the song which contains, as near as I can remember, the following verse?—

Come all you Freemasons that dwell around the globe,
That wear the badge of innocence, I mean the royal robe;
For in Heaven there is a lodge, and St. Peter keeps the door,
And none can enter in but such as are pure.

I remember hearing it sung, as a child, a many years ago, and this verse is the only one retained in my memory. During many visits to lodges, I have never heard the song given, or have met with any one who knew it. Perhaps some of your readers have heard it, and can give me the requisite information.—W.M.

MASONIC AGONY.

The letter of "Pointed," under this heading, is not dated. Possibly "Pointed" felt some hesitation in letting the world know of his residence in Bethlehem. He has "piled up the agony" a little too high. When he descends, I am ready to discuss with him.—J.A.H.

BRO. BINCKES AND MASONIC RESEARCH.

I must profess myself quite charmed with the eloquent letter of our distinguished brother in the *Magazine*, pages 410, 411. Were Bros. Buchan and Hughan, *ceteris paribus*, to devote their talents to ennobling the Order by enlarging its bounds and strengthening its stakes, so as to make its charities more comprehensive and its influence more omnipotent. Were they, I say, to strive to make this Freemasonry of ours what it should be, a Temple for the worship of the *Great Unseen*, whether adored as Jehovah, Jove, or Lord, it would be acknowledged their task was more congenial and more in accordance with its sublime tenets. I have taken a great interest in the *free fight* which has been raging and still rages about 1717. I regret it, as I think the brethren might be better employed, and it does not matter one iota to us whether Freemasonry was founded A.D. 1717 or B.C. 1717. We must accept the present tense and let the dead bury their dead.—REITAM.

"A MASONIC STUDENT" AND THE ANTIQUITY OF FREEMASONRY.

At page 171, August 29th, 1868, "A Masonic Student" promises to bring forward certain Masonic proofs, which he asserts he has. He repeats this at page 308, for Oct. 16th, 1869, but he has not done it yet! Why is this?—W.P.B.

NE SUTOR ULTRA CREPITAM.

Will you kindly allow me to inquire from "Historicus," how can the marriage of Queen Victoria to H.R.H. the Prince Consort convey the succession of Kings of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., to the descendants of the latter. Is he aware that *Sigma* in Greek is sometimes pronounced with a hard sound, as of K, and sometimes with a soft sound, as of C in "cessation," and that the Greek χ is indifferently χ or *KS*.—ARGIVE.

MASONIC RESEARCH.

"N.B.," at page 389, having paid his devoirs so ably to Bro. Jesse Banning, of page 371, he could not do better than take Bro. Frederick Binckes, of page 410, in hand in a similar manner.—W.P.B.

BRO. HUGHAN AND "POINTED" (p. 372).

Bro. Hughan informs us, at page 372, that because Masons before last century used signs and secrets, &c., they were therefore different from other trades; and at page 321, Oct. 23rd, where he promises to give a short article upon the subject, he consoles himself with the reflection that it will be easier for him to prove the existence of speculative Masonry before 1717 than it will be for Bro. Buchan to prove that other trades had words and grips as well as the Masons. I am afraid that Bro. Hughan has been rather hasty here, and if he read the remarks at page 384, I should not be astonished at his taking further time to consider before he writes the articles he then contemplated. More, if Bro. Buchan backs up his statements satisfactorily, it must "go far to alter his (Bro. Hughan's) opinion on *secret* operative Masonry before the 18th century."—POINTED.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents

MASONIC REFORM.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—In my correspondence published in your journal during the course of the last eleven years, besides a variety of miscellaneous subjects, there are four to which I have lost no suitable opportunity of directing attention, namely: The erection of special buildings for our lodges, and the abandonment of taverns and hotels. The desirability of a decision by the Masonic authorities as to the correct form of ritual, and its enforcement, so as to produce not only uniformity but propriety in the details of the working. A limitation of the period during which a Grand Master should be eligible for annual re-election. A similar limitation as regards Prov. Grand Masters.

Though I cannot say that the expression of my opinions has in any cases produced a definite result, still I hope that, as one of the pioneers, I have led brethren to think on these subjects. and thus, combined with the efforts of others, have forwarded a solution of questions which a few years ago appeared very distant, from the apathy displayed in regard to them.

On the first of these points much has been accomplished, and much still remains to be done. The tide of opinion has set in favourably, but in many districts the great difficulty is the provision of the necessary funds, and in some this is insuperable. I can point to several places in my neighbourhood where a suitable building has been erected without first counting the cost, and hence much subsequent embarrassment has occurred. I cannot but think that it is possible to devise a plan by which the Grand Lodge might render temporary pecuniary assistance, taking care to have ample security for the repayment of any loan within a fixed period, and until that takes place receiving interest on the amount advanced. The second question has lately been brought prominently forward by many eminent brethren, and is at last to be formally introduced in Grand Lodge at its meeting next week by Bro.

Stevens, P.M. 720, and he has the best wishes for success of a large number of Masons. The third suggestion I have named is also, it would appear, on the eve of realization, general opinion being favourable to it, and probably the only question which will require discussion and consideration is, whether the term shall be three, five, or seven years, there being three distinct propositions relative to it. In the Grand Mark Lodge three years is the term adopted, and perhaps wisely, seeing that this is but a secondary branch of Masonry, not yet very extensively developed. My own view is that it is too short a time for the Craft Grand Master to hold sway, and that either of the other periods named is preferable. As to my fourth question, no movement seems to be made as yet, though, should the third be adopted, this will probably follow as a natural sequel. It appears to me more important than the third, because the members of Grand Lodge must annually vote on the question of a Grand Master for the ensuing year, whereas they have no voice whatever in the appointments to Prov. G. Masterships, which lie entirely with the Grand Master. As an alteration in this respect will be an interference with the present prerogative of the Grand Master, I think it will be at once admitted that such a limitation in the term of headship of a province should be decided upon before the election of a successor to the present M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland. For a Prov. G.M. three years' tenure of office is sufficiently long. I can point to one province where the Prov. G.M. did for many years, and I presume does still, adopt this term for his Deputy, and the plan worked well. Having, in common with many others, suffered long and continuously from the misrule of an unqualified Prov. G.M., whose successor has recently been installed, after an unpleasant struggle for seven years to obtain a change, I feel very strongly on this point, especially as all inquiry into the circumstances was refused. As the difficulty has occurred in one instance, it may in another, and it therefore behoves us to guard against it when a favourable opportunity, such as the present, offers itself.

Allow me further space for brief remarks on the letters of "A Prov. G. Officer," and Bro. F. Binckes. In reply to the former, I fear that, if permission were given to read the rituals, they would scarcely ever be committed to memory and rendered orally, and I question whether there would not, in that case, be a want of impressiveness. Such is my own idea, from what I have seen in France, where the course recommended by your correspondent is adopted. There are, of course, many other reasons against such a change. I prefer some arrangements, already laid before your readers some time ago, by which competent instructors should be formally sanctioned and recognised, and by which also candidates for the chair of a lodge should be tested as to their knowledge of the ritual before election. I have read Bro. Bincke's letter with great pleasure, as therein are expressed opinions which coincide much with my own. While admiring the efforts of many praiseworthy and valued Masonic friends who are seeking truth in their endeavours to unravel the early history of our Order, and, far from wishing to stifle research, I have been unwilling to take part in the discussion, under a conviction that from a variety of circumstances there are no data

available, and the more I have read of the investigations of others on this head, the more have I felt that "we are perplexed;"—would that I could finish the quotation and add "but not in despair." I fancy there are many who agree with me in this view.

Yours fraternally,

H.H.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—We all wish to hear reliable news of this intrepid African explorer, but, better still, we desire to see himself. At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society lately, Sir Roderick Murchison read a long letter purporting to be from him; yet, unless it is his usual style, there are passages in it which cause me to wonder if it can really be from him. Perhaps the reference to Ptolemy may be all right, also, a little further down, the giving of the *latitude* several times without the *longitude*, yet the style towards the end reminds me somewhat too much of the preface to a begging petition, and has rather much of self-complacency about it surely to be his usual style; then the words occur, "the defects, unavoidable in the circumstances, you will kindly excuse." These defects, I suppose, refer to the *writing*. Somehow it appears to me that in such a long letter the Doctor might have given us more information than we have got.

The above reflections crossed my mind upon reading the letter carefully, under the following circumstances, which show how, upon a very slight foundation, the most exaggerated stories rise and spread, viz.: I met a gentleman lately who asked me if I had heard of that new race of men, quite different from all others, lately discovered by Dr. Livingstone in Africa, who lived in caves underground so large that rivers run through them into underground seas, and so on. Not having read the Doctor's letter at the time, I was asked to do so, especially, observed my friend, as it bears upon a former architectural article of yours which appeared in the *Magazine*, and regarding which we differed slightly. The following is the passage in the Doctor's letter bearing upon this point:—

"P.S.—Always something new from Africa. A large tribe live in underground houses in Neua. Some excavations *are said* to be 30 miles long, and have running *rills* in them. A whole district can stand a siege in them. The writings therein, *I have been told* by some of the people, are on wings of animals, and not letters. Of course, I should have gone to see them. . . . Very dark, well made, and outer My eyes *slantingwards*."

The italics are mine; we find it is "rills," not rivers, and there is a good deal of the "it is said" in the matter. However, the description in the "P.S." is rather more probable than the *viva voce* description I got. In conclusion, I join the prayer of many thousands for the Doctor's welfare, if he be still in life; and that, if such be the case, may he be spared to come back to us in safety to personally recount all his trials and difficulties, his new knowledge and noble achievements.

Yours fraternally,

W.P.B.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

* * * All communications to be addressed to the EDITOR, at No. 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MASONIC MEMS.

THE Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales will be held at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Tuesday, the 30th inst., at 5 o'clock.

TYLERS of Lodges, Janitors of Chapters, Equerries of Encampments, &c., in England, Scotland, and Ireland, are requested to forward their names and addresses to the Publisher of THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, so that a complete Register and Directory may be compiled.

WE are happy to announce to our readers that the R.W. the Prov. G.M. of Monmouthshire, Bro. John Etherington Welsh Roll, of the Hendre, has given the magnificent sum of one thousand pounds to the funds of the Monmouth Infirmary.

THE Prov. G. Lodge for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, will be held at the Hartly Hall, Southampton, on Tuesday 30th inst. at 11 o'clock, under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.—*Consecration of Rose Croix Chapter at Bournemouth.*—Several members having petitioned for a warrant to open a Rose Croix Chapter at Bournemouth, the Supreme Grand Council of the 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for England and Wales, and the dependencies of the British Crown, have granted a dispensation to back this degree for a twelvemonth, at the end of which time, if a satisfactory progress has been made, they are prepared to grant the warrant. On Tuesday 16th inst., the Illustrious Bros. C. T. Vigne, Sovereign Grand Commander; H. C. Vernon, Lieut-Grand Commander; Captain N. G. Phillips, Grand Treasurers Members of the Supreme Grand Council, assisted by Bro. J. M. P. Montague, and Hyde Pullen, of the 32°, attended at Bournemouth and consecrated the chapter. The brethren of the Bournemouth Chapter of Rose Croix afterwards entertained their illustrious visitors at a banquet, given at the Belle Vue Hotel. The members of the Supreme Grand Council left early, having to visit and consecrate other chapters in the west of England. We are informed that the chapter furniture and the knight's clothing and regalia, supplied by Bro. J. J. Cancy, gave the greatest satisfaction.

WE are informed that the lodges in the Isle of Wight do not intend to recognize the junction of the Isle of Wight with the province of Hampshire, but intend to appeal against it at Grand Lodge, on the ground that the M.W. the Grand Master had not authority to join the two Prov. G. Lodges without the sanction of Grand Lodge.

GRAND LODGE,

The following is the agenda of business to be transacted in Grand Lodge on Wednesday, 1st December, 1869.

1. The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 1st September, 1869, for confirmation.
2. The M.W. Grand Master will announce that it is his Lordship's desire to retire from the Grand Mastership at the end of his present year of office.
3. Nomination of a Grand Master for the ensuing year.
4. Election of twelve Past Masters to serve on the Board of Benevolence for the year ensuing.

5. Report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter,
6. Report of the Board of General Purposes. "To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England. The Board of General Purposes beg to report—1. A complaint was preferred against Bro. Robert Daly, the W.M. of the New Wandsworth Lodge (No. 1,044), New Wandsworth, for having promoted and permitted the removal of the lodge into London without having previously obtained or even applied for the sanction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master; and of having summoned a meeting of the lodge in London, and of having there opened the lodge and proceeded with Masonic business. The Master was also charged with having permitted members of the lodge, in arrear with their subscriptions, to vote, in contravention of the by-laws. The Master and Wardens were summoned to attend and produce the warrant and books. Bro. Robert Ord, a P.M. of the lodge, attended for the Master, who, it was stated, was too ill to be present, and stated he had the entire authority of the Master to act for him, and to submit to the judgment of the Board. The complainants also attended to support the charges. The Board having heard the evidence adduced on both sides, and having carefully considered the matter, resolved—'That the charge of illegal removal to London and there entering on Masonic business was fully proved, and that the lodge be admonished to resume its meetings at the authorised place at New Wandsworth.' The Board further resolved—'That the Master, Bro. Robert Daly, for his conduct in the matter, be fined the sum of three guineas, and be admonished to be more careful in his future Masonic proceedings. With regard to the other charge, the Board were of opinion that it was not proved.' 2. The Board have had a catalogue of the books in the library at the hall prepared under the supervision of Bro. Henry W. Hemsworth, a member of the Board, who kindly undertook the duty. The catalogue has been printed, and copies are deposited in the office of the Grand Secretary.

To the report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 11th November, 1869, showing a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £1,630 11s. 5d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary, for petty cash, £75.

7. Report of the Committee on the Fund of Benevolence, the further consideration of which was deferred from the last Quarterly Communication.

8. Proposed motions:—By Bro. John H. Wynne, P.M. 101., 1. "That those brethren, who were candidates at the last election, and did not succeed to be elected on the Annuity Fund, shall receive £15 per annum from the Benevolent Fund, until they shall be elected on the Annuity Fund." By Bro. Joshua Nunn, G.S.B., 2. "That provided the resolution, proposed by Committee on the Fund of Benevolence, to "replace the last paragraph of No. 6 Fund of Benevolence (in the Book of Constitutions), be passed by Grand Lodge."

To move—"That the form of the certificate required to be sent to the Lodge of Benevolence with all petitions (and to be signed by the visitor, a member of the lodge, or some other brother) be referred back to the said Committee on the Fund of Benevolence for details and adjustment.

By Bro. John Udall, P.G.D., 3. "That the sum of £50 be given from the Fund for General Purposes.—That the money be placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Asylum of the Royal Masonic Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, to supply the inmates at Croydon with coals during the winter season."

By Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, W.M. Nos. 12 and 453.

4. "That in future the issue of free votes in consequence of the grants from Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter be hereafter discontinued, and that the rules and regulations of the Institution be amended as follows, viz.:—Rule 17, expunged; Rule 31, to omit the words 'Lodge, Chapter, and' in the seventh line."

By Bro. James Stevens, P.M. No. 720.—5. "That with a view to securing greater 'uniformity of working and observance of the same usages and customs' throughout the several lodges held under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, a committee of Past Masters be appointed to inquire into the merits of the respective systems of working now in practice, and to report to Grand Lodge thereon, with such recommendations as they may think necessary to prevent deviation from the established mode such deviations being, according to the Constitutions of Freemasonry, improper and not to be justified or countenanced."

By Bro. J. Rankin Stebbing, P.G.D.—6. "That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge no future Grand Master should hold that office for more than three years in succession, unless in the case of a Royal Prince, when the restriction should apply to the Pro-Grand Master."

By Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, W.M. Nos. 12 and 453.—7. "That no brother (except a Prince of the Blood Royal) shall be eligible as Grand Master for a longer period in succession than five years."

By Bro. Aeneas J. McIntyre, G. Registrar.—8. "That the Book of Constitutions, page 46, article 4, be altered by expunging the words 'until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.'"

By Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G. Pursuivant.—9. "That the office of Grand Master shall not be held by any brother for a longer period in succession than seven years, except in the case of a Prince of the Blood."

By Bro. John Savage, P.G.D.—10. "That the office of M.W. Grand Master shall not be held by any brother for a longer period than four years in succession. This law shall not extend to a Prince of the Blood Royal, but it shall extend to any brother whom he may appoint as the M.W. Pro-Grand Master."

9. Appeal of Bro. George Bease against his expulsion from the Order, by the District Grand Lodge of Bombay.—N.B. papers relating to this appeal will be in the Grand Secretary's office till the meeting of Grand Lodge, and open for the inspection of the brethren during office hours.

Craft Masonry. ENGLISH CONSTITUTION. METROPOLITAN.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—This ancient lodge met at Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, the 11th inst., Bro. G. Cording, W.M., in the chair, supported by his officers and a number of the brethren. The minutes of the former lodge having been read and confirmed, the W.M. raised Bros. Roff, Mordin, Young, and Barten to the sublime degree of M.M. Mr. Frodsham was proposed for initiation and was unanimously approved of. The business disposed of, the brethren adjourned to the banquet. Bro. Donald King was present as a visitor.

MORIA LODGE (No. 92).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 23rd inst., when the following brethren were present:—Bros. Thorne, W.M.; Horne, S.W.; Latter, J.W.; Perrin, S.D.; Ledger, J.D.; Jacob, I.G.; Atkins, Palmer, Potter, Webster, White, Williams, and Houle, P.M.'s. The following visitors were also present:—Bros. J. R. Stevens, P.M. 18, S. Chaplin, 108; W. Pettafor, 892; and A. A. Morler, 108. The business included the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, when the choice of the brethren fell upon Bro. Horner. Bro. G. W. K. Potter was re-elected Treasurer.

EASTERN STAR LODGE (No. 95).—On Monday, the 16th inst., this lodge met at the Ship and Turtle Hotel, Leadenhall-street. Bro. R. Bateman occupied the chair, supported by Bros. G. S. Ayres, S.W.; P. Edinger, J.W.; T. Ducas, S.D.; E. W. Davis, P.M., Treas.; F. L. Goode, P.M.; J. Marriott, P.M. Bros. Firth, Roberts, and Wicks were passed to the second degree. A petition to Grand Lodge on behalf of the widow of a brother formerly a member of this lodge was signed. Business concluded, the lodge was closed in due form.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 140).—On Wednesday, the 17th inst., the regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Trafalgar, Greenwich. The following were present:—Bros. E. W. Pook, W.M.; C. Hudson, S.W.; E. Johnson, J.W.; R. B. Webster, S.D.; W. E. Laurence, I.G.; A. H. Tattershall, P.M. & Sec.; G. W. Edington, P.M. & Treas.; E. Hubbuck, P.M.; W. Noak, P.M. There were also present as visitors:—Bros. W. Downing, 149; E. Downing, 149; C. Waydeline, 193; Perridge, S.W. 79; Palmer, 79; Halsey, P.M. 134; Webb, P.M. 72, 193, 890; Bumpstead, 548; J. Roper, 147. Bros. Jardine and Webb were passed to the degree of F.C. Ten pounds were given from the Benevolent Fund of the lodge to Bro. Noak, P.M., to be added to his list on the occasion of his acting as Steward at the Festival for Aged Freemasons and their Widows in January next. One guinea was given from the general funds of the lodge to a widow of a distressed Mason. The lodge being closed, the brethren partook of a sumptuous banquet of the usual style, provided by the manager of the Trafalgar.

PANMURE LODGE (No. 720).—This lodge held its regular monthly meeting at Bro. Lilley's, Balham Hotel, Balham, on Monday, the 15th inst. The W.M., Bro. Wolpert, presided, assisted by his officers and a fair attendance of brethren. One brother was passed to the degree of F.C., and another was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The business concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. Bro. Dr. Harrison was present as a visitor, and kindly officiated as I.P.M. The W.M. alluded to the absence, through illness, of Bro. Thomas, P.M. & Treas., which announcement was received by the brethren with evident expressions of regret, that brother being so thoroughly identified with all that concerns the interests of the Panmure. After the Tyler's toast had been duly honoured, the brethren separated.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 554).—This lodge met at the Green Dragon, Stepney, on Thursday, the 4th inst. Bro. George Roberts, W.M., was in the chair, assisted by Bros. Stevens, Hamilton, and Mosely, P.M.'s; Barnes, S.W.; Chadwick, J.W.; Kerry, S.D.; Morrison, J.D.; Coards, I.G.; Speight, Tyler, and many other brethren. Bros. Saqui, Lacey, and Curtis were present as visitors. Bros. Seatie and Allen were passed to the degree of F.C. Josiah Green, Sec., tendered his resignation on account of serious indisposition. Bro. Isaac Saqui presided at the harmonium in his usual masterly manner.

NEW CONCORD LODGE (No. 813).—This lodge held their regular meeting at the Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, on Friday the 19th inst. There were present: Bros. J. Hart, W.M.; T. Bartlett, S.W.; M. J. Atkins, J.W.; J. Salisbury, S.D.; J. Blyth, J.D.; G. Absell, I.G.; McDavitt, Org.; Lloyd, Steward; Wilson, I.P.M.; W. H. Main, P.M., and Hon. Sec.; Jno. Emmens, P.G.P., and P.M. and Treas. The visitors were: Bros. Wild, Old Concord; Gabb, Jubilee; Forbes, Prosperity; McLea, Egyptian, and Linn. Bro. Mountford was raised to the degree of M.M.; and Bro. Cain was passed to the degree of F.C.; and Messrs. Taylor, Gabb, jun., Hofbauer, and Shellard, were initiated. Five pounds were voted towards the list of Bro. Bartlett, S.W., who has consented to stand as Steward to the Benevolent Institution. The whole of the ceremonies was most ably performed by the W.M.

BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS LODGE (No. 1,150).—This lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on Wednesday, the 17th inst. Bro. J. B. Mirichon, I.P.M., acted as W.M., and was supported by Bros. G. Hunt, S.W.; S. Mullens, J.W.; J. Whichurst, Treas. and P.M.; J. S. Charlton, Sec.; P. de C. Louf, S.D.; R. Dixon, J.D.; J. G. Dobbs, I.G.; C. W. Creed, P.M.; J. D. Canleher, Prov. G. Steward. Bro. Laing, Strongman Lodge, was present as a visitor. The business of the evening included the election of W.M., the choice of the brethren falling upon Bro. Hunt, S.W. Bro. J. Whichurst, Treas., and Bros. Louf, Whitmarsh, and Atkins, auditors, were reappointed. A letter of condolence was ordered to be sent to Mrs.

W. F. Smith (the widow of Major W. F. Smith, W.M.), who died in July last, forwarding the jewel granted to him as Steward of the inauguration festival.

MIDDLESEX.

UNBRIDGE.—*Royal Union Lodge* (No. 382).—On Monday the 15th inst., this old lodge met at the Masonic Hall. Bro. G. Fehrenbach, W.M., presided. Bros. W. H. Coulton, S.W.; Jaquin, J.W.; Lonsdale, S.D.; J. L. Coulton, J.D.; Cloake, I.G.; Wm. Coombes, P.M., Hon. Sec.; Lambert, S.; Adams, P.G., Purst.; Weeden, P.M.; Wintingheld, P.M.; Claisen, P.M.; Horsley, P.M.; Codner, P.M.; Line, Heale, Blockley, King, jun., E. C. Woodward, &c., Visitor: Bro. Baber, P.M., 452. The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the last lodge meeting and lodge of emergency were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for three gentlemen as candidates, which proved unanimous. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bros. Chisholme, Heale, and Lunt, were questioned as to their proficiency in their degree, and their answers were very satisfactory. The lodge was opened in the third degree, and these three brothers were raised to the degree of M.M.'s. The lodge was resumed to the first degree, and Mr. Kost was initiated. The election of W.M. and Treas. then took place, when the S.W., Bro. W. H. Coulton was duly elected W.M., and Bro. E. C. Woodward, Treas. for the ensuing year. The business of the evening being concluded, the lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the Chequers Hotel for refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed. The harmony of the evening was greatly enhanced by the vocal abilities of Bros. Horsley and Lambert. The brethren separated at an early hour.

PROVINCIAL.
DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Lodge* (No. 710).—The monthly meeting was held on Thursday, the 18th inst., at the Masonic Rooms. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M. and the I.P.M., the chair was taken by Bro. Heath, P.M., and the lodge was opened soon after 5 p.m. Bros. Cumming, S.W., Bro. Niner, J.W., Stafford, S.D., Dr. Hains, J.D., occupied their respective chairs. By request, Bro. Dr. Hopkins took that of I.P.M., and Bro. J. Hains that of I.G. The acting W.M. gave the charge in the first degree to four brethren, who, on account of the length of the other proceedings, had not received it at their initiation at a previous meeting. They retired, and the lodge having been opened in the second degree, Bros. Rowse, Blacking, and Rattray, were raised to the rank of M.M. by the acting W.M. They then retired, and the lodge having been resumed in the first degree, in the absence of the Secretary, who had sent a note of apology, the minutes of the previous meeting were read by Bro. Watson, P.M., and, with the understanding that or two omissions should be supplied, were confirmed. The lodge was resumed in the third degree, the newly-made Master Masons were invested, and the first part of the traditional history was given them by Bro. J. Heath, the remainder and the charge by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, and the working tools were explained by the J.W. The lodge was again resumed by the acting W.M. in the first degree, and a ballot was taken for Bro. Henry J. Presswell as a candidate, which, after testimony from several brethren as to his character and worthiness, proved unanimous in his favour. Bro. Eldrey proposed a gentleman for initiation at the next meeting, seconded by Bro. Rattray. Bros. Elliott, Colden, Waddington, and Woolridge were passed to the degree of P.C. by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, who called on Bro. Niner, J.W., to explain the working tools. The lodge was resumed in the first degree by Bro. J. Heath. On the proposition of the acting I.P.M. and the W.M., it was determined to purchase the set of drawings of the Masonic Schools which had been sent for approval. Mr. Presswell was admitted, properly prepared, and duly initiated by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, Bro. Niner, as before, explaining the working tools. The acting I.P.M., at the request of Bro. Owen, P.M., who had been unable to remain, suggested that steps should be taken to form a regular lodge of instruction. After some little discussion, Bro. J. Heath directed that a notice on the subject should be placed on the next circular summons. It may be added that in obedience to the command of the Prov. G. M., that none but P.M.'s of a lodge can under any circumstances occupy the chair, during the ceremonies of the first and second degree the pedestal was moved and placed opposite the chair of the acting I.P.M.,

he being a P.M. of other lodges, but not of 710. The lodge was closed at 9.15 p.m., and the brethren adjourned for an hour's social intercourse.

ESSEX.

SAFFRON WALDEN.—*Consecration of Saffron Walden Lodge* (No. 1,780).—On Tuesday, the 16th inst., a new Masonic Lodge was consecrated at Saffron Walden; and Mr. Joseph Bell, of that town, was chosen as the first Master. Upon this occasion assistance was rendered by several of the Prov. G. Officers, and also by members of the Craft residing in the adjacent counties of Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Among those present were: Bros. Robert John Bagshaw, Prov. G.M.; Andrew Meggy, Dep. Prov. G.M. The following were also present, viz.: Bros. John Wright Carr, G. Sec. of the province; J. W. Myer, P.M., G. Reg.; Arthur Goodchild, P.M. and P.J.G.D., 276; Frederick Bailey, 441; James Nicholl, G. Sec., 276; M. H. Winder, 1,280; Thos. Smee, G.S., 276; Edward Taylor, S.W. 409; Rev. J. Fred. W. Bullock, S.W.; H. S. Wyman, W.M., 409; Henry Archer; Henry Chubb, S.D. 409; Francis W. Bell, P.M. 441; SS; George Wilderspin, S.W. 441, 88, 1,280; Robert T. Grief, W.M., 441, 88, 1,280; Joseph Bell, P.M., 441, W.M., 1,280; William Bays, 88; John Vial, J.W., 441; and others. The consecration took place in the large room of the lodge, and the presiding officer, *pro tem.*, A. Goodchild, P.M., with his Wardens, opened in the three degrees; the Chaplain (Bro. the Rev. J. F. W. Bullock) invoked a blessing on the undertaking; the Grand Secretary of the province then read the warrant from the Grand Lodge of England; after which the ceremony of consecration was performed strictly in accordance with the ancient usages and customs, the censer being carried by the Chaplain, and the vessels of corn, wine, and oil by three P.M.'s; during the anthems Bro. George Wilderspin presided as Organist. The lodge having been duly consecrated, the R.V. Prov. G.M. proceeded to invest Bro. Joseph Bell as the first W.M. of the Saffron Walden Lodge, No. 1,280, who invested Bro. the Rev. J. F. W. Bullock, S.W., and Bro. Matthew H. Winder, J.W.; the other officers were also appointed before the closing of the lodge. At a later period of the day, the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, provided by Mr. Spicer, at the Rose and Crown Hotel. During the evening allusion was made to the names of those desiring of being elected members, and from what transpired there is ground to anticipate considerable prosperity for the new Saffron Walden Lodge, number twelve hundred and eighty.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

ROCHDALE.—*St. Chad's Lodge* (No. 1,129).—The annual festival of this lodge was held at the Roebuck Hotel, on Wednesday. The lodge was opened at 4.15 p.m. in due form and solemn prayer, by Bro. Jas. Hadfield, P.M., when the minutes of the former lodge and meeting of committee were read and confirmed. It was moved by Br. C. M. Jones, seconded by Bro. J. Fothergill, and resolved, that Bro. E. G. Heape represent the Charity Committee, which was carried unanimously. The lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. J. M. Wike, P.G.S.W. took the chair, and Bro. E. G. Heape was then presented by Bro. J. Hadfield, P.M., for installation as W.M. for the ensuing year, which ceremony was performed in a most efficient and solemn manner by Bro. J. M. Wike, P.G.S.W. Bro. E. G. Heape, W.M., then appointed, and Bro. J. M. Wike, P.G.S.W. invested the following officers, delivering to each of them an address suitable to the occasion:—Bros. H. H. Moore, S.W.; Jno. Fothergill, J.W.; Jno. Briggs, S.D.; Andrew Eastwood, J.D.; J. R. Moffatt, I.G.; C. M. Jones, Prov. Dir. of Cers.; James Hadfield, P.M., 1,129, Treas.; H. Turner, P.M., 54, Sec.; Edw. Clegg, Tyler. The lodge was closed in due form and solemn prayer at the hour of 5.40 p.m. The brethren adjourned to celebrate the annual festival.

ROCHDALE.—*Royal's Lodge* (No. 816).—The regular meeting of this lodge, held at Spring Gardens, Wardle, took place on Monday the 18th inst. Bro. Joel Rigg, W.M., presided, and supported by Bros. James Jackson, jun.; John Jackson, P.G.S.W.; James Kershaw, P.M.; James Midgley, P.M., Sec.; Wm. Kershaw, P.M., &c. The visitors present were: Bros. William Davies, P.M., 54; Abraham Rigg, S.W., 367; George Rothwell, Sec. 367. Bro. Lawrence Lord was advanced to a higher degree. The election of W.M. for the ensuing year then took place, when Bro. James Jackson was unanimously elected by ballot.

BARROW IN FURNESS.—*Hindpool Lodge* (No. 1,225).—A meeting of this lodge, held at the Queens Hotel, took place on the 16th inst. There were present:—Bros. Geo. Dunfield, P.M.; Arthur Worrall, P.M.; W. H. Silver, S.W.; R. W. Graham, J.W.; W. Ashburner, jun. Treas.; Thos. Leary, Sec.; G. S. Ormandy, S.D.; Dr. Sinclair, J.D.; J. Minis, I.G.; H. Stuart, Org.; J. Cauby, Tyler. Bro. Thos. Kendall, J.D. 1021 and Bro. Johnson, Howard, 1021 were present as visitors. Mr Day Woodhouse was initiated, Bros. Nicholls and Turvey passed, and Bro. Wilkinson raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The first and second degrees were given with full choral service.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Ancient Union Lodge* (No. 202).—This lodge, held at the Masonic Temple, 22, Hope-street, met on Thursday the 18th inst. Present: Bros. J. M. Pastor, P.M.; J. Laidlaw, P.M.; B. W. Rowson, I.P.M.; E. Hughes, S.W.; R. Bulman, J. W.; J. Parsons, Sec.; C. R. Martorell, J.D.; G. R. Shepard, I.G. Visitors: Bros. C. J. Bannister, P.G.S.B. of England; James Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., West Lancashire; J. K. Smith, P.M., 1,094; R. H. D. Johnson, P.M., 1,094. In the absence of the W.M. Bro. John Hughes, the chair was taken by the I.P.M., Bro. B. W. Rowson, who initiated Messrs. Samuel Myers and Daniel Williams. The business of the evening included the appointment of an audit committee, the proposition of Mr. J. S. Hunt for initiation, when the brethren adjourned to the banquet, of which about thirty partook.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gaunt Lodge* (No. 523).—The brethren of this lodge assembled for their usual monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday the 12th inst., under the presidency of Bro. Toller, W.M., who most ably conducted the ceremonies of the evening. The P.M.'s present were: Bros. Kelly, D. Prov. G.M. and W.M., 279; Duff, W. B. Surette, Treas.; and C. Johnson, Org.; and Bros. Buzzard, S.W.; Sculthorpe, J.W.; Baines, Sec.; Rev. Dr. Hayercroft, S.D.; Partridge, J.D.; Atkins and Sargeant, Stewards; Lewin, I.G.; E. Spencer, Marr, Richardson, Fletcher, and Dunn; Bembridge, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. Pettifer, P.M.; Weare, P.M.; Miller, Palmer, Ride, Pegg, McAllister, and Donisthorpe, of St. John's Lodge, No. 279. The lodge having been opened, a ballot was taken for four candidates for initiation, viz: the Revs. John Halford, M.A., of Wistow, and William Targett Fry, M.A., of St. Andrew's, Leicester; and Messrs. Charles Whitaker, F. J. Smith, were unanimously elected. The two reverend candidates were prevented attending on this occasion, but the other two were severally initiated into our mysteries. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. gave the lecture on the tracing board, and the D. Prov. G.M. the charge to the candidates. The lodge having been opened in the second degree, Bro. Fletcher passed a highly satisfactory examination, after which he was duly raised to the third degree, with a full musical service, conducted by Bro. Charles Johnson on the organ. The lodge having been lowered to the first degree, among other matters of business, a long discussion took place on a motion by the Rev. Bro. Hayercroft, D.D., on the expediency of having the present organ put into thorough repair, or replacing it by a more efficient instrument, which resulted in a committee being appointed to ascertain the cost of efficiently repairing the present organ, which was purchased by subscription on the erection of the Masonic Hall ten years ago. On the conclusion of the business the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent an hour or two most pleasantly and harmoniously.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—*Howe and Charwood Lodge* (No. 1,007).—A meeting of this lodge (which has been, unfortunately, dormant for the past two years or more) was held some weeks since for the election of W.M., when Bro. John Wilson, a Past Warden of the Lodge, was chosen to that office, and his installation was (after some delay) fixed to take place at the Bull's Head Hotel, on Thursday the 11th inst. The meeting was well attended by members and visitors from the Leicester lodges. The chair was taken by Bro. Major Brewin, one of the P.M.'s, and P.M., No. 523, and P. Prov. G.S.W., who performed the ceremony of installation in his usual highly efficient manner, assisted by Bros. Pettifer, P.M., 979, and P. Prov. G.S.W.; and Weare, P.M., 279, and P. Prov. G.S.D.; and others. The W.M. having appointed and invested his officers. A ballot was taken for Mr. Wm. Grimes Palmer, jun., surgeon, Loughborough, and

Mr. Arthur George Chamberlin, Poor-law Auditor, Leicester, who having been duly elected, were severally initiated. On the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to the banquet. It is hoped that now the lodge has been revived, it will, as at its establishment, have a prosperous career.

OXFORDSHIRE.—*Vale of Catmos Lodge* (No. 1,265).—The second meeting of this lodge since its consecration was held at the Agricultural Hall, on the evening of Wednesday the 17th inst., when among the members of the lodge present were: Bros. Kelly, D. Prov. G.M.; Geo. Brown, W.M., and P.G.J.W.; the Revs. W. Langley, W.M. No. 1,130, and P.G.S.W.; W. K. Robinson, P.M. 1,130, and P.P.G.E.; and Fred. Orme, P. Prov. G.S.W., Herts, and Prov. G.C.; Geo. M. Ashforth, M.D., S.W.; Thos. Markham, J.W.; Bennett, Sec.; Kew, S.D.: Hardy, J.D.; Capt. Bailey, Org.; Crowson, Morris, Fisher, and others. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the former meeting read and confirmed, a dispensation was read for the initiation of Mr. William Hibbit, as a serving brother, and the ballot being unanimous in his favour, he was afterwards regularly initiated. Bros. Morris and Fisher were then examined as E.A.'s, and, having been approved, were then passed to the second degree; after which the D. Prov. G.M. (who presided during the ceremonies) delivered the lecture on the tracing board of the degree. Bro. the Rev. E. Hawley, of the Pelham Lodge, 939, was elected a joining member of this lodge. Some business in connection with the bye-laws having been transacted, and several propositions of joining members or candidates having been received, the lodge was closed by the W.M., and the brethren adjourned to refreshment at the Crown Hotel.

OXFORDSHIRE.

CHIPPING-NORTON.—*Bowyer Lodge* (No. 1,036).—This lodge met at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday the 18th inst. Bro. D. H. W. Horlock, Esq., in the chair; supported by Bros. Henry Hartley, P.M.; Robert Parsons, S.W.; C. D. Faulkner, J.W.; and other brethren. Bros. Henry Margetts, P.M., Churchill Lodge; J. M. Byar, Lodge Caledonian (S. C.), were present as visitors. There being no business, the first section was worked. The brethren afterwards adjourned to the banquet, when a very pleasant evening was spent in the manner usual among Masons.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—*St. Luke's Lodge* (No. 225).—A special lodge was held on the 4th inst., at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Brook-street, to raise Bro. Griffith and pass Bro. Edwards. Present: Bros. C. Davy, P.M., as W.M.; J. W. Robb, S.W.; J. Turner, P.M., as J.W.; A. Barber, Sec.; T. Prentice, I.G.; and Syer, Tyler: J. Whitehead, W. R. Taylor, W. T. Westgate, and S. B. King, P.M.'s; Lewis, Favre, Griffith, and Edwards. The lodge was duly opened and Bro. Edwards passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Griffith raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The ceremonies were ably performed by Bro. C. Davy, P.M., assisted by Bros. Whitehead and Westgate, P.M.'s. Lodge closed in peace with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. On the 10th inst. the regular monthly meeting took place. Present: Bros. P. Whitehead, W.M.; J. W. Robb, S.W.; J. Turner, P.M., as J.W.; A. Barber, Sec.; C. Byford, S.D.; G. Golding, J.D.; T. Prentice, I.G. and Tyler; Whitehead, Garwood, Davy, Westgate, and King, P.M.'s; Jackson, Pratt, Griffith, R. Dance, Meek, Flory, Skinner, Lewis, C. W. Godball, and others. The lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes read and confirmed. Bros. Dance, Jackson, and Favre were then passed to the degree of F.C., the ceremonies being conducted by Bros. Whitehead, Westgate, and Davy. The next and most important business was the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, when the suffrages of the brethren fell upon Bro. J. W. Robb. The present Treasurer and Tyler were also re-elected. Lodge closed down in peace, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment. The usual loyal, Masonic, and complimentary toasts were given and duly honoured.—On the 17th inst. a lodge of emergency was called by summons to ballot for, and, if accepted, initiated, Mr. G. Dance (leaving the neighbourhood) and Mr. W. Adams, Master Mariner (leaving for sea). Present: Bros. P. Whitehead, W.M.; J. W. Robb, S.W.; J. Turner, P.M., as J.W.; A. Barber, Sec.; C. Byford, S.D.; Golding, J.D.; Prentice, I.G.; and Syer, Tyler; Whitehead, Taylor, Westgate, and Davy, P.M.'s; Griffith, Dance, Godball, Lewis, Jabbot, and others. The ballot being unanimous, Messrs. Dance,

and Adams were duly initiated, the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. J. Whitehead, P.M., the working tools explained by Bro. Westgate, P.M., the charge and lecture on the tracing-board by Bro. J. Whitehead, P.M. Lodge closed in peace, and the brethren retired for refreshment.

British Union Lodge (No. 114).—The usual monthly meeting of this old established lodge was held on the 18th inst. at the Masonic Hall. Present: Bros. Wm. Roby, P.M., W.M.; A. J. Barber, S.W.; P. Cornell, J.W.; Spalding, Sec.; and Schulen, P.M., Treas.; Spalding, Tyler. P.M.'s.: R.W.D. Prov. G.M. Rev. Isaac Lockwood, Chas. Schulen, and G. H. Moore. Visitor: Bro. C. Davy, P.M., 225. Owing to ill health, and other circumstances, several brethren were prevented attending. The only business on the summons being the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, when Bro. A. J. Barber was unanimously elected. The Treasurer, Bro. P.M. Schulen, was re-elected, and also Bro. Spalding, Tyler. Lodge closed, and the brethren retired to the banquetting hall.

Perfect Friendship (No. 376).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Great White Horse Hotel, on Wednesday the 17th inst. Present: Bros. Stoddon, W.M.; J. R. Stephens, S.W.; W. A. Smith, J.W.; J. R. Fraser, S.D.; J. Waller, J.D.; S. B. King, P.M., Sec.; W. P. Mills, P.M., Treas.; and Syer, Tyler. Bro. P. M. Findley, M.C.; and about twenty others. Lodge opened in first degree. Minutes of last lodge read and confirmed. Lodge opened in second and third degrees. Closed down to first degree. The only business on the summons being to elect W.M. for the ensuing year, the ballot was then taken, and declared unanimous in favour of Bro. Stephens, the S.W.; Bro. P. M. Mills was re-elected Treas., and Bro. Syer, Tyler. Lodge duly closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet.

SURREY.

GUILDFORD.—*Royal Alfred Lodge* (No. 777).—The November meeting of this lodge took place on Thursday, the 11th inst., Bro. Pigott, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. Drewitt, P.M., Wells, P.M., White, P.M., Cookson, S.W., Mason, J.W., Bolting, S.D., Gandy, J.D., a good muster of members, and Bro. Stacey, a visitor from the Mauritius. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. After the examination and passing of Bros. Smallpiece Radford to the superior degree of F.C. The W.M., on the proposition of Bro. Drewitt, P.M., in the name of the members, after several suitable remarks, presented Bro. Neales with a very handsome jewel as a token of their esteem and high appreciation of his invaluable services for many years past to the Royal Alfred Lodge as Secretary and Treasurer. The intention of the brethren was not known to Bro. Neales until the presentation took place, when he expressed himself quite overcome with this manifestation of the kindly feelings existing towards him. He said he had had many surprises during his life, but never one that gave him greater pleasure. The jewel, which was made expressly for the occasion, was of 18-carat gold and blue enamel, and ornamented with the insignia of the two offices and the name of the lodge.

IRISH CONSTITUTION.

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND LODGE.

A special meeting of the Grand Lodge was held, on the 18th inst., at the New Masonic Hall in Molesworth-street, on which occasion the splendid hall devoted to the purposes of Freemasonry was filled to overflowing by members of the Craft, each vying with the other to do honour to the noble Duke, who for such a lengthened period has presided over the Order in Ireland. Peculiar circumstances tended to enhance the interest felt by the brethren on this occasion. The meeting was convened at the special request of the M.W. the Grand Master, who had expressed his intention of being present, in order to announce to the Grand Lodge the gratifying intelligence that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had, in the most gracious manner, consented to accept the position of patron of the Masonic Order in Ireland, the highest honour which the body had it in their power to bestow, and one which had in bygone days been held by her most gracious Majesty's predecessors on the Throne of England—King William IV, and George IV.

Among the Grand Officers present were:—Bros. Robert W. Shekleton, D.G.M.; Right Hon. Baron Athlumney, S.G.W.; Sir Edward Crogan, Bart., J.G.W.; Arthur Bush, G. Treas.; Rev. J. J. Macsorley, and the Hon. and Rev. W. C. Plunket, G. Chaps.; C. A. Cameron, and E. R. D. LaTouche, G.D.'s; C. D. Astley, G. Sup. of Works; Alderman J. Manning, G. Dir. of Cers.; Theophilus E. St. George, G. Steward; George Hepburn, Grand Sword-bearer; S. N. Dane, G.I.G.; Charles T. Walmisley, Dep. H. Sec.; Samuel B. Oldham, Aassist. Sec.; Philip C. Smyly, Right Hon. Major-General Dunno, P.G.M., of Midland Counties; Andrew Browne, P.G.M.S., Comaught; Rev. H. B. Westby, P.G. Chap.; John Cottle, Rep. G.L., Virginia; Richard B. DeBurgh, Rep. G.L., Illinois; Henry B. Hatfield, Rep. G.L., Tennessee; John H. Goddard, Rep. G.L., Lisbon; Capt. Vesey Devoren, Rep. G.L., Spain.

Precisely at four o'clock, with that punctuality for which the Duke of Leinster has always been noted, his Grace entered the Grand Lodge-room, attended by the Grand Officers, several Prov. G. Officers, and representatives from foreign Grand Lodges, and assumed his place on the throne. The Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, the Grand Master stated that the Grand Lodge, being desirous of bestowing some mark of distinction on His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, had referred the matter to him. In accordance with the usual etiquette, he had, in the first instance, consulted the wishes of His Royal Highness, and had been favoured with the most gracious answer, saying that His Royal Highness would gladly accept the intended honour. He had very great pleasure in making this announcement, and proposing that the Grand Lodge should confer on His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales the title of Patron of the Order in Ireland. This title, which has been held by His Royal Highness's grand-uncle, would not confer upon him any Masonic rank that would in the slightest interfere with the rights or privileges of their Grand Master; but if His Royal Highness should ever come amongst them, he felt sure that they would all be glad to see him, and receive him with all the honour and respect to which he was entitled.

His Royal Highness was then saluted with full Masonic honours.

The Right Hon. Lord Athlumney, who occupied the Senior Grand Warden's chair, stated that the portrait committee were desirous of submitting to Grand Lodge a report of their proceedings, and

The R. M. Lucius B. Deering, one of the honorary secretaries, then read the following report:—

"Your committee at once entered on their duties, and have in the interval held many meetings, and carefully considered the important subject intrusted to them. Your committee, with the view of exciting a generous emulation, and securing first-class objects of high art, confided the execution of the portraits to residents in the three kingdoms—that of his Grace the Grand Master to Mr. Catterson Smith; of the Hon. Judge Townsend, to Bro. Barclay, of Edinburgh; of the late Bro. Thomas Mostyn, to Mr. Lucas, of London. In handing over the portraits to the Grand Lodge, the committee, fortified by the judgment of the best critics, can confidently congratulate the brethren on the possession of three works of art of the highest character; they cannot refrain from inviting the attention to the force of the conception, the breadth of the handling, and the delicacy of the finish, such as matured art alone could bestow.

"Each a drama of a single scene."

The committee tender thanks to the artists as well for the works themselves as for their liberality in, under the peculiar circumstances, making large reductions from the honarium customary for such works, and so enabling your committee to secure specimens which may proudly be ranked amongst the *chefs d'œuvre* of portrait painting. The council of the Royal Hibernian Academy having applied to your committee, requesting that the portraits might be exhibited at their late exhibition, your committee, deeming it due, as well to the artists as to the Craft, that the public should have an opportunity of viewing the portraits, consented, the academy assuming a portion of the attendant expense. The committee append a return of the subscriptions and outlay, and in doing so, allude with pleasure to the fact that the subscribers' list was not confined to the members of the Craft in Dublin, but embraced a large number of our provincial brethren. All which the committee submit, with their fraternal salutations,

to the Grand Lodge as their report.—Signed on behalf of the committee,

ATHLUMNEY, Chairman.
LUCIUS T. DEERING, } Honorary
GEO. T. WHITESTONE, } Secretaries.

While the report was being read the three pictures were uncovered, and their striking appearance in the very beautiful and massive frames, which had been specially carved for them by the Messrs. Strahan, of Leinster-street, elicited loud and long-continued applause, all the brethren rising simultaneously.

The R.W. Bro. Rev. J. J. Macsorley, S.G. Chap., moved, and the R.W. Bro. Sir John Stewart, *Bart.*, Prov. G.M. of Tyrone, seconded that the report now read be received and adopted.

The G.M., in putting the resolution; congratulated the Grand Lodge on the magnificent hall in which they were now assembled. It was indeed a credit to their Order, and he hoped the Grand Lodge would long continue to prosper and flourish.

On the motion of the Hon. Judge Townsend, P.D.G.M., a vote of thanks was passed to the Grand Master for his attendance on the occasion, and for the deep interest he has at all times manifested in the welfare of the Order.

The proceedings then terminated.

ROYAL ARCH. ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

METROPOLITAN.

CONSECRATION OF THE CHAPTER OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 145).

The consecration of this new chapter took place at Freemasons' Hall on Thursday, the 25th inst. The ceremony of consecration was performed in the most admirable style by Comp. J. Hervey, Grand Scribe E., assisted by Comps. J. Brett, P.Z., and H. Jepper, P.Z. The selection of music played and sang during the consecration was conducted and executed by Comps. W. H. Taylor, P. Prov. G. Org., Theodore Distin, and R. Barnby. Comp. R. W. Little acted as Dir. of Cers.

The chapter having been opened by the G.S.E., the companions entered in order, and the introductory prayer was repeated.

The Dir. of Cers. addressed the Principals, who made suitable replies.

The Acting G.S.E. having read the Petition and Charter, the M.E.Z. inquired of the companions if they approved of the Officers named in the Charter.

The companions having signified their approval in Masonic form, the M.E.Z. proceeded to constitute the companions into a regular chapter in ancient form.

An oration on the nature and principles of the institution was then delivered.

The anthem, "Tis a pleasant thing to see," was then given.

The first part of the dedication prayer having been repeated, the chant, "So mote it be" was sung, the companions all joining.

The pedestal was then uncovered and the Dir. of Cers. carried the elements of consecration three times round the chapter, solemn music being performed during the ceremony.

The anthem, "I have built thee a house," was beautifully rendered.

The Chapter was then dedicated and constituted in due and ancient form.

The following Companions were then invested and installed in their respective offices:—

Comps. John Boyd, M.E.Z.; G. F. Sharpe, H.; W. Carter, J.; G. S. States, Scribe E.; H. P. Allender, Scribe N.; J. Last, Treas.

The following appointments were also made:—

Comps. G. Pitt, Prin. Soj.; J. Lancaster, 1st Assist. Soj.; J. Bull, 2nd Assist. Soj.; W. Watson, Steward; G. Wood, Dir. of Cers. W. G. Laing was also invested as Janitor.

The furniture and jewels of the chapter, supplied by Comp. Wm. Platt, were of the most *recherche* description, and elicited the approval of all present.

Thirty-three names were given as candidates for exaltation, and fifteen companions were proposed as joining members.

The M.E.Z. proposed that Comps. J. Hervey and J. Brett should be honorary members of the new chapter, which was unanimously carried, and those companions returned thanks in suitable terms.

Amongst the companions present we noticed:—

Comps. W. J. Taylor, 68, P. Prov. G.O.; Henry Pyne, 534; Donald King, St. James's Union, 172; F. W. Gilbert, Z. 534; R. W. Little, Z. 177, P.Z. 975; J. Tepper, 28; H. G. Bass, P.Z. 177; R. S. Warrington, P.Z. 8; W. Platt, P.Z. 19; John Coutts, M.E.Z. 382; C. J. Watson, P.Z. 11; J. W. H. Doughney, S.E. 206; R. Barnby, 820; J. Hervey, G.S.E.; R. J. Allenden, 742; James Brett, P.Z. 177; W. Farnfield, P.Z. 5; Mercock, Z. 534; J. Avrillon, 742; Theodore Distin; H. Massey, J. 619; J. Horwood, 1st Assist. Soj. 28; D. Stile, Rose of Denmark; E. Bingham, Melita.

ST. JAMES'S UNION CHAPTER (No. 180).—The companions of this chapter met at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 23rd inst. There were present:—Comps. H. A. Stoner, M.E.Z.; T. W. Watson, H.; J. W. Dawson, J.; C. Jackson, P.Z., Scribe E.; H. A. Stacey, P.Z.; T. W. Sedgwick, P.Z. & Treas.; H. Robinson, P. Soj. The visitors were:—A. Codner, H. 25; J. F. Berry, 186; and K. Hardey, 753. Bros. Frederick Shelley, 180; G. F. Crenier, 180; and John Hidden, 511, were exalted to the Holy Royal Arch degree.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*Chapter of Fortitude* (No. 279).—A quarterly convocation of this chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 10th inst., the officers present being the Rev. John Spittal, M.E.Z.; L. A. Clarke, H.; Pettifor, P.Z., as J.; Kelly, P.Z., and P.G.H., Treas.; Stretton, E.; Patridge, N.; Toller, P.S.; Buzzard, A.S.; Bembridge, J.; and a number of other companions. The minutes of the last quarterly convocation and of a chapter of emergency held in October, having been read and confirmed, a letter was read from Comp. the Rev. Charles J. E. Smith, of Rugby School, and of the Euclid Chapter, Cambridge, who was elected a member at the last meeting, apologising for his inability to attend on this occasion. The absence of the G. Principal was occasioned by his being in the United States. Two candidates were due for exaltation, but neither of them being present, the chapter was closed at an early hour in ancient form.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*De Mowbray Chapter* (No. 1130).—The regular meeting of this chapter was held on Thursday, November the 11th. Present: Comps. Rev. W. Langley, M.E.Z.; F. P. Newcome, H.; H. W. Kelly, P.G.H.J.; Robinson, Brown, Adecock, Chester, Newcome, Fast, and others. The ballot was taken for Bros. Rea, Petty, and Duncome, and, being in their favour, they were exalted by the M.E.Z., Comp. Kelly giving the lectures in his usually perfect manner. The chapter was then closed, and the companions adjourned to supper, after which a happy hour was spent, and the meeting was broken up at an early hour.

MARK MASONRY.

ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*Howe Mark Lodge* (No. 21).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday the 18th inst., the W.M., Bro. Rev. W. Langley, presiding. There was a very good attendance of brethren, and five out of six candidates for this honourable degree were duly advanced by the W.M. and his officers. The W.M. also delivered the lecture of the degree. The lodge being closed, a very pleasant evening was spent, and the brethren separated at 10 o'clock.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND FINE ARTS.

The following letter appeared in the *Times* from Mr. Holland, Secretary of the Fund for the Exploration of Sinai:—

"Sir,—A letter from me appeared in your columns of the 3rd inst, respecting the exploration of the Till Desert, or the "Wilderness of the Wanderings." It is with great pleasure that I now write to announce that the committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund have decided to take the proposed expedition under their charge, and that henceforth there will be only one fund

for the exploration of Palestine and Sinai. The subscriptions that have been already received will be handed over at once to that fund. I would add that the adoption of this additional work will at first tax severely the resources in the hands of the committee; and those who are interested in the exploration of these Bible lands, and are willing to subscribe, will confer a great favour by sending their subscriptions as quickly as possible to the Secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund.—I am, &c., your humble servant,
J. W. HOLLAND.
"6, Portsea-place, Connaught-square, Nov. 15."

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

We regret to have to chronicle a sweeping and most unfounded charge made by the Governor-General of India against the Members of that highly respectable profession, the Civil Engineers. As there are a great number of them who are zealous Masons and hold high rank in the Craft, we cannot possibly allow it to pass over without some remonstrance on our part against a charge so utterly unfounded.

The statement is to the effect that the Governor-General "was given to understand that in the Civil Engineering profession in England it was a recognised practice for Civil Engineers employed by public companies and others to receive, in addition to the salaries paid them by their employers, commission on contracts given out, or stores and materials ordered or inspected by them, and other like pecuniary considerations for services done or intended to be done, which were considered legitimate sources of emolument."

At the meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Bro. Charles Hutton Gregory, President, remarked that the occasion should not be allowed to pass without some reference to an attack on the honour of the profession which has justly aroused in India and England a deep feeling of indignation. He concluded his remarks by stating that although in the engineering profession, as in others, there may be instances of secret dishonesty, such acts are not recognised as "legitimate;" and that where such practices have been detected, in some cases the persons charged have ceased to be ranked amongst the members of the Institution, and that he felt sure that, in vindicating the honour of the profession, the members thereof will have the sympathy of all honourable men.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES.

At the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, there has been produced during the week *Le Nozze de Figaro*, *La Sonnambula*, *Il Flauto Magico*, and *Les Huguenots*; and this evening *Der Freischutz* will be performed. The principal characters were sustained by Mr. Santley, Signor Cotogini, Mdlle. Vanzigi, Mdlle. Sinico, and Mdlle. Titiens, with Signor Arditi as Musical Director and Conductor.

Scarcely any change has taken place during the present week at the various metropolitan theatres. *The Lady of Lyons* has been given with brilliant success at the Holborn every evening except Thursday and Friday, when *The Gamster* was performed.—At the Lyceum *Romeo and Juliet* has been the principal attraction.—At the other western houses there has been, so far as the production of novelty is concerned, complete quietude. Sadler's Wells has produced a new drama entitled *The Bavarian Girl; or, the Black Helmet*. At Astley's Mr. E. T. Smith announces, "A Night with the two great Poets"—Sir Walter Scott's *Rob Roy* and Lord Byron's *Mazepa* being produced.—*The Grand Duchess* and the farce of *In and Out of Service* have been performed at the Standard.—At the Surrey, Mrs. Chas. Pitt, who had hitherto figured only as lessee and manager, has made her appearance in *The Great City*, and fully sustained her provincial reputation as a talented actress.—It is *Never Too Late to Mend* and *Temptation* have

formed the principal attraction at the Royal Alfred.—Travers's drama of *The Vagabond Father*, *Quarter Day*, and *The Ocean of Life* have been performed at the Victoria.—At the Grecian the *Orange Girl* has been revived.

The Sacred Harmonic Society commenced their 38th season at Exeter Hall with a performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, under the direction of Sir Michael Costa. The principal vocalists announced are Miss Edith Wynne, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. Winn, and Mr. Lewis Thomas.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The Centre Transept is quite gay with the fine collection of chrysanthemums, which form an attractive feature of the Palace during the present month. On Tuesday, the "shilling operas" were resumed, *Sonnambula* being the *pièce de resistance*, and on Thursday *Lurline*, in the New Theatre and Opera House, which, we may state, is agreeably warmed. On Wednesday and Friday the Crystal Palace Band gave a selection of symphonies, oratorios, &c. At the concert this day Rossini's *Messe Solenne* will be performed.

"EASTWARD HO!"

(From a Correspondent.)

To Somerset! Where is Somerset? Why Somerset is a beautiful village in the Eastern Province of the Cape of Good Hope; but there is also a Somerset in the Western Province (as we don't wish to be mistaken) the former is called *Somerset East*, the latter *West*.

Having received a very polite invitation from the W.M. and officers to attend the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of their new Temple, on Thursday, the 7th of October, 1869, we commenced making the necessary travelling arrangements. After having surmounted these difficulties, which in this colony are difficulties indeed, we started at precisely 11 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday, the 6th, in two carts, each drawn by a pair of horses, and a groom following on horseback; each cart was occupied by two B.B., and two more followed on horseback. It was very warm, the thermometer being at 90°. When we got about five miles out, we took compassion on the two equestrian B.B. and made arrangements for three in each cart, the groom to lead their horses; we then lit our pipes, took a glass of Parke's best brandy (which let me recommend to your notice, as we consider it A 1), and off we started in fine style and with renewed spirits. One of the B.B. in the cart with me now made a dash at his carpet-bag, and drew from it—what? Why, of course, a copy of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE for July, 1869, from which he began to read aloud some very interesting articles by "Dnalxo," and other of your correspondents. After travelling about nine miles the carts had to separate, as one of the B.B. wished to visit Bedford, which is not exactly in the direct route for Somerset; however, we agreed to meet at Maskell's, at "Cook Huix" Bridge, Fish River, about 35 miles off, and so we did at 7 o'clock p.m.

After travelling 45 miles in hot weather one feels languid, but Maskell's Hotel soon dispelled that by tickling our olfactory nerves with the odour of savoury viands, which were spread before us in a few minutes and were done ample justice to, when we felt ourselves to be stronger, if not better men. We retired, slept well, and the next morning, the glorious 7th, at 6 a.m. we made a start for Somerset, then about 15 miles off, that is we tried to make a start, but unfortunately one of one pair of the cart-horses was what is termed in colonial phraseology, "sticks," i.e., only goes when in the mood; should the reader ever meet with one, or have to depend upon him for locomotion, don't lose your temper with him, for often with a sticks horse you find yourself exactly on the same spot, after an hour or more of coaxing, talking, whipping, pushing at the wheel, and many other plans known only to such as have had to suffer from the effects of the sticks mystery; it is one that would defy

Rarey; for suddenly, without intimation, Dobbin makes a plunge and starts off quite smartly; and so did our *stickler*. and after all we arrived in Somerset at 9 a.m. at Bro. Holliday's Hotel, had breakfast, and, very soon after, some of the Somerset B.B. came to welcome us and escorted us to the lodge-room.

At exactly 12 m. the procession started for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone. Having arrived at the spot, the Rev. Woodruff delivered a very appropriate prayer. This gentleman, I may state, has not the slightest objection to pray for any of his fellow creatures who may be Freemasons, as some of the clergy in the Dutch Reformed Church in this colony have; for these sometimes preach from their pulpits that we are "Calumniators of the Most High," "Men who do not believe in Almighty," &c., trying to keep their congregation in terror of us, but *magna est veritas et prevalebit*.

Bro. Henderson then gave a very beautiful address in honour of the occasion, which was followed by one from Bro. Pye, who addressed himself especially to the ladies. He thanked them for their presence at the ceremony in the most flowing language, adding that the event of the day, and in fact any hour of man's life, would be nothing without *them*, and, for his own part, he could only say that the "Sweetest hours he ever spent, were spent among the lassies, oh!" These remarks, I think, were made principally on account of he also having overheard what some of us did; when the grand honours were given, one or two ladies remarked, "There's heathenism!" Notwithstanding, the stone was duly laid according to the ancient custom by the W.M., Bro. W. Rorke. The procession then returned to the lodge-room, when the B.B. were called to refreshment, and refreshment it was, for the lodge *Eintdracht* treated us right royally. About 40 B.B., added to which was the Resident Magistrate, Browner, Esq., and our friend, the Rev. Woodruff, sat down to a splendid luncheon prepared by mine host of the White Horse Hotel, Bro. Holliday. *May his shadow never grow less.*

Of course the usual and other toasts were given, amongst which was the health of the W.M. of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 989. Of course one feels rather elevated when he hears the health of the W.M. of his lodge proposed, and so did I, and, I may say, so did we all, at any rate it was responded to by the present P.M. of that lodge. He briefly thanked the members of the lodge *Eintdracht* for the very cordial manner in which the health of the W.M. had been *bumped*, and stated moreover that the *seven* members of St. Paul's (for one more joined us on the road) had travelled 60 miles, not merely for the honour of being present on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone, but also for the object of establishing a bond of union between the two lodges, and which, from the fraternal reception they had met with and the very friendly expression of the countenances now assembled at the table, was sufficient proof of the attainment of their purpose.

After lunch we retired to our hotel and commenced preparations for a return home, but which was strongly negatived by our fraternal friends, who were anxious to keep us there a night; but we, on the other hand, were anxious to get back to business, and were at last positively obliged to tear ourselves away. As one of us afterwards remarked, "There's no mistake, those Somerset fellows are a jolly lot;" and so say all of us.

At four p.m., the same day then, we left Somerset accompanied by several of our friends, who were determined to escort us out of the village; and it was well they did, for, about a mile out, our "sticks" horse made a dead stand; but thanks to our friends, and one in particular, we were enabled to start after an hour and a half's trial of patience; but before we got back to Cook Huix Bridge, the rain descended in torrents, and it became beastly dark. We got drenched, insomuch that the water and our courage oozed out (not at our fingers'

ends) of our boots. We got home the next day, and are now amused at our difficulties, and pleased we went.

I have only to remark that we hope to lay the foundation-stone of our lodge in December, and trust we may soon have sufficient funds to complete it, of which there would be little doubt if the Masters and Past Masters would only follow the ancient custom (*vide* Book of the lodge)—"Every Master and Past Master shall give a beam of cedar, besides other contributions," and I sincerely trust to have the pleasure of giving the readers of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE a flourishing and satisfactory account. By-the-by, we strongly recommended your publication to the notice of our Somerset B.B., and no doubt you will soon receive the required subscriptions.

CHESHIRE EDUCATIONAL MASONIC INSTITUTION.

The fifth annual amateur dramatic performance in aid of the funds of this excellent institution took place on the evening of the 15th instant, in the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead. The performance was under the patronage of Lord de Tabley, R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Cheshire, and a number of other noblemen and gentlemen belonging to the county. It may be stated that the trustees of the institution are Bros. Lord de Tabley, Lord Combermere, Captain H. A. Bennett, E. G. Willoughby, Joseph Brattan, and Edward Samuelson. The object of the institution is to impart a good sound education to the children of deceased Masons who have not left behind them sufficient means for that purpose. The children are sent to different schools, and although the institution has been only five years in existence a considerable number have already received the advantage of an excellent educational training. At present there are fifteen juveniles under instruction. The amateur performances on behalf of the funds of the institution has been every year exceedingly well supported, and on this occasion the theatre was crowded in every part, the audience including the *élite* of Birkenhead and the neighbourhood. Amongst those present were the Hon. Sir Edward Cust, Mr. W. Laird, Mr. S. Ledward, Lieutenant-Colonel King, Mr. R. R. Bryans, Major Gaskell, Mr. C. J. Preston, Mr. M. Mocatta, Captain Hornblower, Mr. R. Galloway, T. S. Eddowes, &c.

The performances passed off with *éclat*, and when it is borne in mind that all the gentlemen players were amateurs, whose opportunities of donning the sock and buskin are not very frequent, it must be conceded that the absence of any apparent hitch reflected highly to their credit. The *piece de resistance* was Messrs. T. and J. M. Morton's drama, "*All that Glitters is not Gold.*" The impersonation by Mr. T. Walters of Jasper Plum was very effective, and the different parts of the brothers Stephen and Frederick Plum were well sustained by Mr. R. T. Parkinson and Mr. Thomas Tuer. Mr. J. Robertson's conception of the character of the *roué*, Sir Arthur Lascelles, was very felicitous, and his realisation of it was most successful. The *Toby Twinkle* of Mr. W. J. Hammond deservedly called forth the applause of the audience. The impersonation of Lady Leatherbridge and Lady Valeria Westendleigh by Mrs. Carter and Miss Edwards, of the Theatre Royal, Manchester, respectively left little to be desired; and Miss Emily Weston, of the Alexandra Theatre, Liverpool, was very successful in the part of Martha Gibbs.

The performance concluded with Charles Solby's celebrated romantic drama, "*Robert Macaire, or the Auberge des Adrets.*" The several characters in this piece were also exceedingly well represented, and the audience expressed their satisfaction with the efforts of the amateurs by frequent bursts of applause. The costumes were supplied by Mr. Henry Jeffries, and the stage director was Bro. John Chester, of the Prince of Wales Theatre in this town. The success of this performance in aid of a very worthy object is greatly to be attributed to the following brethren of the Masonic order, who took an active part in the arrangements, namely—Bros. H. Oliver Jones and Walter Theobalds, honorary secretaries; Bro. J. P. Platt, treasurer; and Bros. J. Higson Johnston, Thomas Deighton, Walter Theobalds, Edward Harbord, John Griffiths, William Smith, C. P. Nosworthy, Joseph Sillitoe, Captain John Jones, and Robert Davies, who officiated as stewards. The result of the night's performances will be a handsome addition to the funds of the institution.

LIST OF LODGE, MEETINGS, &c., FOR WEEK
ENDING 4TH DECEMBER, 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, Nov. 29th.

LODGES.—Pythagorean, Lecture Hall, Royal Hill, Greenwich; British Oak, Bank of Friendship Tav., Bancroft-pl., Mile-end.

Tuesday, Nov. 30th.

LODGES.—Faith, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.

Wednesday, Dec. 1st.

Quar. Com. G. Lodge, at 7 for 8 p.m.—LODGES.—Stability, George Ho., Aldermanbury; Zetland, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; Macdonald-Head Qrs., 1st Surrey Vol. Corps, Brunswick-rd., Camberwell.

Thursday, Dec. 2nd.

LODGES.—Westminster and Keystone, F.M.H.; Egyptian, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; Strong Man, F.M.H.; Lion and Lamb, City Terminus Ho., Cannon-st.; Ionic, Ship and Turtle, Leadhall-st.; St. Andrew's, F.M.H.; Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; Victoria Rifles, F.M.H.; Excelsior, Sydney Arms, Lewisham-rd.; Perfect Ashlar, Gregorian Arms, Bermondsey-rd.—CHAPTERS.—St. James's, F.M.H.; Moriah, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.; Sincerity, Cheshire Cheese Tav., Crutched Friars; Westbourne, New Inn, Edgeware-rd.; Crystal Palace, Crystal Palace, Sydenham.

Friday, Dec. 3rd.

LODGES.—Florence Nightingale, Ma. Ha., William-st., Woolwich; Hornsey, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.—CHAPTERS.—British, F.M.H.; Prince of Wales's, Willis's Rooms, St. James's; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham.

Saturday, 4th Dec.

Gen. Com. Boys' School, at F.M.H., at 4.—LODGE.—St. Thomas, Radley's Ho., Bridge-st., Blackfriars.—CHAPTER.—Rose of Denmark, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge.

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF
INSTRUCTION.

Monday, Nov. 29th.

Prosperity, White Hart, Bishopsgate-st.; Temple, Old George St. Mary Axe, E.C.; Justice, Royal Albert, New Cross-rd., Deptford; Old Concord, Turk's Head, Montcombe-st., Belgrave-sq.; Sincerity, Guildhall Hotel, Gresham-street; St. James's Union, Swan Tavern, Mount-street, Grosvenor-sq.; Industry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-st.; Salisbury, 71, Dean-st., Soho; Westbourne, Running Horse, Duke-street, Grosvenor-sq.; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham; Tower Hamlets Engineers, Duke of Clarence, Commercial-rd. East; Eastern Star, Royal Ho., Burdett-rd., Mile-end-rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 30th.

Strong Man, White Horse, Little Britain; Faith, Fisher's Restaurant, Metropolitan District Railway, Victoria Station; Domatic, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell; Jordan, Alwyne Castle, Canonbury; Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; Prince Frederick William, Knights of St. John's Tav., St. John's-wood; British Oak, Silver Lion Tavern, Pennyfield, Poplar; Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney; Royal Albert, White Hart, Abchurch-lane.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Rose of Denmark, George Ho., Aldermanbury; Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's-lane.

Wednesday, Dec. 1st.

Confidence, Railway Tav., Fenchurch-st.; 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. Lamb beth; Peckham, Edinburgh Castle Tavern, Peckham Rye; Pythagorean, Prince of Orange Hotel, Greenwich; Temperance in the East, George the Fourth, Catherine-st., Poplar.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—St. James's Union, Swan Tav., Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.

Thursday, Dec. 2nd.

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.; Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth; St. George's, Globe Tav., Royston, Hill, Greenwich; St. John's, Hollybush Tav., Hampstead, Mauchester, Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-square; Tranquillity, Sugar Loaf Tav., Great St. Helen's; Whittington, Crown Ho., 41, Hoiborn; Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tav., Deptford.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Joppa, Prospect of Whitley Tav., 57, Wapping-wall.

Friday, Dec. 3rd.

Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.; St. Luke's; Pier Ho., Cheyne-walk, Chelsea; Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-rd., Deptford; Stability, Guildhall Tav., 33, Gresham-st.; Union (Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.), Freemasons' Hall; United Pilgrims, Horns' Tavern, Kennington; Wellington, Lord Duncan Tavern, Broadway, Deptford; Florence Nightingale, Freemasons' Tav., Woolwich; Ranelagh, Windsor Castle Hotel, King-st., Hammersmith; 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; Victoria, George Ho., Aldermanbury.

Saturday, Dec. 4th.

CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Mount Sinai, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.

PROVINCIAL.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Mon., CAMBRIDGE.—Lodge: Isaac Newton University.—*Tues.*, CAMBRIDGE.—Chapter, Euclid.

DORSET.

Wed., POOLE.—Lodge: Amity, Ma. Ha.—*DORCHESTER.*—Lodge: Faith, Ma. Ha.—*Fri.*, WEXMOUTH.—Chapter: All Souls', Ma. Ha.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

Mon., MANCHESTER.—Lodge: Social, Queen's Ho.—*Wed.*, LOWER BROUGHTON.—Lodge: St. Thomas', Town Hall, Duke-st.—*ROCHDALE.*—Lodge: Harmony, Ma. Ro., 23, Ann-st.—*KERSLEY.*—Lodge: Ellesmere, Church Inn.—*MANCHESTER.*—Lodge: Humphrey Cheetham, F.M.H.—*SHAW* (near Oldham).—Lodge: Albert, Duke of York Inn.—*LITTLEBOROUGH.*—Chapter: Benevolence, Red Lion Ho.—*THURS.*, MANCHESTER.—Lodge: Affability, F.M.H.—*BURY.*—Lodge: Prince of Wales, Derby Ho.—*Fri.*, MANCHESTER.—Friendship, F.M.H., Cooper-st.—*ACCRINGTON.*—Lodge: Equality, Red Lion Ho., Abbey-st.—*ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.*—Lodge: Union, Queen's Arms Inn, George-st.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

Mon., WARRINGTON.—Lodge: Lights, Ma. Ro., Sankey-st.—*Wed.*, CHORLEY.—Ellesmere, Royal Oak Ho.—*LIVERPOOL.*—Lodge: Royal Victoria, Ma. Tem.—*WAVERTREE.*—Lodge: Duke of Edinburgh, Wright's Coffee-house.—*LIVERPOOL.*—Lodge: St. John, Royal Mersey Yacht Ho.—*THURS.*, LIVERPOOL.—Lodge: Mariners', Ma. Tem.—*Fri.*, LIVERPOOL.—Lodge: Sefton, Adelphi Ho.

OXFORDSHIRE.

Thurs., OXFORD.—Chapter: Alfred, Ma. Ha., Alfred-st.—*Fri.*, OXFORD.—Lodge: Churchill, Ma. Ha., Alfred-st.

WARWICKSHIRE.

Mon., BIRMINGHAM.—Lodge: St. Paul's, Union Ho.—*Tues.*, WARWICK.—Lodge: Shakespeare, Ma. Ro.—*Wed.*, BIRMINGHAM.—Chapters: Fletcher, Ma. Ro., Newhall-st.; Athol, Ma. Ha., Severn-st.

[This information is extracted from the "Universal Masonic Calendar," published at 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, and brethren who may detect any inaccuracies (and there are, doubtless, many), are respectfully requested to communicate the same to the Editor at the Office, No. 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SEVERAL communications stand over till our next.