

Contents.

	PAGE.
Masonic Greed	461
The Byzantine Succession	461
The Lodge of Glasgow St. John—By Bro. W. P. Buchan.....	461
Masonic Celestial Mysteries—By Bro. Henry Melville.....	463
How I Spent my Five Weeks' Leave	466
Short Address—By Bro. the Rev. P. J. Syré	468
Masonic Notes and Queries	469
Correspondence	470
Masonic Memos.....	472
CRAFT LODGE MEETINGS—	
Metropolitan	472
Provincial.....	472
Scotland	475
Royal Arch	476
Mark Masonry	477
Ancient and Accepted Rite.....	478
Royal Order of Scotland.....	478
Poetry	478
Theatrical and Musical Notes.....	479
Literature, Science, and Fine Arts	479
Scientific Meetings for the Week	479
List of Lodge, &c., Meetings for ensuing week	479
To Correspondents	480

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1869.

MASONIC GREED.

In a contemporary of a recent date is given a notice of the Earl of Zetland, accompanied with a "cartoon." Although there is nothing in the notice to call for cavil, it being complimentary in the extreme, the cartoon is so ridiculously outrageous that we feel constrained to enter a protest against it, on the ground that a caricature, to be good, should at least be, as the novelists say, "founded upon fact." Now the cartoon in question is not so in any sense, as it represents a person awkward, ill-dressed, and in every way *outré*, which, it is well known, has no foundation in truth in the case of our M.W.G.M.

That any man, especially a Mason (as the designer of the sketch must have been), should have pencilled so vile and wretched a production seems incredible; but the fact that journals who devote a portion of their columns to the diffusion of Masonic information (with the sanction of the M.W.G.M.), should greedily swallow the bait held out to them in the shape of a few shillings for advertisements giving publicity to such a scandal, we must express both surprise and indignation; and we can only account for such conduct by supposing that, on the principle of the American gamblers, they had made up their minds, in this instance, as in others, to "go it blind," and get all they possibly can out of Masonry, which they seem to have entered not entirely uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives.

THE BYZANTINE SUCCESSION.

We have received and continue to receive communications upon the subject of the succession to the Byzantine empire, which promise to run to so great a length in a discussion which we do not consider suitable to our pages, as not bearing upon Masonic subjects, that we must decline to insert any further communications upon the matter, especially as some of our correspondents seem inclined to import into the discussion a measure of personality and acrimony which we cannot but consider un-Masonic.

THE LODGE OF GLASGOW ST. JOHN.

By Bro. W. P. BUCHAN, P.S.W. No. 3 *bis*, and Grand Steward, Grand Lodge of Scotland.

As I perceive by the minutes, I was proposed as a member of the Lodge of Glasgow St. John (No. 3 *bis*), upon the 4th February, 1862, the proposer being the late Bro. W. Lawson, who was then Treasurer, and seconded by Bro. Gavin Park, P.M., who was then Dep. M. At that time I was presented with a copy of the by-laws, to which were prefixed what was considered a history of the lodge. The date of this production was 1858, and its author, Bro. James Cruickshank, P.M. This production contains little regarding the lodge except a "translation" of the pretended "original charter" from Malcolm III., and a portion of the correspondence that took place in 1849-50 between the members of St. John's and the Grand Lodge of Scotland, relative to their union with it. Bro. Cruickshank was then utterly unaware of the existence of a minute-book of the incorporation extending from A.D. 1600 to 1681. He seems also to have entirely ignored the minutes, &c., of the "Glasgow Freemen Operative St. John' Lodge," which I am now about to give. Therefore, although a few years ago I had considerable faith in this history of the lodge by Bro. Cruickshank, "more light" has not only forced me to acknowledge this pretended "original charter" to be forgery, and all the remarks based thereupon useless, but the discovery of other material has led me to attempt to give a few extracts not yet published, and also to make a few remarks, which I trust will bear the test of historical investigation; however, if I do make any mistakes they will at least not be intentional, and I shall always be obliged to my fellow Masonic students to point

out whatever they consider is not consistent. I do not intend to "begin at the beginning," for several reasons; one being, that I have already given some remarks upon the early history of Masonry in Glasgow; and another is, that I wish to give the following first, while I have it beside me, and I can go back to the rest again when I have more leisure.

From the "Minute Book of the Glasgow Freemen Operative St. John's Lodge."

"At Glasgow the twenty-fourth day of December, eighteen hundred and twenty-four. Convened, a great many of the members of the Glasgow Freemen Operative St. John's Lodge. It was stated that there had been no regular meetings of the lodge from December, 1818, till the present time, and it was resolved not only to meet for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of Saint John on the 27th inst.; but also to put the affairs of the lodge into a greater state of regularity than they have been for many years past.

"In the meantime the lodge proceeded to the election of office-bearers, when the following individuals were respectively chosen to fill the offices aftermentioned, viz.:—James Scott, R.W.M.; James Torrance, S.W.; G. Montgomery, J.W.; Jas. Carmichael, Grand Steward; John Hamilton, James Cranston, William Aitken, Stewards; Andrew Scott, Treasurer; James Izatt, Pass Master; James Mc Guffie, Late Master; Thomas Wilson, Assistant Master; George Young, Secretary.

"The Secretary is appointed to advertise the meeting of the lodge on the 27th inst., and also to give notice to the members by circular in the usual manner. The meeting further appointed the Master, Secretary, and Thomas Wilson as a committee to prepare a draft of the regulations for the government of the lodge.

"James Scott."

"At Glasgow, the thirty-first day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five. Convened, the Master, Treasurer, and other office-bearers of the lodge, as well as a number of the members.

"The committee appointed at the meeting of the twenty-fourth December last, produced a draft of the regulations. The draft was repeatedly read over, and after some alterations was finally approved of. The Secretary is appointed to provide a minute book and roll book, and to cause the regulations and future minutes of the lodge to be

entered in the former, and to prepare a roll of the members to be inserted in the latter book.

"James Scott."

"Articles and Regulations of the Glasgow Freemen Operative St. John's Lodge."

"Whereas the Freemen Operative Masons in Glasgow have, along with the Incorporation of Masons of the said city, been constituted by Royal Charter and immemorial usage, into a Lodge of Freemasons, under the name and style of the Glasgow Freemen Operative St. John's Lodge for a period of nearly 800 years.* Although no regular provision has been made, either for defraying the expenses of supporting the said Lodge, or for the relief of the members thereof, independently of the funds strictly belonging to the said Incorporation. And, whereas, it has been deemed expedient and necessary that certain regulations should be made not only for the government of the said Lodge, but for the purpose of raising means independently of the funds strictly belonging to the said Incorporation, in order to defray the expenses of supporting the Lodge and relieving distressed members thereof, the following Rules and Regulations, after being submitted to a General Meeting of the members have been agreed to for these purposes.

"First. The said Lodge shall be known as heretofore under the name and style of the Glasgow Freemen Operative St. John's Lodge, and shall be governed and guarded as formerly according to the rules of Freemasonry by a Grand Master, Past Master, Depute Master, two Wardens, a Secretary, a Treasurer, four Stewards, and a Tyler.

"Second. The present Office Bearers shall continue in office until the first Friday of December, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, old style, when there shall be a new election of Office Bearers for the ensuing year. And upon the first Friday of December, old style, annually thereafter, a new election of Office Bearers shall take place.

"Third. There shall be a regular meeting of the said Lodge held on the anniversary of the Festival of St. John, to which all the enrolled members shall be duly warned. And the Master, with the advice of the other Office Bearers, shall have power to call other meetings at such times as may be thought proper, to which all the enrolled members shall be also duly warned to attend.

* That is a mistake; I am not aware as yet of the "Incorporation" being even half "800 years" old.

"Fourth. No person who is not first duly admitted a free operative member of the said Incorporation of Masons, shall be admitted members of the Lodge, either by entry or initiation. Each person joining the Lodge as an entered apprentice, shall make payment to the Treasurer of the sum of fifteen shillings, in name of entry money, and for the degrees of Fellow Craft and Master the sum of ten shillings and sixpence, and for Chair Master the sum of two shillings and sixpence. Each person initiating* in the lodge shall make payment to the Treasurer of seven shillings and sixpence sterling. The candidates shall also defray the whole expense attending the different steps in which they may be qualified. They shall also pay one shilling each to the officer for the several degrees of Masonry.

"Fifth. Each member of the Lodge shall make payment of the sum of two shillings annually towards the funds, which shall be paid at the meeting held on the first Friday of December, annually. And it is hereby declared that any member who shall be in arrear of the said annual payment shall neither have any right to relief from the funds of the Lodge, nor have any voice at any meetings held till such arrears shall be paid up.

"Sixth. The whole monies arising from the entries, initiations, and annual payments, shall be applied in defraying the expenses of supporting the Lodge, and providing and maintaining the cloathing and jewels for the use of the Office Bearers thereof, excepting as aftermentioned. Declaring, however, as it is hereby provided and declared, that the Master and other Office Bearers shall have the power of granting such aid as they may think necessary from time to time, either to members of this Lodge, or to brethren belonging to other Lodges, who it may be thought are in need of pecuniary aid. But no expenditure shall take place without a written minute of the Office Bearers, signed by the Master for the time being.

"Seventh. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of his whole intromissions with, and disbursements from the funds of the Lodge, which shall be examined and docketed by the Office Bearers, previous to the annual meeting to be held

* "Initiating" here must surely mean affiliating, while the term "entry" is equivalent for our word "initiation;" anent this see St. Mungo Minutes, p. 124. Chairing is kept up in the lodge, the "Mark and Chair" being given to a number of members no later than the 25th ult., the ceremonies being worked by Bro. Jas. Thomson, Treasurer of Prov. G.L. Benevolent Fund.

on the first Friday of December. This account shall also be laid before the Lodge at that meeting, and if approved of, shall be inserted in the Minute Book of the Lodge, when the Treasurer shall also be discharged of his intromissions for the preceding year.

"Eighth. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Lodge, or of the Office Bearers thereof, and shall keep a book of sederunt of all their proceedings. The said book shall be open to inspection of all the members of the Lodge upon all necessary occasions.

"Ninth. The Tyler of the Lodge shall also act as Officer, and in that capacity his duty shall be to warn the Office Bearers and other members to the different meetings which may be called by the Master. For his trouble in both offices he shall be allowed thirty shillings of annual salary, besides one shilling from each candidate for every degree of Masonry.

"Tenth. It shall always be in the power of the Lodge to make such additions to, or alterations of these articles, as may be thought proper. But no addition to, or alteration of them, shall be made until the motion for that purpose shall have lain for consideration for at least three calendar months before it shall be adopted.

(Signed) "James Scott."

The foregoing occupy the first seven pages of the book; then follow the minutes from page 8, dated 16th December, 1825.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC CELESTIAL MYSTERIES.

By Bro. HENRY MELVILLE.

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT.

PAPER VII.

Reference was made in Paper VI. to the beautiful celestial poem of *Aratus of Soli*, and a further examination of the work cannot be otherwise than acceptable to those who consider the heavens declare the glory of God. The poem is translated by the *Rev. Dr. Lamb, Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, &c.*, 1848. He says Aratus was born at Soli 260 before the Christian era. His parents were Athedonorus and Letophila, persons of some consequence and rank in their native city. His father distinguished himself as a warrior. When at Athens, Aratus found much attention was given to astronomy, and the task

he undertook was to give the astronomical description of the heavens according to *Eudoxus*, and to relieve the dull monotony of a mere catalogue of constellations and stars by poetical language; and with great skill and ingenuity he has accomplished this undertaking. Mythology Eratus most beautifully blends with the celestial choir, and the lovely metaphors and illustrations can be readily understood by any reader having before him a celestial globe or Atlas. The Masonic laws by which the constellations are ruled of course he does not give, but it is clear they were well known to him, or he could not have written as he has done. Certain he was master of celestial mythology, and celestial mythology is but a stepping stone to celestial theology. All classic students formerly were, and some now are, instructed in mythology before they commence the study of theology. Paul, in his invocation to the Unknown God of the Athenians, refers to their poets, and Dr. Lamb considers the following beautiful opening passage of the *Phenomena* of Aratus is that to which the Saint more particularly alluded when he said, "For in him we live, and move and have our being: as certain also of your own poets have said—for we are also his offspring."

"Let us begin from Jove. Let every mortal raise
His grateful voice to time Jove's endless praise.
Jove fills the heaven—the earth—the air:
We feel his spirit moving here and everywhere.
And we his offsprings are. He ever good
Daily provides for man his daily food.
Ordains the seasons by his signs on high,
Studding with gems of light the azure canopy.
What time with plough or spade to break the soil,
That plenteous store may bless the reapers' toil.
What time to plant and prune the vine he shews,
And hangs the purple cluster on its boughs.
To him—the First—the Last—all homage yield:
Our Father—Wonderful—our Help—our Shield."

Aratus takes us back with his astronomical knowledge to, say some, 200 before the Christian era. Aratus gives 44 constellations—20 north, 12 south, and the zodiacal 12—and these 44 constellations are in every celestial chart now published. Aratus is not the first that tuned his lyre to the heavenly choir; indeed to attempt to trace the origin of the celestial host would be a hopeless task. The earliest poet we are acquainted with who mentions the constellations is Homer, and so distant is his age considered that no one can form any just idea as to when he lived. In his description of Vulcan's shield he mentions:—

"The Pleiades—Hyads—with the northern train:
And great Orion's more refulgent beam:
To which around the axle of the sky
The bear revolving points, &c." PORE.

The oldest Biblical writer is Job, who died 1553 B.C. Moses died 1451 B.C., and Athens, where Aratus of Soli is said to have written his *Phenomena*, was founded 1556 B.C., or three years before the death of Job.* Job, like Homer, mentions Orion and the Pleiades. (Job, 9, 9). Both are of Greek derivation, and yet Job is supposed to have been written in Hebrew, and not Greek. The constellations are known by their Greek names to the English. Aratus, in reference to the Pleiades, says:—

"All poets feign that one has passed away
Alcyone—Celæno—Merope
Electra—Taygeta and Sterope
With *Maia*, honoured sisterhood."

These are the very same names by which modern astronomers designate the Pleiades. Aratus places the constellation near the left knee of Perseus, but in modern plates it is under his left foot, and in the neck of Taurus. Homer mentions the celestial bear, but Job does not. The bear's first appearance in the sacred volume is in 1st Sam. 17 v. 34. Job mentions also Mazzaroth, the zodiac, and Arcturus (Job, 38, 32). Aratus says of Bootes:—

"'Mong many gems more brilliant than the rest
Arcturus glows upon his belted waist.

Moderns have varied the figure of Bootes by placing the left knee with Arcturus, but this alteration is evidently made to accommodate certain celestial readings which could not otherwise be interpreted, and which need not be referred to here. Aratus, it would appear, was not always correct, for speaking of the Masonic pedestal or altar,

"Where Scorpio to the south his claw expands,
Burning with constant fire an altar stands.†
Few are the hours it shines to mortal eye—
Short is its passage through the wintry sky."

The altar is not under the claw, but under the tail of Scorpio, and during the northern winter the sun is in or near the Scorpion, and conse-

* Lest at any future period I may be considered as admitting these figures as correct and genuine dates, I had better here assert that they are nothing of the kind, but that those which are correct are mere celestial points, Masons are pledged not to reveal,

† Lev. 6, 13.

quently the stars composing the Altar cannot be seen. And then again of Centaurus.

"Is he sage chiron, sung in Homer's lays?
Above his front of human form divine
The scaled limbs of brazing Scorpio shines."

Centaurus is under pictured Vergo, or under the solar sign of Libra—and not under Scorpio.

And now, so far as Masonry is concerned, to the *most important* of all constellations.

"There lies an arrow—from what bow it fell
Near to the flying swan, no poets tell:
Beneath it soars the Royal bird of Jove,
Raised by his master to the realms above,
Rises at dawn of day the bright ATAIR."

The royal bird of Jove is Aquila, which opens the year at the Solstice, and by the Masonic laws Atair, or Athair, the brilliant, in the neck of the eagle, rises at dawn of the equinoctial day in the first degree of Aries. But Aratus gives Aquila *without Antinous*, and Antinous is the youth who performs all the initiatory ceremonies of the Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master, &c., as so certified by the Grand Registrar, Bro. McIntyre. This omission of Antinous by Aratus would be a sad blow to the antiquity of modern ritual Masonry, but very fortunately old Ptolemy comes to the rescue! Lemprière tells us that the Emperor Hadrian and Antinous were both initiated into the Eleusinian mysteries. *Eleusina* is a name of Ceres (corn). Ceres is another name for Spica the ear of corn of the Virgin Queen of Heaven, so there can be no difficulty in determining where these Eleusinian mysteries were held. Spica, as it has been already shown, claiming 106. The Abbé Pluche says, "Eleusis is a city near Athens. The mysteries of Eleusis are the most ancient and most genuine of all, because they were under the direction of the first magistrates of Athens. They are likewise the most ancient, and the same as those of Egypt. Didorous Siculus has informed us, and even proved from their exact resemblance, that these mysteries came from Lower Egypt, and were the same with those of Isis." Antinous perform all his Masonic duties in Tribulation, or in Misraim Egypt, and by the lion's claw, as explained, is exalted to 106, and there is *Eleusina* or Virgo, and Spica, the ear of corn of the Egyptian Isis. It has been explained that Pallas, and likewise Britannia, is Virgo, with the celestial attributes obtained at 106: and Virgo, with the attributes of 111, becomes Athenian Minerva. Minerva says Pluche, signifies no more than "a

weaver's beam," and the Masonic laws give the weaver's beam with the woof or thread upon it at 111. Homer adds, Pluche "calls Minerva, *Athene*; and Athene signifies the flaxen thread which is rolled upon the weaver's beam, in order to the making of cloth. The scripture gives the name of *Athen* to the flaxen thread made in Egypt."* Aratus proves himself to be master of celestial Masonry and mythology. Pluche is a modern author of 1738 A.D. He shews that he is well versed in mythology, and that he knows nothing whatever of celestial Masonry. The Abbé Pluche's object in his History of the Heavens, is to demonstrate that mythology or "the notions of the poets and philosophers," may be compared with the doctrines of Moses, or as stated at the commencement of this paper, that mythology is but a stepping stone to theology. Pluche therefore speaks of celestial things as though they were mundane. Thus he regards Athens and Eleusis of the heavens, as if they were Athens and Eleusis of the earth. Pluche never dreamt that every ancient city has its prototype clearly defined in the heavens, and that the celestial interpretations cannot be disputed, unless it be by ignorant men who know nothing of celestial Masonry or astronomy; the ignorant always dispute truth, which they cannot understand and know nothing about.

When Antinous was drowned in the Nile in Egypt he was exalted or translated to heaven as described, and Lemprière says, Hadrian the Emperor erected a temple to him, and wished it to be believed that he had been changed into a constellation. Hadrian died A.D. 138, and there in the celestial charts of Ptolemy of the same date *to wit*, A.D. 138, is Antinous introduced as a constellation! † If Bro. McIntyre is to be believed, Blue Lodge ritual Masonry must therefore date from the death of Hadrian, and the introduction of Antinous into the celestial sphere. The Eleusinian or Royal Arch mysteries, were however, of much more ancient date, inasmuch as in Samuel, said to be written 1055 B.C., David is introduced at 106 at Eleusis, where he performs sundry extraordinary games or mysteries with the lions, and the bear as described and interpreted paper III, No. 540.

LITERA SCRIPTA MANET.

* History of the Heavens, 1 Vol. p. 268 and 137, and Prov. 7, 16.

† The ignorant will perhaps say that Ptolemy's charts of 138, are a myth invented for this occasion, but unfortunately for such disbelievers the spheres of Ptolemy of 138, have heretofore been frequently referred to by me in the foregoing papers. The planispheres of Ptolemy are in my possession.

HOW I SPENT MY FIVE WEEKS' LEAVE.

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

(Continued from page 445).

LEAVE MALTA—UPPER BETHORON TO JERUSALEM.

Rising betimes next day, (May 6th), we go in a body to visit the Mosque of Omar or Hubbet es Sukhrah, "the dome of the rock," which to my mind is far the most interesting building in Jerusalem. This is in the interior of the temple area, and is by some supposed to be on the site of the temple itself; this I believe is not possible, as the temple must have been further south. Mr. Fergusson's theory is that this is the identical circular church, erected by Constantine over the sepulchre of our Lord, and this would appear not impossible. This beautiful building is octagonal, each side being 67ft. long; its beautiful proportions and noble dome, render it by far the most striking object in a view of Jerusalem from any quarter, and its commanding situation, crowning the very summit of Mount Moriah, and standing unencumbered by any other buildings in the open Haram area, adds to the effect. The dome is of wood, covered with lead, and is surmounted by a tall gilt crescent; the lower part of the building is of marble, in different colours. The interior is very gorgeous; the dome is all gilding and tracery; the walls in the upper part are pierced with fifty-six pointed windows filled with most beautiful old stained glass. A corridor runs round it, about 12ft. wide; on its inner side are 8 piers and 16 marble columns of the Corinthian Order, within this is another corridor 30ft. wide, with more columns on the inside, which support the dome; the latter is 66ft. in diameter. Immediately under the dome is the celebrated rock, which occupies the greater part of the space beneath the dome; it is about 60ft. across and 5ft. high, a broad irregular mass of limestone, which forms the projecting summit of Mount Moriah. The Jews used to come and wail over this rock in the fourth century. It is greatly venerated by the Mahometans, who show on it the footmarks of the Prophet; also the marks of the fingers of an angel who held it down, to prevent it following the Prophet, when he took his nocturnal journey to Heaven! traditions quite

as well authenticated as those of the church of the Holy Sepulchre. This rock is thought by many to be the threshing-floor of Araannah the Jebusite, and subsequently the site of the altar of burnt-offering. We visit an excavated chamber on the S.E. side, called the "Noble Cave" which some think might have been the sepulchre, over which Constantine built this church, while others say it received the blood, from the burnt offerings above. The Mohammedans show it as the praying place of Abraham, David, Solomon and Jesus. One finds it so with every sacred spot in this neighbourhood, that so many different traditions are invented, and antiquaries quarrel over little topographical details, one gets quite bewildered, and knows not what to believe. I think the best way is to disregard them all, and making oneself thoroughly acquainted with the everlasting hills, and sites which cannot be disputed, to fill in the remainder of the picture from one's own ideas and impressions.

We now leave the Mosque of Omar, and putting on our boots again (for you would no more be allowed to wear your boots in a Mosque, than your hat in an English Church), we cross the Acca in a southerly direction to the Mosk el Aksha, which probably was the church of the Virgin, built by Justinian in the sixth century. The building is very extensive, and contains many curious and beautiful columns, arches, etc., in different styles however, some Saracenic, some Roman, and some probably very old indeed. This might be expected, as the structure became a Christian Church or a Mosque according as it was in the hands of Christian or Moslem. When the Crusaders captured the city, a portion of it was assigned to the new Order, which from this received the name of Knights' *Templar*. We next explore the long passage which leads down by a flight of steps and a steep subterranean avenue to the south gate, which is now walled up. Each side of this tunnel is faced with immense blocks of Masonry with the Jewish bevel. After viewing the Golden Gate, a comparatively modern erection, with however some curious columns in it. We pay a pretty heavy Bakshish for privilege of entering these sacred precincts, to an old Sheik, who with his son, has been our escort, and bears the credit of being the most avaricious man in Jerusalem, which is saying a good deal! From the S.E. corner of the Haram on the wall, we have a view of the Mount of Offence, where

Solomon, led astray by his wives, gave way to idolatry.

"There stood

Her temple on the offensive mountain, built
By that uxorious king, whose heart, though large,
Beguil'd by fair idolatresses, fell
To idols foul" *Paradise Lost.*

We then proceed with Bro. Lieut. Warren, R.E., to visit the excavations which he has been making for the "Palestine Exploration Fund," and most interesting we find them. From the number of times Jerusalem has been destroyed and rebuilt, vast quantities of *débris* have accumulated, and ancient Jerusalem lies far beneath the surface. I have been told, that persons in Jerusalem building houses, have found the foundations give way from arches below falling in, and that digging down 40ft. or more, they still find *débris*; this I can believe, for the explorations in the Tyropean valley show that the soil has risen there from 60 to 90ft., and close to the old hospital of the Knights of St. John, the soil is known to have risen 25ft. in the last ten years. The people carry all ashes or other rubbish to the nearest vacant spot, or throw it over the city walls, so any hollow soon gets filled up. We first enter the excavations near the Jews' wailing place, and divesting ourselves of coats, hats, and all unnecessary encumbrances, we take each a pilgrim's taper, and follow our gallant Sapper. We have to creep along underground passages like drains, where sometimes we can scarcely crawl. In several places one can scarcely squeeze the body through, and then to find oneself all at once in a high arched chamber; we are nearly suffocated too, with the smell from the drainage of the modern city above. We are now among the arches and ruins of the period of Herod, and come at length to a long passage which he made, to connect his palace with the Haram area; this passage was always suspected to be hereabouts, but to Bro. Warren is, I believe, due, the honour of having discovered it. We next enter a most curious chamber, which has been called the Masonic Hall. It has six pillars round the sides, and one pedestal or pillar stands by itself near the centre. It would be worth while to clear out this chamber, which is at present filled up with earth and rubbish, so that only the capitals of the pillars are visible as we creep in, under the roof. We now leave this excavation and go to the Jews' wailing place. Some sort of worship is going on, and the crowd

of Jews assembled make some sort of responses. After the service, one sees them kissing and weeping over the massive stones of which the Haram wall is composed, some of which are from 10 to 20ft. long, and shew the ancient Jewish bevelled edges. This is not the regular day of wailing (Friday); however a few Jews are to be seen, thus mourning over their dishonoured sanctuary, to the site of which, this is the nearest permitted approach. One is reminded of the words of the Psalmist.

"O God the heathen are come into Thine inheritance:
Thy holy temple have they defiled;
They have laid Jerusalem on heaps.
We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn
and derision to them that are round about us.
How long Lord? Wilt Thou be angry for ever?
Shall Thy jealousy burn like fire?"

Psalm lxxix. 1, 4, 5.

Something after this model must it be that these poor oppressed outcasts lament over the departed glories of their nation, country and temple, where they once were blest with the constant presence of the Almighty. Truly may they exclaim "Ichabod, thy glory is departed. We now go on with Bro. Warren to see the excavations he has made in the Tyropæan valley among the remains of Solomon's bridge, by which he crossed the valley from his palace on Zion, to the temple on Moriah; one can imagine how necessary this bridge must have been, when the valley was some 90ft. deeper than it now is. Here we descend a shaft some 70ft. deep, being let down in a sort of swing chair by a rope and pulley; we then creep along a gallery and come on one of the piers of the bridge, and a little further find ourselves on the enormous stones of which the arch was constructed; these are shaped like the key-stone of an arch, and are specially interesting as having formed a portion of that causeway which so amazed the Queen of Sheba by its magnificence, that there was "no more spirit in her," and along which the Kings and Princes of Israel were wont to go, to pay their vows unto the Lord at the temple. This discovery of Lieut. Warren's completely justifies the hypothesis of Dr. Robinson, who discovered the remains of the commencement of an arch, from the Haram wall, and at once declared it to be the beginning of the bridge to Zion. From the curve of these single stones he calculated the diameter of the arch, to be 41ft., and excavation shows he was right within 6in.! Our best thanks are due to Mr. Warren, for the

trouble he took in showing and explaining everything to us. His whole heart is evidently in the very interesting work on which he is employed, and he deserves the greatest credit for the tact and perseverance with which he has overcome difficulties of all kinds, such as the interference of obstinate officials, fanatical prejudices of Mahomedans, avariciousness of all sorts of people, who demand immense compensations for allowing him to dig, and *will* believe that he has discovered a gold mine on their property; the difficulties of climate, want of proper materials and of good labour, etc.; worst of all, want of money. These obstacles are hardly sufficiently appreciated in England by persons who do not know the sort of people one has to deal with out here, and surely these most interesting works will not be allowed to come to a standstill, for want of proper funds? Money has been found for excavating Nineveh, etc., and cannot England, the most bible-reading, God-fearing nation in the world, raise a few thousands to explore these most interesting sites, every discovery in which helps to throw light upon some part of scripture, and to convince of its truth. I am sure the lack of aid can only be, that the work is not sufficiently known. Let me then inform everyone that subscriptions are received by G. Groves, Esq., Hon. Sec. Sydenham, S.E., or by Messrs. Couits and Co., Strand, W.C., and that the printed reports of the society, also most beautiful photographs of all parts of the Holy Land, at a nominal price, can be obtained from Messrs. Bell and Daldy, Fleet-street.

(To be continued.)

SHORT ADDRESS

To the W.M., Officers and Brethren of the Invicta Lodge (No. 709), Ashford, Kent; delivered on the occasion of their re-assembling after the summer recess, by Bro. the Rev. P. J. SREE, *Chaplain*, Nov. 5th, 1869.

Worshipful Sir and Brethren, greeting,—I consider it my duty to call upon you this evening to render thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe, for His unspeakable and ever superabundant goodness towards us and all his creatures. But more particularly do we thank the Great Giver of all good—with Masonic gratitude—for His mercy and fatherly protection to the several members of the Invicta. Sickness, the common heritage of mankind, has indeed visited us since we met last. Death, the common foe, has stood, as though doubtful about his commission, upon our very threshold;—but those in danger have been mercifully spared, and restored to health and the brotherhood. Therefore, on this, the first evening of our meeting after the summer recess, as true

and faithful Masons, we ascribe in humble adoration, "All glory to the Most High," for His protecting care over us. But to our thanks and praises for mercies already received, we will add our prayers for a continuance of the Almighty's favour. We pray that He would mould our hearts to gratitude ever more and more; that He would prepare us by diligent exercise in virtue and Godliness for the mansions of bliss—the Grand Lodge above. May He graciously continue to protect and prosper the work of our hands and hearts to the furtherance of His honour among mankind, and the spread of the Masonic virtues of brotherly love, relief, and truth. So mote it be!

W. Sir and Brethren,—Thus have I endeavoured to prepare your minds for the few remarks and suggestions to which now, with your kind permission, I will proceed.

Instead of asking and answering the well-known and trite question, What is Freemasonry?—I will ask—Is Freemasonry a something real, or is it a myth? Is it a something played at, or a something of actual work and vitality? Is it a convivial brotherhood, or a bond of love betwixt brother and brother, having for its aim the amelioration of fallen, erring, sinful humanity? In short, what is the spirit of our ancient Order? This last question—the several summed into one—I now proceed to investigate and to answer.

We are not operative but speculative Masons, and yet we are raising a mighty fabric—a spiritual house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. The foundations of our house are securely laid in the blood and fidelity unto death of the widow's son, the immortal Mason. Ages proclaim the stability of that foundation; the spread of the Order from pole to pole bears testimony to its usefulness; and its works and labours that proceed of love, shut the mouth of all cowans.

Thus we prove the stability of the Order—its reality and world-wide usefulness—without many words, but by world-famed actions. Let the world read the ever open, but always silent, page of Freemasonry's unobtrusive work, proclaiming, not in empty, hollow words, but in stolid Masonry, brotherly love, relief, and truth. Other foundation can no man lay for the ancient and ever honourable Order.

W. Sir and Brethren beloved,—Our work, yea, our daily work, is at the superstruction of this noble edifice. This superstruction, is of necessity, uncomplete, and the completed portions thereof are exposed to the animosities, the ill will, and turbulence of an evil world. As time, wind, and weather deface and mar the beautiful workmanship of our ancient brethren of the operative order, so does contact with an evil world deface and mar the beauties of our spiritual edifice. That edifice is as yet incomplete—as all terrestrial things—its dome will be raised by the united brotherhood in Grand Lodge above; the topmost scaffolding, as the topmost stave of our ladder reaches beyond this terrestrial sphere, even to the celestial abode of the righteous. Flesh and blood cannot stand at that dizzy height, cannot breathe that rarified, celestial air, and live. Our work begins at the foundation—keeping that in good repair—and then gradually ascending the superstructure until we reach the heavenly mansions. Let us, then, approve ourselves faithful to our vows and solemn obligations,

that this superstructure may be well cared for—blemishes effaced, breaches repaired, and injuries healed, so that the second and last great volume of our Order may boldly lay open also before a scrutinising and scoffing world, and convince and confound all cowans.

Such is the nature of our present special work. You know, B., with what noble feelings and sentiments our ancient brethren received their well-earned wages, and again, when and from whom they received them; so labour in the Craft that you also may obtain the sweet reward of the approbation of the Great Architect of the Universe, and be able to point to your work with some little satisfaction to yourselves—as labourers that need not to be ashamed, although unworthy such sweet acknowledgment of their poor and imperfect, but withal hearty and willing services. I would therefore urge every brother of the Invicta to perfect himself in his respective duties. Yea, on the present occasion I may without presuming, and with all due respect to the honourable, responsible, and exalted position of the W.M., exhort him, as I exhort myself, to diligence in our several duties, so that the Invicta Lodge may be worked at all times with credit to the members and profit to the brotherhood, and to the edification of our casual but always welcome visitors. To accomplish which I would recommend meetings for instruction between brethren of the lower with those of the exalted degree; and then, next in order, lodges of instruction, or rather rehearsals, for the perfecting of what has been learned among and with the united brethren in open lodge. Thus shall our meetings be both pleasurable and profitable, social, and withal instructive—useful for the present and for eternity.

W. Sir, to you it belongs to guard with holy zeal the sanctity of our lodge—to you we look for counsel, instruction, and encouragement in the pursuit of our mystic art. May the W.M. of the Invicta ever watch with holy jealousy over his lodge; may he be blessed with health and strength and the right mind for his arduous duties, and rule, govern, and instruct the brethren after the ancient fashion of Freemasons, taking for his motto the significant words, “*Palmam qui meruit ferat.*” Let him who has won it bear the palm.

To you, as to me, brethren, it behoves to obey readily and cheerfully, which duty I have endeavoured to practise this evening, as well as to recommend to you. Love the brotherhood, fear God, honour the King. Obey gladly all the lawful demands of those in authority; particularly give ear to the solemn monitions of the inner voice; love, serve, and obey the Great Architect of the Universe. Contemplate for a moment the consequences of unskilful workmanship—loss of time, destruction of valuable property, and injury to the employer. Brethren, our time is measured out to us—it is but a span long. Our material in which we labour is precious and needs clean hands—a single eye, and a heart in search of the truth—the Masonic virtues. Our reward great—eternal in the heavens; our loss irretrievable—shame and confusion. Freemasonry, then, is not simply a convivial brotherhood, as the outer world has been wont to affirm, but made reluctantly to disbelieve. The noble works of our ancient and loved Order, to be seen to be admired, proclaim the falsehood of that

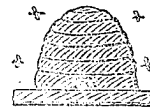
foul charge, and nothing shall ever induce us to banish the spirit of joy and mirth from our midst in sight of the stately fruits which Freemasonry has produced for mankind and generations yet unborn. Therefore, “*Dum vivimus vivamus.*” As Solomon’s Temple was raised without the jarring and discordant noise of mallet, or chisel, so do unspeculative Masons raise our spiritual house amid the pleasing and well-attuned sounds of joy, mirth, and gratitude, lifting up our voices, not amid trumpets, cymbals, and instruments of music, yet praising the Lord like our ancient brethren, “*For He is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.*” (2 Chron. v. 13). I conclude with a motto for you, my brethren, to cheer, animate, and sustain you at your post of honour, “*Sic itur ad astra,*” *i.e.*, Such is the way to immortality.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

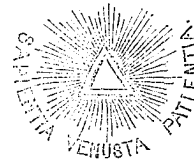
AN OLD CERTIFICATE.

The following is a copy of an old certificate of Lodge of Antiquity, then No. 10 (now No. 2), which may prove interesting:—

*Et Lux ista in
Sed tenebra non*



*tenebris lucet.
comprehend serunt*



We the Master, P. Master, Wardens, and Secretary of Lodge of Antiquity, No. 10, held at Chatham, in the County of Kent, legally warranted from the Grand Lodge of England, and assembled in due form, do hereby certify that Brother _____ is a regular made Freemason, and has during his stay amongst us behaved himself as an honest and worthy brother, and as such we recommend him to all brethren round the globe.

And to prevent any ill use being made of this Certificate by falling into the hands of another person, underneath is the age, size, and profession of our brother above mentioned, with his assignment thereunto annexed.

Given under our hands and seal of the lodge, at Chatham, this _____ day of _____ A.D. _____ A.L. _____
Master, _____ P. Master, _____ S. Warden,
_____ J. Warden, _____ Secretary.

Des régis Fratribus. Honor, fidelitatis, benevolentia.

On the right hand pillar are the words—*Stabilis Ego Volum*; and on the left—*In illo Fortis.*

Copied *verbatim et literatim.*—C.W.G.

MARK JEWELS IN CRAFT LODGES (PAGE 450).

In Scotland the Mark is given upon the blue, as forming part of the F.C. degree, or as supplementary thereto, every F.C. being entitled to use his Mark, which is as it should be; consequently there, and in that case, the Royal Arch has nothing to do with it, so far as lodges are concerned.—W. P. B.

THE HAUGHFOOT LODGE.

I intend to respond to Bro. Sanderson's invitation [p. 403] shortly by forwarding a few comments upon the subject. I expected some of the other brethren would have said something.—W. P. B.

A MASONIC STUDENT.

In answer to Bro. Buchan's truly fraternal remarks, I may, perhaps, be permitted to say, that I have unfortunately not quite so much leisure time as Bro. Buchan apparently possesses. Other duties and other occupations demand my first attention, and I have only my spare time to devote to Masonry. But I have in preparation now, some papers entitled "Illustrations of the History of the Craft," which, I hope, with the new year, to publish in continuous numbers of the *Magazine*.—A MASONIC STUDENT.

IRISH DIPLOMA.

Bro. James Wallace, Prov. S.G.D., Glasgow, has just favoured me with a look at his father's diploma, which is dated 1813. It is somewhat plain, and has the checkered floor, upon which rest three columns, viz., the Ionic in centre, and left and right the Corinthian and Composite. They represent the Master between his two Wardens, but there must have been giants in those days; for notwithstanding the Ionic being depicted as in the background, it towers, large and massy, high above the others. Above the centre column an eye is depicted. The diploma is 13in. by 10½in. It is signed by Robert Handcock, G. Sec., and by the D.G. Sec. It says: "We, chiefs of the Enlightened Men of the most Antient and Right Worshipful Lodge of St. John, do hereby certify that Brother James Wallis, of Lodge 1,002, has been initiated in all the Degrees of our Mysteries, and has performed all his Works amongst us to the entire satisfaction of all the Brethren. Therefore, We desire all the Right Worshipful Lodges of the Universe and all True Accepted Masons to recognise and admit him as such. In Testimony whereof," &c. The above is written upon the one side and to a similar effect in Latin upon the right side of the Ionic column. The "seal," which is impressed upon a separate piece of parchment, is attached in rather a clumsy and inefficient manner with wax, and requires the aid of a pin to keep it from running away.—W. P. B.

THE 1717 THEORY AND ITS OPPONENTS.

I respectfully call the attention of my opponents of the 1717 theory to a Masonic "tit-bit" contained in *Notes and Queries* for Nov. 20th and 27th. In that publication they will find some remarks by Wm. Pinkerton, Esq., which it will be useful for all Masonic students to read; and as "S. R." observes at page 449, there is more to follow.—W. P. BUCHAN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents

PROFESSOR INNES AND BRO. BUCHAN.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I had half intended to have allowed the remarks of "J. B.," at page 370, to have passed unnoticed; yet in case my silence should be taken for consent regarding the foolish assertion

that Bro. Buchan was "the mouthpiece of Professor Innes," I beg to contradict the idea most emphatically. More—for me to allow the onus of my remarks to be thrown upon the shoulders of Professor Innes would be dishonest upon my part. I have therefore to state that I alone am responsible for what is contained in any communications sent by me to the *MAGAZINE*, or elsewhere, and if any mistakes occur in the said communications, the fault lies at my door. However, in a few special cases Professor Innes has very courteously condescended to give his opinion upon certain points; and if in *quoting* that opinion in the *MAGAZINE* for the benefit of its readers I have thereby incurred the title of "mouthpiece," I must just accept it as one of those compliments which writers who go in for truth in opposition to popular notions are in the habit of receiving. Another point is that I have neither the honour nor privilege of the intimate acquaintance of Professor Innes, and since May last I am quite unaware where he is, and have had no communication from him since. Only in common with others who possess copies of his printed works, I have had the pleasure of perusing and studying his interesting and valuable contributions to historical literature.

Allow me also to correct the expression used by "J. B." at page 369, "an old charter," for the document in question is neither "old," nor is it a "charter;" it is simply a forgery, executed, according to Professor Innes, within the last 200 years, while Bro. Buchan, upon his own responsibility, asserts it to be partly copied from one of the documents given by McUre in his "History of Glasgow," and copied, A.D. 1806, just before the foundation stone of Nelson's monument was laid at Glasgow. This "old charter," therefore, as "J. B." calls it, is just about 63 years old; and if it can be shown to be a little older, prove it; further, owing to a little patience and perseverance in the matter I could, perhaps, give the name of the man who wrote it.

In conclusion, allow me to remark that when treating upon Masonic history, &c., my only object is to elucidate the truth, consequently I have endeavoured to bring the best possible light to bear upon whatever subject was in hand. One individual may be the best authority upon this—another, the best, upon that—and so on. Therefore if I be able to get the best possible extant opinion upon any point, and quote that opinion to the readers of the *MAGAZINE*, I hardly deserve to be "black-balled" for doing so; however, pitch into me as much as you please, and take what you get in return, only do not again be so silly as even to imagine that a gentleman in the position of Professor Innes would condescend to make me his "mouthpiece," or that I have so little pluck or self-reliance as to be such, either to him or anyone else. No; I take the liberty of differing occasionally from the best if I see cause.

Yours fraternally,

W. P. BUCHAN.

P.S.—As to finding proof of the existence of our Speculative Freemasonry before 1717, I beg to confess my inability to do so, the search on my part being fruitless; however, if there be any others who think they have been more successful, by all means let us see the result—let them land their fish, and thereby prove it isn't a bunch of seaweed.—W. P. B.

MYSTERIES AND MYSTERIES.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—In your number of the 27th ult. there is a paper respecting my discoveries by Reitam. It is headed "Mysteries and Mysteries."

Reitam tells me my writings are mostly Pagan and Egyptian, and he fancies they will be found to be based on *Sabeism*. What of Masonry—is it founded on *Sabeism*? Does not the W.M. rise in the East to enlighten his lodge as the sun does, &c.; and when the Master rises as the sun, does not the lodge open, and does not the lodge close in the West at sunset? Is not the sun always on the meridian with Masons, and Reitam himself says that "H. A. B." allegorically represents the sun, and "H. A. B." I can prove is the Papa or Pope, or Father of Celestial Masonry.

Reitam tells me about the early state of the world, and so on, according to the commonly understood cant of the day, and then he traverses Egypt, Persia, and India with his learning. All he says *he believes* to be terrestrial truths, when in reality the greater portion of these truths are mere astronomical fables. He tells me something, however, which I did not know and do not believe, namely, that Mythras kills the bull of the zodiac, "which sometimes, by the precession of the equinoxes, has occupied the place of the Ram." What do you mean, Brother Myth? The bull Mythras kills, never occupied the place of the ram—it is not Taurus that he slays; and without any reference to precession, the type of the bull is always on the ram in all globes and atlases ever published.*

If it is simple and foolish to attempt to read the wisdom of the Great Architect of the Universe in the heavens, then am I guilty of folly, and my only plea of defence is that Freemasonry beguiled me and led me astray, for I have been guided in my researches and discoveries entirely by the Masonic keys or tools worn by Bro. Reitam himself.

Reitam says he "gives me the following problem," but he has forgotten to state the problem—or, at all events, I cannot find it anywhere. Then he says—"Now take the sphere of Coronelli and observe what takes place."†

Is Coronelli's sphere the problem—if so, it is a queer one? During a long life I have read a great deal of trash, but I never read such a jumble of serious nonsense in so few words. Perhaps Bro. Reitam will tell me where I can find Coronelli's sphere. I always understood Coronelli to be a voluminously conceited something, and Chalmers, in his "Biographical Dictionary," says, "Coronelli had a wonderful opinion of his own labours. That is not surprising. We are more disposed to wonder at the spirit of lite-

* I have some 1200 pictured copies of ancient monuments interpreted by the Masonic laws; among the number are several tracing boards, where Mythras is killing Apis, the whole bull, and not Taurus, the half bull. If I could but shake hands with a Myth, I would ask Bro. Reitam to come and see, and be satisfied for himself.

† "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 Water-bearer, 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;" &c., &c.

rary enterprise among the printers and booksellers in those days which encouraged such undertakings."

On the 25th December, to a minute, the sun enters Capricornus, at the winter solstice. Does it? The shortest day denotes the solstice, and St. Thomas of the 21st December is generally so considered, although astronomically, the sun actually enters the tropic sign (but not the pictured sign) Capricornus during the 22nd of December—certainly not on the 25th. Therefore, Bro. Reitam, the foundation of your hypothesis respecting the Saviour has no foundation. There is no stable of Ægeus in either astronomical or pictured Capricornus. Fronting the title-page of Volney's "New Res." are the celestial planespheres, and in the Gemini are the word, "*Etable de Jouseph*." The planispheres are called, "*Tableau du ciel astrologique des anciens pour l'explication des mystères de la religion des Perses, des Juifs, et des Chrétiens*." I know thus much of astrology, that the constellations of the planespheres are not used in the science, and therefore Volney was wrong in terming the planespheres astrological. As Volney is supposed to say the celestial spheres explain the ancient mysteries of the religion of the Jews and Christians, it is a sad pity he did not explain in what manner. Had he done so he would have saved me upwards of thirty years' labour, and I had then been spared the virulent enmity of the learned-ignorant. To return to Joseph's stable. On the pictured sign Gemini in all charts is the astronomical Cancer. In pictured Cancer are two asses—Asellus Boreus and Asellus Australis; and between them, on the ecliptic, is Præsepe, the manger. Coronelli in his "*Epitome Cosmografica*," 1693, gives Præsepe in Cancer. Then what does he mean about the ass of Bacchus (Centaurus) and the crib or manger being at the highest meridional point? Then he says the Virgin reposes in the east. The bright occidental star Spica of Virgo he therefore makes to change places with the oriental Mizach of Andromeda; but, altogether, such nonsense is not deserving notice.

Bro. Reitam wishes to know whether his mysteries are not as patent as my own. In reply, my mysteries are simple astronomical laws, whereas his are "mysteries and mysteries;" I therefore would recommend him to have them patented forthwith. Bro. Reitam, does it nautical, and wishes to know to what mast my colours are nailed; and, in the style of *Pater familias*, he pauses for a reply. And he shall not pause long, for my mainmast is *Truth*, to which my ensign is nailed, and my main backstay is *Omnia vincit veritas*. As to the *cui bono*—if the *nonsense* of Masonry is worthy attention, surely the *wisdom* of Masonry is worthy of some little consideration.

Bro. Reitam will please remember that I possess a document signed by the Grand Registrar, where it states the Masonic ceremonies are accurately laid down by law on the celestial planespheres, and that I have a letter written by the D.G.M., wherein he says my Masonic discoveries are beyond the scope of ordinary Masonry. But I am in no wise inclined to believe Reitam is an ordinary Mason; and from what I can judge of his writing, he is seeking for truth, though he does not go the right way to find her; and I think he does not believe ignorance is bliss, and that it is folly to be wise.

Yours fraternally,
HENRY MELVILLE.

HAUGHFOOT LODGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR

Dear Sir and Brother,—I am glad to notice that Bro. Buchan is coming round a bit regarding an old lodge. He says, in a footnote in the *Magazine*, p. 409, "In the Haughfoot Lodge there is a semblance of two degrees." I expect he will acknowledge also that there is a "semblance" of "speculative Masonry" also; although not full fledged, it may be yet in embryo at least. But why use the term "semblance?" It is not what I would call a happy expression in the circumstances. The two degrees were there, not in semblance merely, but in fact, and were wrought, whatever formula they might embody, or whatever duties or privileges might attach to them. Apart from the records we have, of course, no means of ascertaining how these brethren conducted themselves 160 years ago, yet I think the readers of the records already published will perceive that, besides an eye to business, they had also an eye the honour, the duties, and the charities of speculative Masonry. I shall (D.V.) return again to the subject.

Yours fraternally, R. S.

UNIFORMITY OF RITUAL.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—In your issue of the 20th ult., the articles written by Bros. Buchan and Binckes show the greatest contrast. As Bro. Buchan takes such a great interest in our rituals and desires to see more uniformity therein, I should very much like to hear his reasons why a more perfect knowledge of the rise and progress of the said rituals must be an essential point in the qualification of any number of Masons that might be entrusted with the drawing up of a standard ritual. With charming mystery he informs us that "we must, in order to improve the present position of the Craft, begin by telling the truth."

Bro. Binckes, in an able dissertation at page 410, gives us his opinions as to the difficulties of realizing what is "truth," in the face of the prevalent disputations, contradictions, and criticisms. Bro. Buchan, from his remarks, evidently has at least an idea as to the correct definition of truth as regards Masonic ritual, and would it not be promoting the desired end on this point for him to elucidate more fully his meaning.

From what I have learnt of our beautiful science and its perfect principles, I think that out of our 1,250 lodges, brethren could, without difficulty, be called, thoroughly qualified by their proficiency in the Craft to decide which ritual is the most impressive, and demonstrating the virtues and moral principles Masonry inculcates, without examining that documentary evidence, by doing which Bro. Buchan believes the Craft will be benefitted.

If, instead of speculating and disputing about their favourite dogmas, some of your leading contributors were to apply their best energies, both of tongue and pen, to raising the standard of our Craft still higher—and instead of controversial wrangling about dates, antiquity, and other questions of quite minor importance to the mass of the fraternity of the present day, were to endeavour simply, by a practical application of its principles, to advance Freemasonry by promoting to a greater degree brotherly love, relief, and truth, and that uniformity which is so much to be desired, they would, indeed, be engaged in a worthy cause, and receive the best thanks and good wishes of every worthy Mason.

Yours fraternally,
J. E. G.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

TYLERS of Lodges, Janitors of Chapters, Equeries 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.

In the New Zealand district (Irish Constitution), the R.W. Bro. Geo. P. Pierce has been appointed Prov. G.M.; and Bro. C. Doall, Prov. G. Sec.

It was stated some time ago that the French Freemasons intended to hold a grand council at the same as the Ecumenical Council. They have now decided that such a demonstration is unnecessary.

Craft Masonry.

ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

METROPOLITAN.

PROSPERITY LODGE (No. 65).—The brethren of this lodge met on Thursday, the 25th ult. There were present Bros. J. L. Mather, W.M.; G. Cook, S.W.; Forbes, J.W.; W. Stevens, S.D.; Wells, J.D.; Davey, I.G.; and J. Bellerby, P.M. and Sec. Mr. H. Hoyes was initiated, and Bro. Bee, of No. 1,227, was elected as a joining member. Bros. Burge and Russell were passed, and Bro. Hall raised. £5 were voted in aid of the Widows' Fund, which, with £45 previously subscribed will entitle the W.M. for the time being to the privileges of vice-president, and the W.M. was announced to represent the lodge as Steward at the Annual Festival. Three gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next meeting. The lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 554).—This lodge met on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the Green Dragon Tavern, Stepney. There were present Bros. George Roberts, W.M.; Stevens, Moseley, Hamilton, Kindred, and Middleton, P.M.'s; T. J. Barnes, S.W.; H. Chadwick, J.W.; and other officers, besides a numerous attendance of brethren, both members of the lodge and visitors. Bros. Slater and Allen were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The election of W.M. then took place, when Bro. T. J. Barnes, Sec., was unanimously elected to fill that office for the ensuing year. Bro. W. Hamilton, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treas., and Bro. C. T. Speight as Tyler. Upwards of forty sat down to a sumptuous banquet and dessert. Bro. Coard and others added to the enjoyment of the proceedings by their singing, while Bro. Isaac Saqui ably presided at the piano. After a pleasant evening had been spent, the brethren separated soon after ten o'clock.

PROVINCIAL.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—*Strangeways Lodge* (No. 1,219).—This lodge, held at the Assize Courts Hotel, Great Ducie-street, held its meeting on Wednesday, the 29th ult., the W.M., Bro. Joseph Bennett, in the chair, supported by Bros. Hardon, S.W.; Locke, J.W.; Potts, S.D.; Rogers, J.D.; Colville, P.M. and Treas.; J. Andrew, Sec.; Baldwin, P.M.; and Hart, P.M. The visitors present were: Bros. Guttridge, P.M. 1,055; Westbury, S.D. 852; Worthington, S.W. 815; and Gillman, 815. Messrs. Monks and Seanor were initiated, and Bro. Pike was passed to the degree of F.C. The by-laws, as amended by Prov. G. Lodge, were passed. The business concluded, the lodge was closed in

ancient form, and the brethren separated. This lodge is in the second year of its existence, and has already 36 members, and is making steady progress.

NEWCHURCH IN ROSENDALE.—*Lodge of Tranquility* (No. 274).—This lodge held its regular meeting at the Boars' Head Inn, on Wednesday, the 1st inst. There were present: Bros. Colling Moorhouse, W.M.; John Mittal, S.W.; John Ashworth, jun., J.W.; Thos. Pilling, Sec. The principal business of the evening was the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, the choice falling upon Bro. H. J. Percival, who will be installed at the next meeting of the lodge in January next. There being no further business, the lodge was closed in due form.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

LEICESTER.—*St. Johns' Lodge* (No. 279).—The last regular meeting of this lodge for the year, was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 1st inst. the W.M. Bro. Kelly, D. Prov. G.M. in the chair, the brethren present being: Bros. L. A. Clarke, I.P.M.; Weare, P.M. and Treas.; Stanley, S.W.; Stretton, J.W.; Crow, Sec. and Org.; Thorpe, S.D.; Partridge, No. 523, J.D.; Widdowson, as I.G.; McAllister, Palmer, J. Wright Smith, Ride, Matts, Porter, Dr. Pearce, J. E. Montague Finch, M.A., Byron L. Atwood, Dorristhorpe, and Bros. Charles W. Shaw, 557, Queens' Town, Ireland, and Partridge, and Baines of No. 523 visitors. A ballot was taken for Bro. Henry Deane, of No. 1007, Loughborough, and P. Prov. G. Reg., and for Bro. John Holford, of No. 419, Capetown, who were unanimously elected joining members. Bros. Donisthorpe and Matts, after passing an examination, were passed as F.C.'s, after which the W.M. gave the lecture on the tracing board of that degree. Bros. J. E. Montague Finch, M.A., and Byron Levi Atwood, were then examined in the second degree, and a Master Masons' Lodge having been opened, they were severally raised to that sublime degree, the musical chants, &c., being given by Bro. Crow on the organ, assisted by Bro. Palmer and others. The lodge having been lowered to the first degree a ballot took place for the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, which office has been held during the past two years by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly. The brethren were nominated, viz., a past Senior Warden of the lodge, and the present occupant of that office. Bro. W. E. S. Stanley, M.R.C.S., when the latter brother was elected by a large majority of votes. Bro. Geo. Fowler Brown, P.M. No. 779, and P. Prov. G.S.W., and Bro. J. R. Dobell, of No. 1007, were proposed as joining members; and a gentleman having also been proposed for initiation, the lodge was closed in harmony, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, the festival having previously been fixed to take place on the next regular lodge night, the first Wednesday in January.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 471).—On Friday, the 3rd inst., the usual monthly meeting took place at the Masonic Hall, Dock-street, Bro. H. J. Parnall, W.M., in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot took place, when Bros. Alfred Taylor and James Skipper Adam were unanimously admitted as subscribing members. Mr. Charles Philip Evans and Mr. Frederick Orders were initiated into Masonry; the ceremony being most ably rendered by the W.M. Bros. Gibbs and John Roberts being in attendance, were then examined in open lodge as to the progress each had made as E.A., and their answers proving satisfactory, those brethren were passed to the degree of F.C. After which Bro. the Rev. S. Fox, Prov. G. Chap., was unanimously elected W.M. of this lodge for the ensuing year, and Bro. Pickford was also unanimously re-elected Treas. and Bro. McKee Tyler. The installation was directed to take place on St. John's day, Dec. 27th, and the Secretary was directed to invite Bros. Hellyer and B. Thomas to perform that ceremony. The banquet will be held at the Westgate Hotel the same evening, all preliminaries being left to the W.M. elect, the W.M., P.M.'s Treas. and Secretary. Bro. Pickford, Prov. G. Treas., then introduced the subject a Masonic Ball, on behalf of the Masonic Chautres, when it was unanimously resolved that such ball do take place at once, under the patronage of the Freemasons in Newport, Abergavenny, Pontypool, Tredegar, and Monmouth. The R.W., the Prov. G.M. and the D. Prov. G.M. have already given in their names as patrons, and the leading Freemasons in the county have been written to for their co-operation. A capital working committee has been appointed, with Bro. Pickford as Chairman and Treas.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Leigh Lodge Rifle Volunteers* (No. 887).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 23rd ult., at the Masonic Hall. Bro. Captain W. B. Briggs, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Lieut. T. Turner, S.W.; W. H. Powell, Hon. Sec.; and other officers and brethren. Bro. Lieut. T. Turner was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Lieutenant-Colonel C. Ratcliff and Captain W. B. Briggs joint treasurers. A P.M.'s jewel was voted to Captain Briggs, the retiring W.M.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

HALIFAX.

Dedication of the Masonic Temple.

The dedication of the Masonic Temple to Masonic purposes by Earl de Grey and Ripon was an event which Halifax Freemasons had looked forward to with very considerable interest, and no effort on the part of either of the two lodges interested had been spared to carry out the ceremony with success. Their efforts were abundantly crowned with success, for there never was seen in Halifax so large a gathering of Freemasons as assembled on Wednesday, the 24th ult., when the spacious and handsome lodge room was densely crowded by Masons from all parts of the province of West York, from London, Lincolnshire, and East Lancashire; and the banquet which was held subsequently to the ceremony of dedication there were nearly 250 present.

The temple has been erected in the Italian style of architecture having in the front a projecting portico of 7 feet 6 inches. The large room, which is on the principal upper floor, is 48 feet long by 24 feet wide, and 24 feet high, and is enriched with a handsome cored and panelled ceiling, with ornamental marginal counter lights. The walls are divided into compartments by pilasters, having carved bases and capitals, and a Corinthian cornice with full enrichments. The east end is adorned with a large canopy, supported by two massive pillars with carved capitals; and the west end of the room has single columns, forming central projections. This room is approached by a spacious staircase of stone, and opposite the foot of the staircase is the entrance to the dining room, which is the same size as the lodge room, except that it is only 14 feet high. The interior also contains instruction and other rooms, for both the lodges of Probity and St. James, together with smoke rooms, cloak rooms, lavatories, &c.; and the basement contains living apartments for the hall keeper, with every requisite for cooking, &c. The architects were the late Bros. J. E. Oates, B. W. Jackson, W.M. of Probity, and W. H. D. Horsfall. The cost of the building is about £4,254, exclusive of furnishing, which is calculated to cost £500, so that when completed the entire cost will be £4,754.

The ceremony was commenced shortly before two o'clock, by the Lodge of St. James (No. 448), being opened in the three degrees by Bro. Richard Lord, W.M. From that time to the entrance of the Provincial Grand Lodge the room began to fill, and by the time the business commenced, the room was densely crowded. The Prov. G. officers formed a procession in the corridor of the hall, and entered the room in the accustomed order.

The R.W. the Grand Master of West Yorkshire, Bro. Earl de Grey and Ripon, having formally opened the Prov. G. Lodge, prayer was offered by Bro. the Rev. J. Hope, M.A., P. Prov. G. Chap., after which the roll of lodges was called, there being, with two exceptions, representatives from every lodge in West Yorkshire, with visitors from East Lancashire, Lincolnshire, &c. The ceremony of consecration and dedication was performed by Bro. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, according to ancient usage and custom. Amongst the officers, past and present, were:—Bros. Bentley Shaw, P.G.D. of E., D. Prov. G.M.; W. Hon. and Rev. P. Y. Savile, Prov. S.G.W.; W. E. Armitage, Prov. J.G.W.; Anton Engelman, P. Prov. G.W.; Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, Prov. G. Chap., P. Prov. G.W.; Rev. J. Senior, LL.D., P.G.C., P. Prov. G.W.; Sir H. Edwards, Bart., P. Prov. G.W.; James Franklin, P. Prov. G.W.; James Peece, P. Prov. G.W.; Thomas Perkinson, P. Prov. G.W.; Manoh Rhodes, P. Prov. G.W.; W. C. Oldroyd, Prov. G. Treas.; J. Fisher, P. Prov. G. Treas.; R. R. Nelson, Prov. G. Sec.; G. Normanton, Prov. J.G.D.; J. Booth, P. Prov. G.D.; J. Ward, P. Prov. G.D.; T. Hill, P. Prov. G.D.; W. Blackburn, P. Prov. G.D.; S. Binns, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Smith, P. Prov. G.S.B.; A. Briggs, Prov. G. Purst.; J. H. Abbey, P.G.S. of W.; Isaac Booth, P. Prov. G.S. of W.;

T. Higgins, Prov. Assist. G. Pürst.; W. Patman, P. Prov. G. Pürst.; W. Elliott, M.D., H. Day, A. W. Ramsden, and Chris. Pratt, Prov. G. Stewards; F. Whitaker, acting as Prov. G.S.; J. Lee, Prov. G.T.; Jonas Sheard, Prov. G. Tyler; and there were about 360 members of various lodges present, including Bros. John Copley, Prov. G.S. of W., E.L.; J. H. Tweedale, P. Prov. G.R., E.L.; C. E. Lucas, Prov. G.S. Linc.; F. Binckes, Sec. Boys' School; T. Alexander, Capt. Coates, Capt. Malcolm, and several other visiting brethren.

At the conclusion of the ceremony of dedication his lordship congratulated the brethren on the successful completion of the building. Other business having been transacted, the brethren retired in the same manner of procession as they entered, and the lodge was subsequently closed in the three degrees by the W.M. and officers of No. 448.

A musical banquet was provided in the Assembly Rooms, Harrison-road, the orchestra being occupied by Bro. Hemingway's quadrille band, who played a selection of music during the banquet. Earl de Grey and Ripon presided, and was supported on his right by Bro. Bentley Shaw, Prov. G.D. of England and D.P.G.M.; Rev. J. Senior, LL.D., P.G.C. of England and P. Prov. G.W. of West Yorkshire; Bro. R. R. Nelson, P.G.S.; Bro. F. Binckes, Secretary of the Boys' School; Bro. Lucas, P.G.S. Linc.; and Bro. I. Alexander. On his left were Bros. Sir Henry Edwards, Bart., P.S.G.W.; Rev. James Hope, P. Prov. G. Chap.; Bros. E. Armitage, P.J.G.W.; C. Oldroyd, P.G. Treas.; S. Waterhouse, M.P.; J. H. Tweedale, P. Prov. G. Reg. of East Lancashire; and the Hon. the Rev. P. Y. Savile, M.A., P.S.G.W.

After dinner, the noble chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were responded to with musical honours, Bro. Hemingway presiding at the pianoforte.

The chairman proposed the "Army, Navy, Yeomanry, and Volunteers."

Capt. Malcolm, of the 10th Regiment of Foot, responded on behalf of the yeomanry.

Major Waterhouse, M.P., on behalf of the yeomanry.

Capt. Coates on behalf of the volunteers.

The chairman then proposed "the M.W. Grand Master of England, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland." He said it had always been to him a source of great gratification to have the honour of proposing that toast upon occasions like the present. It was with feelings, he might almost say of deep emotion, that he rose to ask them to drink the toast at the present time; because within the last few days it had been made known to the Craft at large that it was the intention of his lordship at the conclusion of his present year of office finally to resign into the hands of the Craft the trust twenty-six years ago they for the first time placed in his hands. If they desired to rear a monument to the Masonic fame of Lord Zetland, they would have to write upon it the famous one of the Great Architect, "Si monumentum requirere circumspice." If they wished to see his monument, look round. Look at the increase of the Order in numbers, and its advance in public estimation, its numerous lodges, its wide-spread influence, its enlarged charities, its beneficent labours, and then they would know the best proof to which they could appeal for the spirit in which Lord Zetland during that lengthy period had governed this illustrious fraternity; and, indeed, those who knew as he knew the unwearied spirit of devotion and of zeal for the interests of the Craft in which that distinguished man had laboured with a single object—for the good of his brethren—and the advancement of the sound principles of Masonry, must be impressed with a deep sense of the loss which was about to fall on the Masons of England by the retirement of their chief; but they could not begrudge him at the close of a valued life the repose which he sought, but they would give him a double amount of esteem and affection to follow him in that retirement. In that spirit he gave them the "Health of Lord Zetland."

The Chairman then proposed, "The Right Worshipful the D. Prov. G.M. of England, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Officers of the Grand Lodge past and present," to which Bro. the Rev. Dr. Senior responded.

Bro. Sir H. Edwards, Bart., rose to propose the next toast and was received with immense cheering, the whole company rising. The toast was "The Right Worshipful the P. Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon." Sir Henry said that never had he stood forward with greater satisfaction and purer pride than at that moment. He had to propose the health of a man who was esteemed above every other man in the craft, not only in Yorkshire, but through-

out Great Britain. He had the honour to propose the toast of the man who presided at that great meeting—that magnificent meeting of Freemasons. It was indeed a proud pleasure to him to have such a toast to propose to them, and he thanked the brethren for having placed it in his hands. No man in West Yorkshire was more highly esteemed or more deeply respected than Lord de Grey and Ripon. He (the noble chairman) had long been a mason—he had long presided over this province, not only with great credit to himself, but he had done great credit to the masons of this great riding, which will never be forgotten. He had presided over its councils with firmness, and had shown an ability which had fascinated every member. The loss of such a man to West Yorkshire would be very difficult to fill. He did not mean to say Lord de Grey was about to depart never to return, but one who would depart from them as their chief in freemasonry. He deeply regretted to say that from infirmities and age the noble Lord Zetland was about to retire from the position of chief amongst masons in England. A successor must be found, and who more likely for a successor than that noble-lord who sat at his right hand. No man would deplore more than he did the loss of Earl Zetland to freemasonry, and no man would be more delighted to place their present chairman in that position than he would. Earl de Grey was popular everywhere, and he would be popular still throughout the country. Again he deeply regretted the loss of Earl de Grey from West Yorkshire, but should be delighted to be associated with him in carrying on the work of masonry in his exalted position of Grand Master. The toast was drunk with masonic honours.

The R.W. D.G. Master rose to reply, amidst a perfect ovation, the company rising to cheer again and again. His Lordship said he had often received from the brethren of West Yorkshire proofs of their regard, but he had never risen with deeper feelings of emotion to reply to the toast which had just been offered to them as he did upon that occasion, for never, as it seemed to him, had they been pleased to accord to it a warmer or more cordial reception. No man could have exercised the high office which he had filled in that riding now for several years, among such a body of men as the Masons of West Yorkshire, without having become united to them by ties closer and closer. No man, be his heart ever so cold—and his, he trusted, was not of such material but must have been warmed by that hearty zeal for the interests of masonry, by that cordial confidence which they had displayed towards him, and by the hearty co-operation which he had received from them on every hand, for it was the happy constitution of the craft, whether they looked to its organisation in the Grand Lodge and under the Grand Master, or whether they looked to those minuter grand lodges which were spread throughout the provinces of the country—it was their happy constitution that, while sufficient power was placed in the hands of those who presided over the councils of the craft, they had of necessity constantly to apply to the co-operation of their brethren of every order; and without that co-operation it would be impossible for any man to conduct the government of masonry. He had always held it to be the duty of those who were set to rule in the craft, whatever might be the position which they held, steadily to set before them the ancient landmarks of the order—and firmly and constantly to enforce adherence to those landmarks, and the time-honoured traditions upon which the craft was based, but at the same time always to exercise whatever authority might be placed in their hands by the confidence of their brethren or the choice of their chiefs, with an earnest desire to merit and secure the confidence of the brethren over whom they were called to rule, with an earnest and ever-present conviction that unless they could secure that confidence and the co-operation which followed it they had no hope of being able to do good to the craft. It had been in that spirit that he had endeavoured to discharge the duties of the high office that he had held in that province, and that he had learned as he had watched the conduct and principles which guided the rule of his great chief, Lord Zetland—a rule which, as they now knew, was about to cease among them, and hard indeed would be the task of the man who might be chosen, whoever he might be, to succeed to such a ruler. It was only by endeavouring, however unequally, to follow the footsteps of him who was about to retire from the greatest position in the order with the spirit that animated Lord Zetland, that any man could hope to discharge the duties of so great an office; and the more they reflected, as naturally they were led to do at such a moment, upon the past history of Freemasonry in this country, and upon the great and improved position which it now occupied here, the more deeply must every one be impressed with the duty which

lay upon them in their respective spheres to demean themselves both within the walls of their lodges and to the outer world as became good and honourable masons, for they were taught by their ceremonies of the deeper meaning which underlay the outward things of the craft; and when they learned almost now from day to day of the progress of their institutions, of the new lodges which were being added, and the new members being enrolled, the greater, naturally must they feel, especially those who might be called upon to take any government of the order, the responsibility which rested upon them to maintain unsullied and unimpaired those great and noble and lovely principles upon which the order was built centuries ago, and which amidst all the changes of the past had imprinted upon their order an imperishable stamp. It would ill become him to touch upon the delicate ground upon which some of the speakers had not unnaturally entered that evening. No man who felt the responsibility that attached to the office of Grand Master would put himself forward for such a post. If it should fall to the lot of any man to be called upon to fill it by the suffrages of the craft, then indeed he would be called upon to consider whether it would not be his duty to accept the office. Deep as his regret was at the loss which they were about to sustain, he felt confidence that even the loss of even so great a man as him, who had ruled over them for the last 26 years, would not wreck the stability of masonry, would not weaken the foundation or impair their progress, because that progress was not dependent upon the presence of any single man, however good, for these foundations had been laid in times the memory of which had almost perished, upon one eternal and enduring basis.

The Chairman next gave the toast of the D. Prov. G.M. and the Officers of Prov. G. Lodge past and present. In proposing the toast the chairman pointed out the present happy state of union which existed in the provinces under the management of Bro. Bentley Shaw, the D. Prov. G.M.

Bro. Bentley Shaw, D. Prov. G.M. in reply stated that it had always been his study to merit the confidence of the noble lord, and to merit the esteem of his brethren generally. He had served under Lord Zetland, to whom allusions had been made in a most touching manner that evening. They all equally regretted the loss of such a man, for there was not a more feeling, wise, and benign man than the Earl of Zetland; but he with others who had spoken should be rejoiced to see his place filled by the nobleman who presided over them, for he was admirably qualified for the position. He desired to say to the brethren of Halifax that the great work which they had accomplished in bringing to a successful issue the beautiful building in which they had assembled that day, was most creditable to them; and he was also delighted that the work had been completed without loss of life or limb. He was much gratified with the kind manner in which the brethren had received the toast of his health.

The Chairman then gave the toast of the visiting Prov. Grand Officers from other districts which was responded to by Bro. Lucas from Lincolnshire.

The Chairman proposed the health of W.M.'s and Officers of the Lodges of Probity and St. James's.

Bro. B. W. Jackson, W.M. of the Lodge of Probity, replied, and said he was much gratified that the completion of the Freemasons' Hall had taken place during his term of office. The work of erecting the building had been a labour of love to all engaged, and they had endeavoured to erect a building worthy of the body of men to whom it belonged. In the discharge of the duties of his office, he had always sought to fulfil them to the best of his ability, and he had been ably supported. He concluded by paying a tribute of respect to the Lodge of St. James's, for the manner in which that day's proceedings had been carried out.

Bro. R. Lord, W.M. of St. James's Lodge, desired to return his thanks on behalf of himself and brethren for the kindness with which the toast had been received. He could endorse the sentiments of Bro. Jackson respecting the Freemasons' Hall, in which he had taken so great an interest. It was gratifying to him also to find that the efforts of St. James's Lodge in providing for that day's proceedings had met with the approbation of their noble Grand Master and the Grand Lodge officers, because a meeting of that kind involved a great deal of care, time, diligence, and assiduity; and it was pleasing, therefore, to find that they had succeeded.

The following toasts were given and responded to:—"Success to the Masonic Temple;" "The chairman, vice-chairman, and members of the building committee," responded to

by Bro. Fisher, who said he desired to tender to his lordship and all the brethren both, on behalf of himself and those who had worked with him, his hearty and sincere thanks for the kind reception given to the toast. He could assure them the two lodges were now more closely cemented than they ever were before. He was gratified to find that they had succeeded in carrying out the completion of a building which would merit the respect not of masons only, but those of the outer world also. He trusted that in future years Halifax would be as proud of her Masonic Hall as she was of her other noble institutions. "The Secretaries" was responded to by Bro. Harry J. Franklin and Bro. Austin Roberts; "The Architects," responded to by Bro. Jackson and Bro. Horsfall; "The Visiting Brethren," responded to by Bro. Binckes, Secretary of the Boys' School, London; "The Countess de Grey and Ripon, Mrs. B. Shaw, and the Ladies," proposed by Sir H. Edwards, and responded to by the chairman on behalf of Lady de Grey; and by Bro. Bentley Shaw; "The distressed Masons."

The proceedings were concluded by singing the National Anthem.

HEBDEN BRIDGE.—*Prince Frederick Lodge* (No. 307).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 22nd ult., when there was a good attendance of the officers and members. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and the minutes read, the lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bros. J. Hoyle and R. Whitaker passed an examination as F.C.'s; after which the lodge was opened in the third degree, and those two brethren raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Bro. F. Whitaker, W.M., in a very effective manner. The lodge was then closed in the three degrees in harmony, and the brethren afterwards spent a few hours very pleasantly. The only visitors were Bros. J. Copley, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, Eatt Lancashire, and E. Hartley, of Todmorden.

SCOTTISH CONSTITUTION.

METROPOLITAN.

EDINBURGH.—*The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel)* No. 1.—This lodge held a special meeting on the 29th ult. in the Waterloo Hotel, when there were present the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland; Bros. Whyte Melville, of Mount Melville and Beunoehy, R.W.P.G.M.; the Right Hon. the Earl of Haddington, R.W.D.G.M.; Henry Inglis, of Torsonce, R.W.S.G.M.; William Mann, S.G.W., also a P.M. of this lodge; Hay, G. Treas.; Alex. J. Stewart, G. Clerk; Sir Alexander C. Gibson Maitland, M.P., a P.M. of this lodge; Lord Erskine; Hector M'Lean, Prov. G.M., Upper Lanarkshire; A. Robinow, representative of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg to the G.L. of S.; Dr. M'Gowan, a P.M. of this lodge, and representative of the Grand Orient of France to the G.L. of S.; and about a hundred and fifty other brethren, including many other Grand Office-bearers, a large number of the brethren of the lodge, and visiting brethren from the lodges in the district. Besides other business transacted, the resolution of the last monthly meeting, conferring honorary affiliation on Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Haddington, R.W.D.G.M., was presented to him, handsomely engrossed and illuminated on vellum, and enclosed in a morocco leather case. The lodge separated at 11 p.m., after a most pleasant evening.

GLASGOW.

LODGE CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (No. 354).

This flourishing lodge met on Wednesday evening, Dec. 1st, in the lodge-room, 213, Buchanan-street, for the purpose of electing and installing office-bearers for the ensuing year. There was a very strong muster of the brethren—in fact the largest meeting for the same object which has taken place in Glasgow for a very long time. Very few offices were contested, and the proceedings were of a most harmonious character. The following is a list of the new office-bearers:—

Bros. W. J. Hamilton, re-elected R.W.M.; J. E. Wilson, re-elected P.M.; W. R. Thomson, re-elected D.M.; D. K. Spiers, S.M.; John Crichton, S.W.; W. Foster, J.W.; A. Carmichael, re-elected Treas.; P. Sanderson, re-elected Sec.; J. Crawford, S.D.; A. Mackay, re-elected J.D.; A. E. Wilson, M.A., re-elected

Chap.; John Price, re-elected Architect; John Crawford, S.D.; Andrew Mackay, J.D.; A. Murie, re-elected C.S.; J. P. Prentice and R. Fleming, J.S.; John H. Goddes, P.G.S.; D. Martin, re-elected Dir. of Cers.; A. A. Smith, re-elected Dir. of M.; A. Allison, Jeweller; James Hoiston, Standard Bearer; Thomas Mabin, Banner Bearer; J. Shaw, I.G.; W. F. Gemmel, re-elected Tyler; J. S. Hunter, T. B. Simm, R. Wilson, R. Goodman, and C. More, Committee.

Bro. Archibald McTaggart, M.A., R.W.M. of Lodge St Mungo, No. 27, performed the ceremony of Installation in a most impressive manner, and afterwards, in a most eloquent charge to the newly-installed officers, descanted at considerable length on the distinguishing characteristic of every truly Masonic heart, viz., Charity; he compared the position of Masonry in Scotland with that of the sister countries of England and Ireland, and deplored the fact that we were, as a body, very far behind; but he thought Masonic prospects in Scotland—the west at least—were at the present moment peculiarly cheering. He referred in very eulogistic terms to Bro W. M. Neilson, our newly elected Prov.G.M., and felt satisfied that under his reign everything pertaining to Masonry would be performed in a truly Masonic manner; he felt confident that the brethren had united in placing “the right man in the right place,” and said the Lodge Caledonian Railway might well be proud that she had the honour of bringing Bro. Neilson to light.

The brethren were thereafter placed in charge of the J.W., and due honour having been done to the “Queen and the Craft,” and the “Three Grand Masters,”

Bro. J. E. Wilson, P.M., rose to propose the “Health of the newly-installed Office-bearers,” and congratulated the R.W.M. on the formidable array of office-bearers he had to assist him in his labours, and alluded in very feeling terms to the harmony which existed in the Lodge Caledonian Railway.

The toast was received with all the honours.

Bro. W. J. Hamilton, R.W.M., in responding, said that it afforded him the most unfeigned pleasure to be placed in the position he then occupied by the universal suffrage of the brethren. During the past year his labours had been comparatively easy in consequence of the ready and spontaneous assistance accorded to him by every office-bearer, and he said he felt an honest pride in the office-bearers just installed (and felt certain, by the Divine blessing, the lodge would continue to prosper in the future, as it had done in the past), he might safely assert that a more intelligent and enthusiastic body of office-bearers were not to be found in the province to which they belonged, nor, indeed, in any other province in Scotland. After thanking the brethren for the warm reception they had given the toast, he concluded by proposing “The Past Office-Bearers,” and said that much, very much, of the present prosperity of the lodge was due to their exertions; he knew that such a toast did not require any eloquence of his—if he was possessed of any—to ensure for it a very cordial response.

Bro. Wilson, P.M., responded on behalf of the past officers, and assured the brethren that although not holding the reins of power he and his brother past office bearers were still most anxious for the continued prosperity of the Lodge Caledonian Railway, and begged the brethren to understand that his services were entirely at their disposal.

The R.W.M. then gave the “Provincial Grand Lodge,” coupling with it the name of Bro. A. McTaggart, convener of P.G. Committee. The toast was warmly received, and Bro. McTaggart having responded, a short time was passed in social harmony, and the lodge called to labour, and closed in ancient form at high twelve.

ROYAL ARCH. ENGLISH CONSTITUTION, METROPOLITAN.

CHAPTER OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 145).

The first regular meeting of this new chapter was held on Tuesday last, at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Comps. John Boyd, M.E.Z.; G. F. Sharpe, H.; Wm. Carter, J.; G. S. States, Scribe, E.; W. H. Allender, S.N.; Pitt, P.S.; J. Lancaster, 1st A.S.; J. Bull, 2nd A. S.; Laing, Janitor. The chapter was opened in due form, and the minutes taken at the consecration read and confirmed. The M.E.Z. then exalted the following thirteen brethren, all of whom, with one exception, belong to the mother lodge; being a goodly number for the first

instalment, the business paper showing a good reserve for future meetings; Bros. T. Bull, G. Wood, Dirs. of Cers.; E. H. Theillay, J. Lancaster, H.M.S. Bebb; J. Sommers, G. Shummers, F. Shummers, J. G. Manby, C. C. Butcher; G. Purkis, G. J. Mumford, and H. J. Perry.

The following were ballotted for as joining members:—J. Hervey, G.S.E.; R. S. Warrington, P.Z., 8; F. Gilbert, Z., 534; L. Merck, Z., 534; E. Bingham, 407; H. P. Allender, (W.M. 145), 742; R. W. Little, P.Z., 177; J. Brett, P.Z., 177; W. Platt, P.Z.

The following visitors were also present:—Comps. P. Mugeridge, P.G.S.B.; W. Smeed, 946; H. M. Levy, 188; Chas. Sloman, 5; J. Coutts, Z., 382; F. Binckes, P.Z., 11; Donald King, 180; C. Gosden, 534.

All the companions present expressed their opinion that they had scarcely ever seen the work so ably performed. The officers were well up to every part of their duties. Comp. Pitt performed the duties of P. Soj. in a manner which, considering that it was the first time he had occupied that chair, reflected great credit on his own industry as well as upon his preceptor, whoever it might be. The whole was given without the slightest hesitation, and in the most impressive manner. At the request of the M.E.Z., Comp. Allender, N., presided at the harmonium, and his duties were kindly undertaken by Comp. James Brett, who also made himself useful as P.Z. The addresses of J. and H. could not possibly be found fault with, but we must say we never witnessed in any chapter the address of the M.E.Z. more efficiently rendered, and so great an impression made upon the companions, whether newly exalted or of twenty or thirty years' standing.

At the close of the chapter the compliments to the M.E.Z. were overwhelming. Several names were lauded to Scribe E. for exaltation and joining at the next meeting of the chapter. Never was a chapter established under more favourable auspices or with greater *éclat*.

The companions afterwards adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided under the able superintendence of Comp. Gosden. After the cloth was cleared, we could not help noticing the arrangement of the separate table for the P. Soj. and his assistants for the purpose of answering the questions of the M.E.Z., who appeared quite as efficient and *au fait* before a pine-apple (which we should think weighed twelve pounds) as he was while going through his three hours' work in chapter. The P. Soj. having answered the usual questions,

The M.E.Z. rose to propose “The Health of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen—the daughter of a Mason, the niece of others, and now the mother of one.” The M.E.Z. was near his Royal Highness at Grand Lodge, and was pleased to hear him speak so highly in appreciation of Masonry.

The toast was responded to with the loyalty usual amongst Royal Arch Masons.

The M.E.Z. then proposed the Health of the Grand Z. for the first time in the chapter, and he regretted to say, nearly the last, in consequence of the resignation by his Lordship of that office.

The next toast was that of the Grand H. and J., to which Comp. Mugeridge responded.

There being no P.Z. of the chapter, Comp. Warrington, as a personal friend of the M.E.Z., of many year's standing, begged to be allowed to propose the next toast, which was “The Health of Comp. John Boyd, the M.E.Z., which he did in the most complimentary terms, referring to his excellent working, which was duly responded to and replied to in suitable terms by the M.E.Z.

The “Health of the J. and H. of the Prudent Brethren Chapter” was then proposed by the M.E.Z., and replied to by Comps. Sharpe and Carter,

“The Newly-Exalted Companions” was then given, and responded to by several of them, each of whom expressed his gratification at having been exalted to this degree at this, the first meeting of the newly-established chapter attached to their mother lodge.

The M.E.Z. then said he had to propose what he must term a special toast, which was that of “The Health of their Scribe E., Comp. George S. States.” He remarked that, “A portion of our lectures told us that if we believed a thing impossible our dependency might render it so; but he who perseveres in a just cause will ultimately overcome all difficulties. He had joined the Prudent Brethren Lodge many years ago. It had got into trouble and difficulties, but a few of the Past Masters put their shoulders to the wheel, overcame their troubles, and got on

to the smooth road of prosperity. The lodge increased in numbers and influence, so much so that they were bold enough to think they might establish a chapter in connection with the lodge. He (the M.E.Z.) brought forward a motion to that effect, which was unanimously carried. Application was made to Supreme Grand Chapter. The prayer of the petition was granted, the chapter was consecrated, the Grand Scribe E. being in the chair of Z. and here we are assembled at our first annual meeting. During the time of getting the lodge into its proper position in the craft, during the formation of the chapter, the trouble and anxiety need not be told in the company of so many old Arch Masons as were now present. During all this they had been most ably assisted by Comp. States, who was always at his post in lodge, and no doubt would be the same in chapter; and for the assistance he had rendered him (the M.E.Z.) personally, he begged to ask Comp. States, the first Scribe E., to accept from him (the first M.E.Z.) a jewel appropriate to his position in Arch Masonry as having passed the three chairs.

The M.E.Z. then requested Comp. States to take his position at his side, placed on his collar a most beautiful jewel, trusting he might long continue to wear it and hold his present office in the chapter, and called upon the brethren to heartily respond to the health of Comp. States, the first Scribe E. of Prudent Brethren Chapter.

Comp. States, rose to return thanks, but seemed so overcome by the great kindness of the M.E.Z., that it was some time before he could find words to express his feelings. He said:—"Most Excellent, the very kind present you have been pleased to confer upon me, shall ever be to me a token which will remind me, as long as life shall last, of the kindness of the companions with whom I have, through many years, laboured to promote the prosperity of the Prudent Brethren Lodge. I think, M.E., that the complimentary terms in which you have spoken of me I scarcely deserve, for whatever assistance I have rendered to you, both in the lodge, and in the formation of this chapter, has been a labour of love, it being a pleasure to work under so excellent a chief, for when some little difficulties presented themselves in establishing this chapter, your assistance gave me renewed spirit for the task, and by our united co-operation our labours were brought to the successful termination now witnessed. I again return my grateful thanks to you, M.E., for your kind present, and also to the companions for the hearty manner in which they have responded to the toast of my health." The jewel was then passed round for the inspection of the companions. It is of 18 carat gold, of chaste design, a wreath of acacia surrounding the triangle and crossed pens, which are mounted on a centre of crimson enamel. The jewel is surmounted with a crown of five points, with diamond, emerald, and ruby enrichments at the base of each point. The whole is attached to a hanger, and the ribbon being mounted with three beautiful models of the sceptres of the three chairs which Comp. States has previously occupied, viz., M.E.Z., H. and J. The inscription on the back of the jewel is as follows:—

"Presented, December 7th, 1869, to Comp. George S. States, the first Scribe E., by Comp. John Boyd, the first M.E.Z., as a slight acknowledgment and appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered by him in founding the Chapter of Prudent Brethren, No. 145."

"The Health of the Officers" was then proposed and duly responded to. The evening's amusements were greatly enhanced by the excellent vocal and instrumental music of Comp. Donald King and others.

Thus terminated one of the most happy and friendly meetings ever held within the walls of the Freemasons' Tavern.

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—The regular meeting of this chapter was held on Friday, the 3rd inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, when the following officers were present: Bros. J. Tepper, M.E.Z.; Dr. Griffith, H.; J. B. Monckton, J.; Stanley Robinson, E.; J. Hookley, N.; A. A. Richards, P.S.; J. Stohwasser, Treas.; E. Baxter, Dir. of Cers.; W. Gunze, Org. Bros. Penn, Francis, and March were exalted to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Masons. Comp. Dr. Griffith was elected M.E.Z. for the ensuing year, and Comps. Monckton H., and Frank Richardson J. Comp. Ciabatta was elected N. The remainder of the officers were re-appointed.

CANONBURY CHAPTER (No. 657).—The companions of this chapter held their regular meeting at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Thursday, 28th ult. There were present comps.

Wescombe, M.E.Z.; S. May, H.; J. James, J.; H. Carey, Scribe E., and others. The chapter having been opened in due form, the minutes were read and confirmed, and a ballot was taken for the admission of Bro. James Vause by the M.E.Z. The business concluded and the chapter closed, the companions adjourned to the banquet, after which the usual loyal and masonic toasts were given and responded to. The proceedings were enlivened during the evening by the musical and vocal abilities of several companions.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

BURY.—*Unanimity Chapter* (No. 42).—The companions of this chapter met at the Queens' Hotel, on Wednesday, the 24th ult. There were present: Comps. John Redfern, P.Z.; H. Maider, Scribe E.; John M. Wicke, P.Z.; L. Booth, Scribe N.; John Bolderson, M.E.Z.; J. M. Whitehead, P.S.; James Keyzor, F.P.; Robert Edmondson, S.P., and other companions. The only business transacted was the installation of the first and second Principals, and the two brethren for exaltation.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Chapter* (No. 471).—On Friday, the 3rd inst., the usual monthly convocation of the members of this chapter took place at the Masonic Hall, Dock-street, and, considering the inclemency of the weather, there was a tolerably good attendance. Comp. Bartholomew Thomas, M.E.Z., presided, supported by Comps. Laybourne as H.; and Oliver as J. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot took place, when Brother Ebenezer Prosser, of Pontypool, S.D. of the Kennard Lodge, 1258, was unanimously admitted; that brother being in attendance, was duly exalted to the sublime degree of R.A. Mason, the ceremony being most correctly rendered by the M.E.Z. Tho Prin. Soj. Comp. Tratte being absent through illness, his chair was ably filled by Comp. Fothergill, and we are sadly out of our judgment if the latter Comp. does not make a very valuable acquisition to this chapter. Three new members were proposed, and the M.E.Z. announced that at the next meeting the Companions would have to elect his successor, and we have no doubt Comp. Thomas's mantle will then fall very gracefully on Comp. Laybourne's shoulders. This chapter now numbers nearly 70 subscribing members, and every month there are fresh propositions. There is some talk of forming an encampment here.

MARK MASONRY.

ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

GRAND LODGE.

The half-yearly meeting of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters took place at the Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday, the 30th ult. Bro. the Rev. W. G. Portal occupied the chair of M.W.G.M., Sir E. H. Lechmere that of D.G.M., Bro. J. Udall acting as Senior Warden, and Bro. L. J. Conway as J.W. There were also present Bros. the Rev. T. F. Ravenshaw, John Huyshe, D. Shaboe, J. Meggy, J. Nunn, J. Stevens, H. C. Levander, T. Fenn, F. Davidson, R. Spencer, J. H. Wynna, F. Binckes (G. Sec.), G. Lambert, J. G. Marsh, Jas. Weaver, M. Edwards, T. J. Sabine, and a large number of well known Mark Masters. Bro. F. Binckes, G. Sec., read the minutes of the last meeting, and the report of General Board, which referred to the action taken by the Scotch Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons with respect to the English Mark Masons, and also the Hebrew letters depicted on the Mark jewel. The applications of two brethren were considered, and it was resolved to relieve them with £5 each. The receipts of the year amounted to £291 11s. 7d., and the expenditure £123 9s., leaving a balance in hand of £168 9s. 7d. It was resolved that the annual festival in aid of the Royal Benevolent Institution should be repeated, it having been so successful last year, when the sum of £80 was contributed to the funds; and it was also resolved that on the next occasion the brethren should wear the Mark clothing. Bro. J. G. Marsh was invested by the M.W.G.M. with the insignia of G. Supt. of Works in the place of Bro. Gouly, recently deceased. Some proposed alterations in the constitution of the Grand

Lodge of Mark Masters were carried, and the other business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet provided by Bro. Gosden.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Thursday, the 25th ultimo. The R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Kelley, presided, and among the brethren present were:—Bros. Major Brewin, W.M. 19, Prov. G.S.W.; Rev. W. Langley, M.A., Prov. G. Chap.; W. B. Smith, Prov. G.M.O.; W. Weare, Prov. G.S.O.; C. Stretton, Prov. G. Recorder; A. M. Duff, Prov. G. Sec.; T. H. Buzzard, Prov. G.J.D.; J. E. Hodges, Prov. G. Swd. B.; Chas. Johnson, Prov. G. Org.; W. Moor, J. B. Leadbeater, and John Hunt, Prov. G. Stewards; C. Benbridge, Prov. G. Tyler; W. Pettifor, Prov. G.S.W.; Partridge Toller; Rev. N. Haycroft, D.D.; Sculthorpe, and others. Apologies for absence were received from the D. Prov. G.M.—the Rev. W. Kay Robinson, B.A., from Bro. Douglas, Prov. G.J.W., on account of illness, whilst the attendance of many of the brethren of the Howe Lodge, No. 21, Melton Mowbray, was prevented by the annual dinner of the Rutland Agricultural Society taking place on the same day.

The lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the last annual meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Stretton was unanimously elected Prov. G. Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Prov. G.M. having announced that the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters had altered the designations of two of the grand officers, and had substituted the titles Prov. Grand Recorder and Grand Timekeeper for Grand Registrar and Grand Pursuivant, made the following appointments for the ensuing year, and invested those of the brethren who were present, viz:—Major Brewin, W.M. No. 19, D. Prov. G. Master; Rev. W. Langley, W.M. No. 21, P.S.G.W.; W. B. Smith, P.G.J.W.; Rev. Dr. Haycroft, P.G. Chap.; Geo. Brown, P.G.M.O.; W. Adcock, P.G.S.O.; A. M. Duff, P.G.J.O.; Stretton, P.G. Treas.; Bright, P.G. Recorder; Partridge, P.G. Sec.; Markham, P.G.S.D.; Leadbeater, P.G.J.D.; Charles Johnson and Robt. Winter Johnson (Melton), P.G. Dir. of Cers.; J. J. East, P.G. Insp. of Works; Mann, P.G. Sword Bearer; Toller, P.G. Timekeeper; L. A. Clarke, Dr. Ashforth, and W. Sculthorpe P.G. Stewards; and Benbridge, P.G. Tyler.

The P.G.M. intimated that he had reserved the collar of P.G. Organist for Bro. Crow (Fellow of the College of Organists), who was to be advanced later in the day.

On the suggestion of the Prov. G.M. it was unanimously resolved that instead of giving, as last year, an annual subscription of two guineas to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, the sum of five guineas should be contributed every alternate year, by which means a life subscribership to one or other of the Masonic charities might be secured, and appropriated in rotation to each of the officers in the Provincial Grand Lodge.

On the recommendation of the Rev. Bro. Langley, it was, after some discussion as to arrangements, unanimously resolved that the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters be invited to hold the next moveable Grand Lodge in this Hall, and Bros. Brewin and Langley were deputed personally to convey this invitation to the Grand Lodge at the meeting in London on Monday, the 30th instant.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form and with prayer.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—*Opening of a new Chapter of the 18° Rose Croix of H.R.D.M.*—The above-named chapter was inaugurated in full form on Thursday, the 2nd inst., when there were present some very distinguished brethren connected with the high degrees of the Order, namely:—C. J. Vigne, J.P., Ill. Sov. G.C., 33°; Colonel Vernon, Ill. Lieut. G.C., 33°; Capt. N. G. Phillips, Ill. G. Treas. Gen., 33°; Capt. R. W. Adair, Ill. G. Sec. Gen., 33° (late Prov. G.M. Somerset); Hyde Pullen, 32°, Assist. G. Sec. Gen.; Major-General Doherty, 30°; Joseph Starkey,

30°; Col. Ford, J.P., 18°; Capt. Phayre, R.N., J.P., 18°; T. R. Lord, 18°; Capt. Irwin, 30° (J.G.W. Somerset), M.W.S.; Genl. Gore Mumbee, 18°, Q.E., J.P. (S.G.W. Somerset), 1st G.; Capt. Townsend, 18°, R.N., 2nd G.; Rev. J. C. Pigot, 18°, B.D. (G. Chap. Somerset), H.P.; Rev. R. C. Brown, 18°, B.A., G.M.; F. Vizard, R., 18°; E. T. Inskip, T., 18°; B. Cox, R., 18°; E. Gregory, O., 18°; T. Clarke, C.G., 18°; T. J. Matthias, H., 18°; W. H. Davies, 18°; S. Jones, 18°; &c. In the evening the members of the Supreme Grand Council of the 33°, and the members of the 18°, partook of supper together, in the hotel.

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND.

GRAND CHAPTER OF H.R.D.M.

EDINBURGH.—A special meeting was held on Monday, the 29th ult., for the advancement and promotion of H.I.H. the Prince Rhodocanakis. The Grand Chapter of H.R.D.M., was opened by Knt. Comp. George Murray, Grand Treasurer, and Acting Deputy Grand Governor; Alexander Hay, Senior G.V. and D.T., and L. Mackersy, as acting G.J.W. After H.I.H. had been advanced to this degree, he was promoted to the honour of the knighthood of the R.S.Y.C.S. Among the Knights present were: Comps. T. E. Macritchie, 33°; G. Murray, 30°; Mackersy, 30°; W. Mann, 32°; Hay, 30°; Cairns, 30°; J. B. Douglas, 30°, Grand Sec.; Scott, 30°; J. T. Douglas, 30°; P. Cowan, 30°; Henderson, 30°; T. H. Douglas, 30°; F. Fair, 30°; G. Georgiades, 30°; C. Fitzgerald Matier, 30°; Loth, 30°; Capt. Moreland, 30°, and many others. Comp. Gardyne was also received into the Order at the same time.

Poetry.

AN ORPHAN'S EVENING PRAYER FOR HER WIDOWED MOTHER'S BENEFACTOR

Dedicated most respectfully by a deceased Mason's daughter to the W. Bro. F. ADLARD, P.M. and Treas. of the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance (No. 7), &c.

It is the hour of evening—the quiet day is past,
And twilights' deep'ning shadows around my room are cast.
And I am humbly kneeling, absorbed in earnest prayer,
To thank Thee, Heavenly Father, for Thy protecting care.

What mercies hast Thou shown to me, what blessings o'er my head;

Thine ever-watchful kindness continually hath shed.
Vile ingrate that I should be, did I not in gladness raise
To Thee my heart's thanksgiving, my perfect hymn of praise.

And I would fain petition, that thou would'st doign to bless
A gen'rous friend who solac'd my mother's deep distress;
Whoso noble heart with pity and sympathy o'er warms,
Felt for her lonely suffering in tribulation's storms.

For when my cherish'd father by death was called away,
Our benefactor's goodness re-kindled Hope's bright ray.
He pour'd upon our sorrow compassion's healing balm,
And soften'd bitter anguish to resignation's calm.

To his kind intervention our present home we owe,
And all the little comforts that soothe bereavement's woe;
Each day our mercies whisper the debt his actions claim,
Each day in terms of blessing we reverence his name,

Once more I plead, O! Father, for him before Thy throne;
Oh! may Thy tender guidance o'er those he loves be shewn,
And may he be rewarded for all the gen'rous care
That sooth'd my mother's suffering, is a grateful orphan's
prayer.

A. C. S.

Nov., 1869.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES.

At the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, on Monday "Der Freischütz" was produced; on Tuesday, "Martha;" and on Thursday, "Il Trovatore." "Il Flauto Magico" formed the subject of the "last morning performance" on Friday, and this evening the season concludes with "Lucrezia Borgia" and the grand scene of the Resuscitation of the Nuns, from "Roberto il Diavolo."—"Formosa" continues at Drury Lane, and is announced to be withdrawn on the 18th inst. "New Men and Old Acres" meets with continued success at the Haymarket.—Mr. Allerton, not discouraged at the unfavourable reception of "Forbidden Fruit," has brought out another French adaptation, called "The Siren," which is neatly translated by Mr. Palgrave Simpson from M. Octave Feuillet's "Delilah." The house has been well filled since its production, and the piece was received with more signs of approbation than its predecessor.—At the St. James's a new extravaganza, bearing the title of "La Belle Sauvage," has been produced. It is identical with "Pocahontas; or the Gentle Savage," originally written for the American stage, and was produced at the Princess's in 1861. It is improved by the excision of numerous Americanisms, which were neither understood nor appreciated on its first representation in this country.—At Sadler's Wells, under the direction of Mr. R. Edgar, a series of Shaksperian and other representations have been given during the week, Mr. Pennington, Miss Eliza Clayton, and Mrs. Eburne sustaining the principal characters.—At the Queen's, the "Turn of the Tide" having reached the 162nd representation, has been replaced by a new four-act drama by the same author, entitled, "Morden Grange," being a dramatic adaptation of Mark Lemon's novel, "Wait for the End." The characters were well sustained, and the piece was favourably received by the audience.—At the Princess's Theatre, Bro. Roberts announces his annual benefit, which occupies two evenings (the 13th and 14th inst.) Those who have attended on former occasions, and who have witnessed the extra attractions provided, invariably look forward to the occasion of Bro. Roberts's nights, who, we may state, is about to close his connection with the Princess's, having accepted the position of acting manager to Mr. Mansell, at the Lyceum Theatre, in January next. On this occasion Miss Florence Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts (Miss Rebecca Isaacs), will make her *début*.

More new theatres are in preparation. A company is about to erect one on the site of Savile House (pity they could not have managed to get the "Square"), and another, situate at Sloane-square, is building for Belgravia.

LITERATURE SCIENCE, AND FINE ARTS.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN'S new illustrated weekly journal, *Nature*, is excellently got up, and contains a large number of articles by scientific men of world-wide reputation.

A new monthly periodical, *The Artisans Magazine*, edited by the Rev. H. Solly, may be expected to appear shortly. The magazine will be published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall.

The Winter Exhibition of the Society of Painters in Water Colours opened on Saturday week. The collection is decidedly above the average, and includes works by B. Foster, G. Tripp, John Gilbert, Carl Haag, G. P. Boyce, A. Hunt, Collingwood, Smith, T. Smallfield, T. R. Lamont, F. Walker, C. Davidson, G. H. Andrews, J. D. Watson, E. K. Jackson, T. W. Topham, T. J. Shields, Basil Bradley, and many others. A visit in this dull season will well repay the trouble.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK.

Saturday, 11th Dec.—Royal Botanical Society, at 3.45.

Monday, 13th Dec.—Society of Engineers, at 7.30; Royal Geographical Society, at 8.30; Medical Society, at 8; Royal Institute of British Architects, at 8; Royal Institution, at 2—monthly meeting; London Institution, at 4; Society of Arts, at 8.

Tuesday, 14th Dec.—Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8; Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, at 8.30; Photographic Society, at 8; Anthropological Society, at 8.

Wednesday, 15th Dec.—Society of Arts, at 8.

Thursday, 16th Dec.—Royal Society, at 8.30; Society of Antiquaries, at 8.30; Linnean Society, at 8; Chemical Society, at 8; Zoological Society, at 4; Numismatic Society, at 7; Philosophical Club, at 6; London Institution, at 7.30; Edinburgh Geological Society, at 8.

LIST OF LODGE MEETINGS, &c., FOR WEEK.
ENDING 18TH DECEMBER, 1869.

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

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS.

Monday, Dec. 13th.

LODGES.—St. George's and Corner Stone, F.M.H.; Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.; St. Alban's, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.; Royal Naval, F.M.H.; Confidence, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; St. Andrew's, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.; Peckham, Marsmore Arms, Park-rd., Peckham-rye; Leigh, F.M.H.

Tuesday, Dec. 14th.

LODGES.—Burlington, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.; Union London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.; St. James's Union, F.M.H.; Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.; St. Michael's, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.; United Strength, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell; Nine Muses, Clarendon Ho., Bond-st.; Wellington, White Swan, Deptford; Ranelagh, Windsor Castle Ho., Hammersmith; Doric, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.—CHAPTER.—Jerusalem, F.M.H.

Wednesday, Dec. 15th.

LODGES.—United Mariners, George Ho., Aldermanbury; St. George's, Trafalgar Ho., Greenwich; Sincerity, Cheshire Cheese Tav., Crutched Friars; Nelson, Ma. Ha., William-st., Woolwich; Maybury, F.M.H.; Buckingham and Chandos, F.M.H.—CHAPTER.—Beadon, Greyhound Ho., Dulwich.

Thursday, Dec. 16th.

LODGES.—Globe, F.M.H.; Gilton, Guildhall Coffee-house, Gresham-st.; Temperance, White Swan, High-st., Deptford; Manchester, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; Victoria, George Ho., Aldermanbury; South Norwood, Goat House Ho., South Norwood.

Friday, Dec. 17th.

LODGES.—Friendship, Willis's Rooms, King-st., St. James's; Jordan, F.M.H.; New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton.—CHAPTER.—Caveae, Radley's Ho., Bridge-st., Blackfriars.

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF
INSTRUCTION.

Monday, Dec. 13th.

Prosperity, Gladstone Tav., 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, Railway Tavern, London-street; St. James's Union, Swan Tavern, Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.; Industry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-st.; Crystal Palace, City Arms Tav., West-sq., Southwark; Westbourne, the Grapes, Duke-st., Manchester-sq.; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Totten-

ham; Tower Hamlets Engineers, Duke of Clarence, Commercial-rd., East; Eastern Star, Royal Ho., Burdett-rd., Mile-end-rd.; Camden, Adelaide Tav., Haverstock Hill.

Tuesday, Dec. 14th.

Faith, Fisher's Restaurant, Metrop. Dist. Rail., Victoria Station; Domestic, 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; City of London, Shepherd and Flock Tav., Bell-alley, Moorgate-street; New Wandsworth, Freemasons' Ho., New Wandsworth; Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's-lane; Rose of Denmark, George Ho., Aldermanbury; Mount Zion, White Hart, Bishopsgate-st.

Wednesday, Dec. 15th.

Confidence, Railway Tav., London-street; Merchant Navy, Jamaica Tav., West India Dock-rd., Poplar; United Strength, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town; New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton; St. Mark's, Mawby Arms, Mawby-st., S. Lambeth; 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. 16th.

Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Fitzroy-sq.; Kent, Duke of York, Borough-rd., Southwark; United Mariners, Three Cranes, Mile-end-rd.; Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth; St. George's, Globe Tav., Royal Hill, Greenwich; Manchester, Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-square; Tranquillity, Sugar Loaf Tav., Great St. Helen's, E.C.; Whittington, Thatched House Tav., 9, Red Lion-st.; Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tavern, Deptford.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Joppa, Prospect of Whitty Tav., 57, Wapping-wall.

Friday, Dec. 17th.

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.; Unions (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. 18th.

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

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

Tues., BIRKENHEAD.—Chapter: Zion, Masonic Chambers, Hamilton-sq.—*Wed.*, BIRKENHEAD.—Lodge: Zetland, Masonic Chambers, Hamilton-sq.—*Thurs.*, SEACOMBE.—Lodge: Combermere, Seacombe Ho.

DORSET.

Mon., LYME REGIS.—Lodge: Montagu, Lion Inn.—*Wed.*, POOLE.—Lodge: Amity, Ma. Ha.—*Thurs.*, WAREHAM.—Lodge: Unity, Town Hall.—SHAFTESBURY.—Lodge: Friendship and Sincerity, Ma. Ha.—*Sat.*, SWANAGE.—Lodge: De Moulham, Mowlem Institute.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

Mon., SALFORD.—Lodge: Zetland, Royal Veteran Inn, Stanley-st.—OLDHAM.—Lodge: Tudor, Red Lion Ho., Mumps.—*Tues.*, BOLTON.—Chapter: St. John, Three Tuns Inn,

Moor-lane.—*Wed.*, ARDWICK.—Lodge: De Grey and Ripon Corporation Inn, Tipping-st.—SALFORD.—Lodge: St. John's F.M.H., 1, Islington-sq.—OPENSHAW.—Lodge: Faith, New Inn.—CLITHEROE.—Lodge: Limestone Rock, Swan Ho.—BOLTON.—Lodge: St. John's, Commercial Ho., Market-sq.—MOSSLEY.—Lodge: Prince Alfred, Commercial Ho.—BURY.—Lodge: Prince Edwin, Bridge Inn, Bolton-st.—OLDHAM.—Lodge: Friendship, Angel Ho.—MANCHESTER.—Lodge: Yarborough, F.M.H.—ROCHDALE.—Lodges: Hope, Spread Eagle Inn; St. Chad, Roebuck Ho.—COLNE.—Lodge: Royal Lancashire, Swan Ho.—TODMORDEN.—Lodge: Harmony, Ma. Ha.—*Thurs.*, ACCRINGTON.—Lodge: Bank Terrace, Hargreaves Arms Ho.—ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Lodge: Minerva, Pitt and Nelson Ho.—WARDLE.—Lodge: Royd's, Spring Gardens Inn.—STONE-CLOUGH.—Lodge: Charity, Grapes Inn.—RADCLIFFE.—Lodge: Faith, Bull's Head Inn.—BURY.—Lodge: Relief, Hare and Hounds, Bolton-st.—CLAYTON-LE-DALE.—Lodge: United Brethren, Royal Oak Inn.—BACUP.—Samaritan, Green Man Ho.—SALFORD.—Lodge: Richmond, Spread Eagle Inn.—BLACKBURN.—Lodge: Perseverance, Old Bull Ho.—HASLINGDEN.—Lodge: Amity, Bull's Head Inn, Church-st.—MANCHESTER.—Chapter: Affability, F.M.H.—*Fri.*, TODMORDEN.—Lodge: Prudence, Ma. Ha.—LEVENSHEULME.—Lodge: Alexandra, Midway Ho.—MANCHESTER.—Lodge: Virtue, F.M.H.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

Mon., LIVERPOOL.—Lodge: Sincerity, M.T.—SOUTHPORT.—Lodge: Unity, Ma. Ha., Wright-st.—PRESTON.—Lodge: Peace and Unity, Militia Mess Rooms, Starkey-st.—*Tues.*, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Lodge: Hartington, Royal Ho., Strand.—LIVERPOOL.—Lodges: Merchants', M.T.; Alliance, M.T.—FULWOOD.—Lodge: Preston, Garrison Ho.—CROXTON.—Lodge: Hesketh, Grapes Inn.—ST. HELEN'S.—Lodge: St. Helen's Lodge of Loyalty, Fleece Ho.—*Wed.*, ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.—Lodge: Faith, Gerard's Arms Inn.—LYTHAM.—Lodge: Triumph, Market Ho.—LIVERPOOL.—Lodges: Everton, M.T.—PRESCOT.—Lodge: Loyalty, Royal Ho.—KIRKDALE.—Lodge: Walton, Queen's Arms Ho., Walton-rd.—ORMSKIRK.—Lodge: Harmony, Wheatshaf Inn.—*Thurs.*, WHITTLE SPRINGS.—Lodge: Townley Parker, Howard Arms Ho.—PRESTON.—Lodge: Concord, King's Arms Ho.—LIVERPOOL.—Lodge: Ancient Union, M.T.—FLEETWOOD.—Lodge: Hesketh, Fleetwood Arms Ho.

WARWICKSHIRE.

Mon., RUGBY.—Lodge: Rectitude, Town Hall.—BIRMINGHAM.—Lodge: Howe, Ma. Ro., Newhall-st.—*Tues.*, WARWICK.—Lodge: Shakespeare, Ma. Ro.—BIRMINGHAM.—Lodges: Faithful, Ma. R., Newhall-st.; Emulation, Ma. Ha., Severn-st.—*Wed.*, ALCESTER.—Lodge: Apollo, Swan Ho.—BIRMINGHAM.—Lodge: Grosvenor, Ma. Ro., Newhall-st.—*Thurs.*, BIRMINGHAM.—Lodge: Howe, Ma. Ro.; Newhall-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.

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

SEVERAL correspondents upon the subject of the Byzantine succession are referred to the notice in the first page.

SEVERAL reports of lodges in London, Provincial, and Scotch—arrived too late for insertion, and will appear in our next.

LL.D.—Our attention has been called to the scurrilous libel published in the pages of an advertising sheet. It will, no doubt, receive attention in the proper quarter.