

THE
MASONIC MIRROR:

MAY, 1855.

THE LITERATURE OF FREEMASONRY.

THERE is in the last number of the *Freemasons Monthly Magazine*, an article so remarkable in style and sentiment, that to use the language of H. R. H. Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, we deem it "writ down in our duty" to make a brief allusion to it. The paper in question bears an interrogative title, and affects to solve the knotty problem "What is Masonry doing for intellectual progress?" After some common-place, and, sooth to say, not over wise platitudes about the selfishness and utilitarianism of the present age, when "even the amenities and courtesies of life are weighed before they are dispensed, in the scales of profit and loss, and when friendship is valued by how much it will fetch,"—the author waxes wrath against the Masons, and comes down like a wolf on that very fold of whose honour and interests he assumes to be the peculiar and exclusive guardian. He accuses them of not fostering "the intellectual expansion of the age" (whatever that may mean) and roundly asserts that "the Fraternity is constrained to admit itself sluggish and inefficient towards the mental development of the people." The public will be curious to learn by what facts and figures the author makes good an assertion so damaging to the fair fame of Masonry; and, here we can promise our readers that we have an agreeable surprise in store for them. How great must be their astonishment, when we assure them that the writer proceeds to illustrate his position by a reference, not to the Masonic "schools," nor yet to those "nobly maintained endowments, which reflect a lustre on our ancient Order," but—of all things in the world—to "*the publications connected with the Craft.*" Now, inasmuch as "the publications connected with the Craft" were confined, as far as periodical literature is concerned, for one-and-twenty years to the serial formerly published under the title of *The Freemasons Quarterly Review* and now known as the *The Freemasons Monthly Magazine*, it is as clear as sunlight in the tropics, that it is to his own pages that our author appeals for testimony to support his charge. Our readers are familiar with the old story of the Temperance

Lecturer, who used to carry about with him a drunken man as "the terrible example" of the evils of intoxication. Our friend of the "monthly" is not under the necessity of aggravating his hotel expenses by any such costly expedient. He brings a charge of intellectual "sluggishness" and "inefficiency," against the Masonic body, and he is himself the terrible example of the truth of his accusation. What he says, is in effect this— "We, Masons, are sluggish, inert, inefficient in matters intellectual. If you doubt it, LOOK AT ME!" With the solitary exception of the man of whom we remember to have read in an Eastern story, that he was so modest that he died of shame, we cannot call to mind any such instance of modesty as that with which the writer in the "Freemason's Monthly" has in his own person furnished us. That he cannot for one moment have intended to include us of the "Mirror" in his tremendous censure is evident from the fact that he ignores our existence altogether. He takes no more notice of us "than if we had never been such," as the grave-digger says in Shakespeare's play. He gives it forth to the world that his own magazine is "the literary organ of the Craft," "the expositor of the Craft," and the Mason's "own authorised periodical." In fact, he claims to be the sole personification of Masonic literature. *L'état cest moi* is his motto, and as he assumes the dignity, it is clear he cannot refuse the responsibility of so exclusive a position. It is really painful to observe how sensible he is of his own shortcomings. "How," he asks, "does the Mason regard the literary organ of his Craft?" meaning the "Freemasons Monthly Magazine," "does it challenge competition with any periodical, as containing whatever is highest in science, noblest in history, rarest in literature, and latest intelligence?"—to all of which we reply that it may if it please *challenge* competition, but that as surely as it does, it will suffer in the conflict. "Does the literature emanating from the Masonic Order," he again inquires, "prove intellectual advancement to be their study,"—to which we again take leave to reply that if it does not, the greater shame and the more bitter reproach to the "Freemasons Monthly Magazine," which having had the field of Masonic periodic literature to itself for twenty-one years, and being, as it loves to boast, the Mason's "own authorised periodical," is at the end of that time compelled to point to its own deficiencies as the strongest attestations of the intellectual "sluggishness and inefficiency" of the Masonic body.

So far as we are ourselves concerned, we have experienced from our contemporary, a course of treatment which savours of anything rather than that zeal for "intellectual advancement," which he here affects to value so highly. Our plan of publication was such as could not have interefered with that of any other periodical in existence, at the time of our first appearance. When the "Masonic Mirror" was started, its proprietors were most distinct and emphatic in the declaration that it was "the hand of good-fellowship," not the glove of defiance, which they offered to their contemporaries. They put themselves forward not as rivals, but as allies. They invaded no man's territory—they removed no man's landmark—but, finding that there was no monthly organ of

Masonry, they stepped in to supply the deficiency. They should have thought that their enterprise would have commanded the sympathy of all persons assuming to have at heart the cause of "intellectual advancement," but in this expectation they were doomed to disappointment, so far, at least, as regarded the periodical now known as the *Freemasons Monthly*. That periodical lost no time in taking up a position of antagonism towards the "Mirror." Its intervals of publication had previously been quarterly, they now become monthly; and whereas the price had formerly been two and sixpence, it was now lowered to a shilling, that it might enter into closer rivalry with the "Mirror."

This conduct, however unkind and illiberal as regards ourselves, we should try to endure with what philosophy we might, if we had the consolation of knowing that our contemporary was *improving*, and that its literary character was such as to reflect credit on the Craft, but we lose all patience when we find that it has entirely ceased to be that valuable and interesting work which we remember it to have been under the *regime* of Dr. Crucifix, and that, in fact, it has so deplorably degenerated, that its writers make no scruple to cite its errors and short-comings in proof of the intellectual "sluggishness and inefficiency" of the Masonic body! Such a proceeding on their part has the merit of modesty, but we cannot think that it is fair towards the Craft. With all possible respect for our contemporary we must protest against the right of any man to publish a stupid magazine and then to make its stupidity a basis on which to found a charge of intellectual depravity against any class of persons, Masonic or other, whose names he may think fit to print upon his cover! What possible right could a man have to publish a trashy periodical, under the designation of the *Shakesperian Magazine*, and then to point to its nonsensical absurdities as a proof of Shakespere's want of genius? Such a movement savours of malice, and we protest against it altogether.

Having been reluctantly compelled in self-defence to make these observations, we must take leave to add that we confidently appeal to our own pages in corroboration of the claim which, with all deference to our contemporary, we now respectfully put forward to be regarded as an organ and exponent of the Masonic body. We challenge comparison with our contemporary, and we do not hesitate to allege that we give better value for our money than he does. The price of the "Mirror" is sixpence—that of the "Magazine" a shilling, and our contemporary gives but one-sixth, or at most one-fifth more paper, which is spread out in large type, so as not to contain the same amount of intelligence. Any one who will take the trouble of contrasting the contents of the two periodicals will find that the "Mirror" contains the largest quantity of information, and is in all respects the most complete record of Masonic proceedings and the most faithful guardian of Masonic interests. But our contemporary promises amendment, and if he improves he shall find that we will not be slow in expressing our satisfaction at an event, the imperative necessity of which is so conspicuously and avowedly apparent.

THE GIRLS SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

This interesting Festival in support of the favourite charity of the Craft, takes place on the 16th of this month, and as we promised in a former number of the Mirror, to give a notice of the forthcoming meeting, we do so with sincere pleasure, and the more so, as our recent investigations have given us some anxiety as to the funds, which we perceive are not as they should be, promising for the present, or indeed can we say for the future. We ask, wherein lay our hopes for the support of this noble Institution? Are they to be looked forward for in expectation, and, perhaps some fine day, found wanting, because the Festival has been a disappointment? or are we, as was the hope of the illustrious founder, Ruspini, each and all to subscribe our individual help, ever so little, for the support and the protection of a number of helpless Girls, the majority of whom are orphans unprovided for but for this Asylum, and which, we regret to be compelled to place it on paper, is in a precarious condition for a settled income? Can we say that Masonry has done its best or its all, when a charity, each meeting of which appeals to our feelings and liveliest sympathies, looks forward for its income—two-thirds of which is realised by a Festival? Let us rather take example from those charities which have funded a small sum annually, that in case of need they may fall back upon, and not be taken by surprise by a bad year or unsettled times like the present. We may be told that the splendid and useful building, the admiration of all, has prevented this wise provision, and that thirteen thousand pounds is not a sum to collect in a few years. So granted, but does not the Croydon Asylum answer to a great extent this position? Economy within, and a strict regulation of all expenditure, has given that Charity a fund. Why then, after so much has been said by each noble chairman advocating its cause and carrying out the argument to its full vindication, cannot a fund be forthwith raised and set aside for a future event? and thus place this charity, the most interesting of all, beyond reliance upon an annual collection, which, though we trust it will never be the case, may, some day fail of realising all that is required for the succour and protection of sixty-five children—and those the children of the Masons of England.

THE AGED MASONS' ASYLUM.

It gives us sincere pleasure to observe that the subscription for releasing the Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons from debt, and placing it in a position by which it will become, as it ought to be, the pride of the Craft, is very satisfactorily progressing. Something like £200, out of the £360 required, has already been received, and, in looking over the reports of various Lodges, obligingly furnished us by our friends, we feel assured that not only the whole amount sought will be forthcoming, but that a handsome surplus may be relied upon, to be applied in increasing the

Annuity Fund for Aged Masons,—a fund much too low for the claims which come upon it, but which we hope to see ere long so large that we may be enabled to boast that a distressed and worthy brother never seeks its aid without being certain to obtain it. Much has been done within the last few years towards obtaining that position: but much more yet remains to be accomplished. We know, however, that we have willing, charitable, and active men amongst us,—aye, and on the Committee of the Benevolent Institution too,—who will never rest until every department has been put in an efficient state, corresponding not only with the importance of the Craft, but those holy principles of brotherly love and charity upon which the Order, in the ranks of which it is our pride to be enrolled, is founded.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 255.

The ever-memorable year, 1666, presented a scope for the exercise of Masonic abilities in the fullest extent. London having been built at different periods, and according to the individual conveniences of those who were driven to seek the protection of its walls, in early days, and afterwards that afforded by its corporate bodies, which the bravery and independence of its citizens had maintained against those who called themselves the lords of the soil; but who, instead of taking advantage of the blessings it produced, too often caused it to stink with the blood of those who fell in the wars caused by their ambition or covetousness; and whose boasted bravery was but similar to that of the wild beasts of the fields, which they were always amusing themselves in hunting, when not engaged in destroying their own kind. This progressive system of building without any settled plan as a guide, was entirely subversive of all order and regularity; the streets were narrow and crooked, and the houses, though admirably adapted to make the best of the ground upon which they were built, were, by their overhanging stories, the means of preventing proper ventilation. Their crowded state, together with the bad cleansing of the streets, caused the inhabitants to be continually exposed to contagious disorders, and the plague in hot seasons was excessively destructive. In the year 1665 nearly 100,000 were swept away by this dreadful scourge. By the death of so great a number of its inhabitants, and the desertion of all those who had the means of flying to places where the contagion had not reached, the streets became so untenanted and forlorn, that grass grew in them; and this dreadful visitation had scarcely passed away, and the refugees and new comers settled in their dwellings than they were obliged to fly by a most awful conflagration, which laid the principal part of the city in ashes. This dreadful fire broke out on the 2nd of September, at the house of a baker in Pudding-lane, which consisted of a wooden building pitched on the outside, as did all the rest of the houses in the lane, which was very narrow, whilst the projections of the stories on either side caused them to nearly meet at

the top. The house where the fire began being nearly full of faggots and brushwood, the flames raged with great fury, and spreading all ways, caught the Star Inn, which was full of hay and straw. Proceeding onwards to Thames-street, it was fed by magazines of combustibles of all sorts. The buildings on London-bridge were consumed, as well as the water-works underneath, which prevented the people from obtaining any water by that means. The fire soon crossed Cornhill, by the train of wood that lay in the street, from houses pulled down to prevent its spreading, and then proceeded on both sides with equal fury. It appears by the certificate of Jonas Moore and Ralph Gratrix, the surveyors appointed to examine the ruins, that the fire overran 373 acres within the walls; and burnt 13,200 houses, 89 parish churches, besides chapels; and that eleven parishes within the walls only remained standing. To this account may be subjoined several public buildings, including the Royal Exchange, Custom House, Guildhall, Blackwell Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral, Bridewell, the two Compters, fifty-two halls of the city companies, and three city gates. The loss has been computed at 10,000,000*l.* sterling. Notwithstanding all this destruction, providentially but six persons lost their lives.

After taking such temporary measures as were rendered necessary by the suddenness and extensiveness of the calamity, the King and Grand Master gave orders to the Deputy Grand Master to draw out a plan of a new city, wherein the rights of private property were to be considered, but in all cases to contrive broad and regular streets, and thereby not only add to the beauty and convenience of the dwellings, but prevent the recurrence of those dreadful calamities with which the city was so frequently visited, in consequence of the narrowness and ill-ventilation of its thoroughfares, and the combustible materials of which the houses were constructed; it was therefore resolved that the new buildings should be of stone and bricks.

Many persons of enlightened and liberal views were of opinion that in rebuilding the city, not only convenience should be considered in the arrangement of wharfs and other facilities, but that a regularity and beauty in the arrangement of the streets and public buildings was desirable in the metropolis of a great and commercial nation. Influenced by these suggestions, Br. Wren, by royal command, took an exact survey of the whole area, a work of great difficulty and danger in passing over the great plain of ashes and ruins. His idea was to enlarge the streets and lanes, to carry them parallel to each other, and, as circumstances would admit, to avoid all acute angles, to erect the parochial churches conspicuous and insular, to form most public places into piazzas, the centres of eight ways; to unite the halls of the twelve principal companies into one square annexed to Guildhall, and to make a commodious quay on the whole bank of the river from Blackfriars to the Tower. The streets were to be of three magnitudes; the three principal leading straight through the city and one or two cross streets, to be at least ninety feet wide; others sixty feet; and lanes about thirty feet, excluding all narrow, dark allies, without thoroughfares, and courts. The Exchange was to stand in the middle of a piazza,

and to be the centre of the town, from whence sixty streets were to lead to the principal parts of the city. The quays on the banks of the Thames to be open, continuous, and convenient, with docks for the reception of barges heavily laden. The churches to be constructed in the best manner for the convenience and hearing of their congregations, to be adorned with porticos, towers, and steeples; all churchyards, gardens, and unnecessary vacancies, and all trades using great fires, or yielding unwholesome smells, to be excluded from the town.

A plan was constructed and laid before the King and House of Commons, exemplifying those arrangements, and explanations given as to the practicability of carrying them out; but it unfortunately met with great opposition from those who had for a number of years been accustomed to carry on their business on a certain site, and could not, or would not understand the necessity of the change, and distrusted the giving up their properties into the hands of public trustees, until they were certain of an equivalent. Hence the representation of these improvements was lost on the citizens, who were disposed rather to have their old city again, under all its disadvantages, than one which they were not only unable but unwilling to understand. In consequence of this feeling, the opportunity was lost, of making it not only the most commodious, but the most healthy city in the world; and it was only with extreme labour and difficulty, that the ultimate arrangements for its construction were made.

Among the public buildings of the city when rebuilt, most worthy of notice, was the Custom House for the Port of London, situated on the south side of Thames Street, and erected 1668. It was adorned with an upper and a lower order of architecture; in the latter were stone columns, and entablement of the Tuscan Order; in the former, pilasters, entablature, and five pediments of the Ionic Order. The wings were elevated on columns, forming piazzas. The length of the building was 189 feet, breadth in the middle part 27 feet, and at the west end, &c., 60 feet.

On the 13th of October, 1667, the King levelled the foot stone of the new Royal Exchange, in solemn form, and it was opened by the Mayor and Aldermen, on the 28th September, 1669. Round the inside of the square, above the arcades, and between the windows, were the statues of the Sovereigns of England. Afterwards, the merchant adventurers employed the Grand Warder, Gibbons, to erect in the middle of the square the statue of the King, in a Cæsarean habit, sculptured in white marble; with the following inscription:—

Carolo Secundo Cæsari Britannico
Patriæ Patri
Regum Optimo Clementissimo Augustissimo
Generis Humani Delicis
Utriusque Fortunæ Victori
Pacis Europæ Arbitro
Maris Domino Ac Vindici
Societas Mercatorum Adventer Angliæ
Quæ Par CCCC Iam Prope Annos
Regia Benignitate Floret

Fidei Intemeratæ Gratiitudinis Æternæ
 Hoc Testimonium
 Venerabunda Posuit
 Anno Salutis Humanæ MDCLXXXIV.

Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, an excellent Architect, displayed great skill in designing the famous Theatrum Sheldonium, at Oxford, and at his expense it was conducted and finished by the Deputy Wren, and the Grand Warden Web, and the Craftsmen having celebrated the Cape stone, it was opened with an elegant oration by Dr. South, on the 9th of July, 1669. The D.G.M. Wren, built also another masterpiece, the pretty Museum near the Theatre, at the charge of the University.

The before mentioned theatre was the first public work in architecture by Br. Wren, and much admired for its magnificence, but more particularly for the skill displayed in the contrivance and construction of its geometrical ceiling, eighty feet one way, and seventy the other, without any pillars to support it, and its principal beams composed of several pieces of timber.

In the year 1671, the D.G.M. Wren, commenced building the great fluted column, usually called the Monument, in memory of the burning and rebuilding of the City of London, which he completed in 1677, at the expense of fourteen thousand five hundred pounds. The work was frequently delayed for want of stones of proper size, which caused it to be a longer time in hand than it otherwise would have been. In forming this column, he took the liberty of exceeding the established proportion of the order, by half a diameter. This column, which is twenty-four feet higher than Trajan's pillar at Rome, is built of Portland stone, of the Doric order, and fluted. Its height from the ground is 202 feet, the greatest diameter of the shaft or body of the column is 15 feet, the ground plinth or bottom of the pedestal, is 28 feet square, and the pedestal is 40 feet high; over the capitol is an iron balcony, encompassing a cone 32 feet high, supporting a blazing urn of gilt brass. Within, is a large staircase of black marble, containing 345 steps, each ten inches and a half broad and six inches thick. In place of the brass urn, which has nothing to recommend it in point of beauty, and was placed there contrary to his opinion, Sir Christopher intended to have erected a colossal statue in brass gilt of King Charles II., as founder of the new city, in the manner of the Roman pillars; or else the figure of a woman crowned with turrets, holding a sword and cap of maintenance, with other ensigus of the city's grandeur and re-erection.

The west side of the pedestal is adorned with curious emblems, designed by the masterly hand of Mr. Cibber, father of the Poet Laureat, Colley Cibber, in which the eleven principal figures are done in alto, and the rest in basso relievo. That to which the eye is particularly directed, is a female representing the City of London, sitting among the ruins in a languishing posture, with her head dejected, hair dishevelled, and her hand carelessly lying on her sword. Behind is Time, gradually raising her up; at her side a woman representing Providence, gently touching her with one hand, and with a winged sceptre in the other

directing her to regard the goddesses in the clouds, one with a cornucopia denoting plenty, the other with a palm branch, the emblem of peace. At her feet is a beehive, shewing that by industry and application the greatest misfortunes are to be overcome. Behind Time, are citizens exulting at his endeavours to restore her; and beneath, in the midst of the ruins, is a dragon, which, as supporter of the City Arms, with his paw endeavours to preserve the same. Still farther at the north end is a view of the city in flames, the inhabitants in consternation, with their arms extended upwards, as crying out for succour. Opposite the city on an elevated pavement, stands the King, in a Roman habit, with a laurel on his head and a truncheon in his hand, and approaching her, commands three of his attendants to descend to her relief:—the first represents the Sciences, with a winged head, and a circle of naked boys dancing thereon, holding Nature by the hand, with her numerous breasts ready to give assistance to all:—the second is Architecture, with a plan in one hand, and a square and pair of compasses in the other:—and the third is Liberty, waving a hat in the air, shewing her joy at the pleasing prospect of the city's speedy recovery. Behind the King stands his brother, the Duke of York, with a garland in one hand to crown the rising city, and a sword in the other for her defence. The two figures behind are Justice and Fortitude, the former with a coronet, and the latter with a reined lion; and under the royal pavement, in a vault, lieth Envy, gnawing a heart, and incessantly emitting pestiferous fumes of her invenomed mouth. In the upper part of the plinth the reconstruction of the city is represented by builders and labourers at work upon houses.

On two of the other facades of the plinth are latin inscriptions: that on the north side is thus rendered—"In the year of Christ, 1666, September 2, eastward from hence at the distance of two hundred and two feet, the height of this column, a terrible fire broke out about midnight; which, driven on by a high wind, not only wasted the adjacent parts, but also very remote places, with incredible noise and fury. It consumed eighty-nine churches, the city gates, guildhall, many public structures, hospitals, schools, libraries, and a vast number of stately edifices, thirteen thousand dwelling houses, and four hundred streets. Of the twenty-six wards, it utterly destroyed fifteen; and left eight others shattered and half burnt. The ruins of the city were four hundred and thirty-six acres, from the Tower, by the Thames side to the Temple church; and from the north east, along the wall to Holborn bridge. To the estates and fortunes of the citizens it was merciless, but to their lives very favourable, that it might in all things resemble the last conflagration of the world. The destruction was sudden; for in a small space of time the city was seen most flourishing, and reduced to nothing. Three days after, when in the opinion of all this fatal fire had baffled all human councils and endeavours, it stopped as it were by the command of heaven, and was on every side extinguished."

The inscription on the south side is translated thus:—

"Charles II., son of Charles the Martyr, King of Great Britain France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, a most gracious prince, commiserating the deplorable state of things, whilst the ruins were smoking,

provided for the comfort of the citizens and ornament of his city, remitted their taxes and referred the petition of the magistrates and inhabitants to parliament, who immediately passed an act that public works should be restored to greater beauty with public money, to be raised by an impost on coals; that churches, and the cathedral of Saint Paul's, should be rebuilt from their foundations, with all magnificence: that the bridges, gates, and prisons, should be new made, and sewers cleansed, the streets made straight, and regular: such as were steep, levelled, and those too narrow, to be made wider; and that the markets and shambles should be removed to separate places. They also enacted that every house should be built with party walls, and all in front raised of equal height, and those walls all of squared stone or bricks; and that no man should delay building beyond the space of seven years. Moreover, care was taken by law to prevent all suits about their bounds. Also anniversary prayers were enjoined, and, to perpetuate the memory hereof to posterity, they caused this column to be erected. The work was carried on with diligence, and London is restored, but whether with greater speed or beauty may be made a question. At three years time the world saw that finished, which was supposed to be the business of an age."

The inscription on the east side is in English thus:—

"This pillar was begun,
Sir Richard Ford, Knight, being Lord Mayor
of London, in the year 1671.
Carried on in the Mayoralities of
Sir George Waterman, Knt. }
Sir Robert Hanson, Knt. } Lord Mayors;
Sir William Hooker, Knt. }
Sir Robert Nine, Knt. }
Sir Joseph Sheldon, Knt. }
and finished,
Sir Thomas Davis being Lord Mayor, in the year 1677.

The prevailing opinion of the citizens of London and of the generality of protestants, of all denominations, was, that if it had been occasioned by the contrivances of the papists, for which reason the following inscription was engraved round the pedestal:—

"This pillar was set up in perpetual remembrance of the most dreadful burning of this protestant city, begun and carried on by the treachery and malice of the popish faction, in the beginning of September, in the year of our Lord 1666, in order to carrying on their horrid plot for extirpating the protestant religion and old English liberty, and introducing popery and slavery."

This inscription was expunged in the time of James II., but restored in the next reign.

The cornice of the pedestal is adorned with the King's arms, the sword, mace, cap of maintenance, &c., enriched with trophies; and at each angle are winged dragons, the supporters of the city arms.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

BY Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

CHAPTER I.—OUR EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF MASONRY—A CYNIC'S OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED.

How well do we remember the awful and mysterious feeling with which, in our sunny days of boyhood, we looked upon the man who was in possession of the secrets of Freemasonry; and still the wonder grew upon us whether the day would ever arrive when we ourselves should don the apron and make one of the chosen few.

Our immediate paternal ancestor was a Mason, high in the Order, but he seldom spoke of it, unless when drawn out by a vigorous sally from his beloved better half, or one of her fair visitors. To do them justice, however, their arguments seldom extended beyond those stale jokes which have been current against the Craft for ages. His Masonic sensibilities were more seriously affected, and his indignant defence more frequently called forth, by the ingenious libels of a neighbouring relative, who, having in his days of youthful gallantry committed some grievous *escapade*, was black-balled in the County Lodge, and thus was generated in him a feeling of enmity against the Order, which, upon every occasion, he poured forth with all the power of a scholar and all the bitterness of a cynic. Yet he seemed to gain but few adherents, and these amongst the gentler sex—bless them! they generally side with the weak—while the eulogiums he drew forth in defence of Freemasonry, sunk deep into the minds of the listeners, and upon ours left an impression which time cannot efface.

On many occasions we ourselves have been made the starting point of attack, when our cynical kinsman, placing his hand upon our head, would indulge somewhat after this fashion:—"My dear boy, I hope you will have too much sense ever to have anything to do with this tom-foolery called Freemasonry; it is a mere apology for eating and drinking, an excuse for the dissipation of the young, and for the deserted fire-sides of the old. They have no secrets, no mysteries worth knowing, and any they profess to be possessed of have their origin in evil.

"They date their foundation from the building of Solomon's Temple, and seem proud of the antiquity of their Order.

"I would allow them to go further back—aye, to the days of Cain—when the sons of the "fugitive and the vagabond" banded together in an unholy brotherhood to corrupt the earth, and thus brought upon it the curse of the Deluge.

"If the Origin of Masonry could be traced to its source, we have very little doubt it would be discovered that one of the descendants of him upon whom was set the mark of sin, had eluded the vigilance of Noah, and having somehow leaked through the Ark, contrived to re-establish a remnant of that antediluvian *diablerie* practised by the old magi-

cians, faintly imitated by the Pagans in their Eleusinian mysteries, by the Hebrews in their traditional *cabala*, by the Chinese in their jugglery, by the Brahmins in their chants and incantations, the Rosicrucians in their affectation of preternatural power and knowledge, and which dwindles into utter insignificance in the puerilities of Freemasonry.

“Modern Freemasonry, we believe, lays no pretensions to the power of enchantment practised by the old Egyptian magicians; nor are the silly candidates for admission into its cabalistic Order subjected to the ancient ordeals of fire, air, and water; yet it would seem they still indulge in some silly mimicry of those preliminaries so graphically described by the justly admired poet Moore, in the ‘Epicurean.’

“Masonry seems to me to be no more than an empty form pretending to some occult mystery, without object and without profit. If the Freemasons have any knowledge tending to benefit mankind, why conceal it? If they have any secret calculated to make their fellow men better, why not openly reveal it? But they have no such thing; and it would be an insult to morality and religion to suppose that what they fail to accomplish can be effected by the stupid mysticism of Freemasonry.”

The wrath and argument of the cynic having been both exhausted, all eyes were turned towards a gentle, smiling face, that for some time had been fixed upon the speaker with evident sensations of pity and sorrow, untinged by the slightest shade of anger—the curate of the parish, chaplain to a neighbouring Lodge, happened to be present (“A man he was to all the country dear”), in whom was united learning without ostentation, and piety without pride. In the mild accents of his persuasive eloquence, and which we can but faintly imitate, he thus replied to the objections of the cynic:—

“I shall take leave to pass over the ingenious witticism at the expense of Scripture truth, which would concede to us the privilege of tracing our origin from the Man of Sin: we profess no peculiar knowledge of the *arcana* practised at *Eleusis*; we affect not the miraculous powers of the Rosicrucians; we are not skilled in Chinese jugglery; nor deeply read in the Vedas or Zendavesta. Freemasonry has nothing to do with these obsolete absurdities.

“Its foundation was laid when that noble structure, *man*, was formed by the glorious founder of our Order—‘the *Divine Architect of the Universe*;’ its principles flow from the study and knowledge of God’s most perfect and exalted works; its essence is ‘Peace on earth, and goodwill towards men.’ Stainless must be the character of him who aspires to the honours of Masonry.

“Look around, and see who are its patrons and supporters. In every age men the most illustrious in station, the most eminent in learning, wisdom, and virtue, have felt proud to be ranked among its members. Behold at the head of the Order in our own land, Ireland’s only duke,* the gentle Geraldine, rich in every social virtue, and all the graceful amenities of life. In England, a royal duke, the pious and amiable

* Duke of Leinster.

Sussex,* presides over the Order with the most devoted affection. Men such as these, and we could make their name Legion, not more exalted by their rank than by their virtues, should guard us from such defamatory attacks as we have heard this evening. In the name of common sense, if not of common charity, is it within the range of probability that they should lend the sanction of their high names to anything founded in evil?

“‘But the tree is known by its fruits.’ Behold, then, the fruits of Freemasonry in its manifold charities; see it in the salvation of the bereaved female orphan, saved, perhaps, from a life of sin and shame, trained up to virtue, and made a happy and creditable member of society.

“Behold it in the aged and infirm brother who had failed in the battle of life, and now at the hands of his brother, in his declining years, finds a peaceful asylum to rest his tired spirit and sinking heart. Examine our schools, our hospitals; can a society producing results like these be banded together for evil? Forbid it, the God of charity and love!

“It is charged against our Order that it is inconsistent with, and would supersede morality and religion.

“The municipal institutions necessarily established throughout the civilised world, prove how ineffective have been all known systems of faith and morals hitherto promulgated to keep man in the rigid path of duty towards his Creator and his fellow creature. The bitter controversies among Christian sects show how imperfectly are still felt and practised the divine precepts of the pure religion of the Cross.

“It is thus manifest that, in man’s present imperfect state, the soundest code of morals and the purest system of religion require additional helps and assistants; and the minister of God, as well as the administrator of human laws, would find no more powerful assistant than in making Masonry auxiliary to their high purposes, by encouraging the extension of its principles throughout the length and breadth of every land, till the whole globe should become one Lodge, and all mankind Brothers.

“Freemasonry is not the enemy of faith and morals; but rather the gentle and effective helpmate of both: it excludes none from its communion but the vicious and the profligate; it comprehends within its extended circle men of every clime, and creed, and colour, without distinction; it recognizes no qualities but those of the head and the heart; it is universal as God’s love, throwing its fraternal arms open wide as the poles, inviting all into its sacred brotherhood, merely observing those forms essential to the preservation of its rules and the observance of its solemn sanctions.

“The discordant elements which disturb the world abroad, find no place in the Masonic sanctuary; all minor differences are sacrificed at that shrine of peace, and merge in its god-like universality.

“Numberless instances could be adduced to prove how binding and deep-felt are the sanctions of the Masonic bond, and how rigidly they are observed, even under the most extraordinary circumstances. One recent

* Long since summoned to the Grand Lodge above, to receive, we trust, the reward of a good Mason.

instance just occurs to me; of an eminent medical friend* in a neighbouring city, who happened to be on board a ship seized by pirates, when the lives of the whole crew and passengers were saved, and the red hand of the murderous pirate was arrested in his work of carnage and plunder, on beholding a Masonic emblem.

“Yes, that ruthless man of blood became humanised; the hell-fire which evil passions had lighted up in his eyes, became dimmed with an unaccustomed tear on seeing that symbol of peace and love from a shrine at which he knelt in his earlier and happier days, and where he imbibed those lessons of moral beauty and truth that long years of sin and crime were not able wholly to obliterate. In the field of deadly conflict, men in adverse ranks have been known to turn aside the sword on receiving that SIGN by which brother recognizes brother.

“Hope never can desert the breast of the true Mason: on the trackless deep, in the wildest solitude, the star of Masonry cheers him on—even there in his hour of peril and desolation, when despair seizes all around, for him the spring in the desert may well up, and in the reckless pirate or the wild wandering Arab, he may find a brother and a friend.”

A burst of applause greeted the good man on his conclusion, and even the cynic reluctantly admitted that his defence of Masonry was powerful and enthusiastic, and did him honour as a Man, a Mason, and a Clergyman.

Mid scenes and discussions like these were our early notions of Masonry nurtured; and it will not surprise, if the impressions made on our youthful mind should “grow with our growth, and strengthen with our strength,” and produce in us aspirations to seek admission into an Order of which we had heard such favourable report—an honour which in due time we sought, and won with higher and better feelings, we trust, than mere curiosity.

And if our readers will deign to accompany us through the pains and pleasures of our Masonic recollections, though we cannot promise even our fair friends admission behind the scenes, or an accurate knowledge of that grand secret which we are supposed to possess, yet shall they be made acquainted with some of the sayings and doings of one of the oldest and most interesting societies in the world; and we hope so to place before them those Masonic and other incidents, grave or gay, as they emerge from the past and float along the tide of our memory, as shall, mayhap, amuse if not instruct, and enable the uninitiated curious to arrive at a fair judgment on the merits of our ancient Order.

CHAPTER II.—A FATAL DUEL—OUR INITIATION.

THOUGH years of eventful interest in our life's history have rolled by since we first saw the glorious light of Masonry in one of the crack Lodges of the Sister Isle, still are the startling minutiae of that (to us) awful night as bright and vivid in our memory as the scenes of yesterday.

* The well-known Dr. W——e of Cork, now retired after having realised an honourable independence.

Our initiation into the sublime mysteries took place at a period while yet "young fire-eyed disputants" in that gallant and chivalrous land generally made the pistol the unreasoning arbiter of the slightest difference of opinion; and one of those fatal and appalling cases of duelling, from trivial causes, mismanaged by reckless or inexperienced seconds, marks the day on which we were first invested with an apron in our Parent Lodge, 50, Dublin, by that most able, zealous, and indefatigable of Secretaries, George J. B—ld—n, Esq.; to whom not only his own Lodge, but the whole Order is indebted, and of whose services, as well as those of a few other *notables*, who have contributed to the dissemination of Freemasonry in Ireland, we shall have a word or two to say in the progress of these reminiscences.

REFLECTIONS ON THE EFFECTS OF MASONRY UPON DUELLING.

"Alas! how light a cause may move
 Dissension between hearts that love—
 Hearts that the world in vain has tried,
 And sorrow but more closely tied,
 Yet in a sunny hour fall off."

Slight and unworthy were the pretexts which in those days sufficed for an invitation to scent the morning air and *tremble on the daisies*; the tried and well-proved friends of many years have been known to meet in deadly conflict for differences about trifles "light as air." We remember five duels to result from the foolish incidents of a Regatta Ball, presided over, too, by the representative of the Queen, the late noble and gallant Marquis of Anglesea, then Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whose high bearing as a soldier and a gentleman would, if anything could, have preserved order and decorum.

One of these duels was somewhat characteristic, and we feel we shall be excused if we very briefly refer to it. The unfortunate principals were permitted to exchange four shots each; and such was their steadiness and determination that two of the shots took effect slightly without the knowledge or notice of the seconds. After the fourth discharge, the challenger's friend declared himself satisfied, and thus matters so far ended.

On quitting the ground, one of the principals walking up to the other, addressed him thus: "Now, Sir, that you can do so without any imputation on your honour, may I ask if you were the party who threw the turkey bone that happened to *fall near my plate*?" "Well, Sir," replied the other, "as you have expressed yourself satisfied, I can no longer hesitate to assure you *I know nothing whatever about it*, but it would be impossible for me to give any explanation *after* receiving a hostile message; had you asked it *before*, or withdrawn your message, you certainly should have received the same explanation you now do, but with your message suspended over my head, *the thing was out of the question*." "My dear Sir, there is my hand, let us be friends as of old, and pray do excuse me for having placed in jeopardy the life of so brave a man."

During this interesting dialogue, a gentle pallor was suffusing the face

of either, each endeavouring to hide from the other the fact of his being hit; at last, one timidly hinted, "I fear you're hit." "Oh! a mere scratch, but I greatly fear *you* must be hurt; here, Doctor, attend to Mr. O——." "By no means, Doctor, attend first to Mr. W——" (there happened to be but one medical man on the ground); and it was thus most amusing, if not ludicrous, to see two men a moment before armed with deadly weapons against each other's life, now vying in acts of kindness, courtesy, and good nature.

But no excuse for quarrel could be more foolish or unjustifiable than that with which our introduction to the Order is associated, by which Masonry lost a brother, society an ornament, and by which another victim to that blood-stained Moloch of the duellist, misnamed honour, was added, in the premature homicide of poor P—r W—e.

On the evening but one previous to our initiation, we happened to meet this gentleman and a few others at the theatre, and, as was then the custom, all adjourned to eat oysters and devilled kidneys, and imbibe divers potations of that inspiring beverage, whiskey punch. The house chosen was one just opened in Grafton Street, called the New Shades, and which we understand is at present admirably conducted by Br. Jude.

It was at this time the rendezvous of the students of T. C. D., who often came there in the wild spirit of frolic, to kick up a row, a consummation by no means difficult to accomplish with such combustible materials as were generally to be found there; a flash of wit was often sufficient to set all in a blaze, particularly should it happen to be about the 12th of July, the period of the dog-days, when the baleful influence of *sirius* would seem to produce a maddening influence on most of the inhabitants of that island.

While awaiting the efforts of the cook, one of our symposial companions, the fastest man of his day in college, but now a veteran upon whose brow the snowfall of time was leaving the unmistakable marks of winter, was entertaining us with his recollections of bygone freaks. He told us of a college wag frequently beginning the fun of the evening somewhat in this way:—"Boys, have ye heard the news? I have it direct from the Lady Mayoress, that his grace the Archbishop has just received special intelligence that the bottom of purgatory has given way, and all the inhabitants have tumbled into ——." "Dear me! what an awful crushing the poor heretics must have got," was the witty rejoinder.

The roaring laugh which followed these and other sharp passes of wit, tended to keep up the good humour for awhile, but a few irreverent hits at the Pope, or the Scarlet Lady, Daniel O'Connell or the Repeal, was sure to produce the desired effect; at first it commenced with a quiet turn-up between a couple in a corner. One interfered, then another, and another still, till the whole company, young and old, as if drawn by some irresistible attraction, joined in the *mêlée*, when, to use a graphic Hibernicism, it grew into one universal "scrimmage," in which no one knew, or cared about the original cause of quarrel, but pelted away, right and left, friend or foe, all alike.

At this point of their amusement, a general cry of "Watch, Watch,"

frequently made the belligerents pause, only, however, to prepare for a more serious row: the two parties uniting against the common enemy, the old *Charlies*, those primitive nocturnal shepherds of our forefathers, generally full of roguery, whiskey, and fun, long since fortunately superseded by the new police. Now came the tug of war—who was to lead the forlorn hope against the serried phalanx of watchmen standing to the charge with their formidable lances.

This dangerous weapon need not be described to our Irish readers, many of whom have, no doubt seen, and perhaps some of them, FELT it; but we may inform our English friends that it consisted of a long, heavy, ashen pole, armed at one end with a double-edged blade, some ten inches long, and a strong sharp hook, so that if you made fight, you were received on the point of the blade, and if you bolted, you were sure to be hooked, fortunate if a slice from the nape of your neck, or the calf of your leg, did not remain behind with a portion of your habiliments. It was said to be made on the plan of the pikes used by the insurgents in '98, the use of the hook being to cut the reins of the cavalry.

A council of war was called, and after sundry volunteers had offered their services, the president thus addressed a Mr. B., familiarly known as the "babe of grace:"—"I say, B., I don't think you're in the sweetest odour with the *Dean*, and if you should be brought up again this week, it is ten to one but you'll get special leave to visit your respected parents long before they expect you, so, as a friend, I recommend you to run the gauntlet; it will perhaps cost you a gash and a coat, but even so, just trust to your heels and leave the fighting to us, for this night"

The "babe" consented, and having broken cover by upsetting the nearest *Charlie*, made for old Trinity like "a three year old," the whole posse of night guards after him in full chase and cry, with rattles creaking as if the whole city were in a blaze; then indeed was it an exciting scene to see Charlies tripped up and rolling over hatless *jibs*, with fragments of coats, one fellow trying with desperate efforts to retain a recusant prisoner, with his little red scull cap bordered with his black grizzly hair thrust through that part of his hat where the crown should be, the body forming a most grotesque neck collar, looking exactly as if he had been in the *pillory*, seemed to give great delight to the mob.

Our veteran friend, warming with the recollections of the past, wound up thus:—"Well, often since I left college, when mounted on my bounding steed, with my faithful dog gambolling around in the pride of his joyousness, awaking the echoes with the music of his ringing bark, have I felt proud; and if there be any one position more than another in which man can feel the dignity of his position on earth, it is this. Yes; he can then really feel his glorious inheritance from his Creator, the proud lordship over all other created things; but pray do not laugh at me when I assure you that I never felt prouder in my life than when I beat *old Castelloe*, the *watchman*, in a fair run from the top of Grafton Street to the College gate, and could just hear him soliloquize thus after I got inside:—'The tuntherin rogue has bet me agin; that last *bonnet* he *bint* me over the *night-cap* completely dumfounded me, but I'll have him yet, an' be me

sowl afore the long vacation, and God knows I wish that same vacation would last the whole year round, to keep such rake-helly d—s at home. I'll show him I took that 'wallop' only as a *loan*, by giving it him back wid honest interest: he's the greatest scape-grace ever crossed my bait since that Galway lamb, Tom the d—I was made a parson, and they say took to the Church like a sucking dove; Heaven protect us.' ”

(*To be continued.*)

BROTHERLY LOVE.

BY ALEX. HENRY GIRVEN, AUTHOR OF “REGINALD SELWYN,” &c.

(*Continued from p. 260.*)

With a palpitating heart, Ida reached the hut of the Maniac. She knocked at first gently, and receiving no answer she knocked again, announcing her name. The bolt was slowly withdrawn, and the Maniac opening the door, stood before her. He extended his hand, which she took, and overcome by a host of feelings which his presence conjured up, she sank on her knees and burst into a violent flood of tears.

“So young, so beautiful, so innocent,” said the Maniac, leading her to the stone bench before the door, “and yet in sorrow. And what have you done my child that affliction should visit you? You have cherished no revenge—your gentle and christian spirit is torn by no remorse for the past—no phantom of memory embodied by a disordered fancy haunts your young days, and turns your existence to bitterness! You at least have not trampled under foot your better nature—you have not murdered the early associate and friend to whom you pledged Brotherly Love, and whom you were bound to succour and protect.”

Ida made no reply, for she was accustomed to hear him speak in this strain, which she did not receive literally, but as the dictates of a disordered imagination, brooding over and magnifying some incident of the past. She was also prevented speaking from not having sufficiently subdued her emotion to answer with calmness.

“But fear not, child,” he continued, “your grief will be as short lived as the summer-cloud—your tears as evanescent as the morning dew upon the flower. None but the wicked can be permanently unhappy.”

To an inquiry respecting his health, he replied, “I have not felt ill—it is the mind that is smitten with disease—and what have I not endured since your absence! The fearful phantom has haunted me more incessantly than ever. It greets my awaking eyes, it breathes on me its icy breath, presses my brow with its cold and clammy hands, and turns my heart to mould. And see,” he exclaimed, a wild lustre lighting up his eyes, “see, it rises from the rock, it flits by the shadow of that mouldering oak, it is by the margin of the stream, it

sinks into the water, and vanishes from my sight. Saw you it not?"

"No, sir, no. Believe me it was only the effect of your imagination. Why do you not pray to God to banish these fearful fancies from your mind?"

"And have I not endeavoured to pray? have I not striven with the madness of my brain, have I not knelt unscen in the sanctuary at midnight before the monument to his memory, and as the almost forgotten words of prayer were forming on my lips, have I not felt that icy breath again on my cheek? have I not heard that familiar voice whispering in my ear of my violated vow of Brotherly Love? have I not beheld his reproachful looks freezing every sense, until the words died out of my memory? The gift of prayer is denied me—but I will not detain you longer, *Ida*. Leave me now, but return to-morrow. I shall then give you my promised history, tell you who I am, and make you flee with loathing from my presence."

Though *Ida* would have preferred remaining with him, and endeavoured to console him, she was aware that it was useless to act contrary to his wishes, and she departed.

CHAPTER X.—THE VOLUNTEER.

WE must now return for a time to follow the fortunes of *Simon*. Some months had elapsed since the events recorded in Chapter VIII. The war, which we intimated was impending, had already been resumed by *Napoleon*, who, undeterred by the disasters he had sustained in his Russian campaign, had again raised his banner, around which a numerous and enthusiastic soldiery rallied. The chief Continental States were not behind in assuming a martial attitude, to resist the threatened aggression of the French Emperor, and vast masses of armed men were assembled between the *Vistula*, the frontiers of *Austria*, and the *Elbe*, awaiting his approach, and sanguine with expectation of seeing the flag of national independence once more floating above the banks of the *Rhine*.

But nothing daunted, on "the scourge of Europe and the terror of the North" proceeded, and in the May of 1813, he stood front to front with the combined forces of *Prussia* and *Russia*, at *Lutzen*.

Though some doubts existed at the time as to who were the conquerors on that occasion, we believe it is now admitted that the French had the superiority; but there is little doubt as to the bravery and determination with which both parties contested the battle. True to her traditions, *France* added another laurel to the wreath of valour which distinguished her sons, whether in triumph or defeat. However, it is not our intention to enter into any details respecting this sanguinary affray, further than is requisite to the purposes of our narrative.

The battle was at its height, and a small detachment of the French were endeavouring to force their way to an eminence commanded by the enemy, who were mowing them down with shell and grape-shot as they

advanced. For an instant the assailants wavered ; but the commander of the party, dashing forward to their head, besought them not to desist, for the honor of their country and their love of the Emperor, promising promotion to the man who should plant the Imperial eagle on the height. "*Vive la France,*" "*Vive l'Empereur,*" burst from a dozen of the enthusiastic little band, as they rushed up the height with a determination to conquer or perish in the attempt. The foremost of the band who bore the colours, fell ; but his place was immediately filled by another, who rushed from the ranks, and, seizing the national emblem, waived it over his head, and dashed up the acclivity, followed closely by his companions. He had to hew his way through the enemy ; but his strength which appeared extraordinary, effected a passage, and he succeeded in planting the standard on the height.

Animated by this daring feat, the advancing party gathered fresh courage, and their opponents, being disheartened in proportion as they were elated, began to retreat in disorder, closely pursued. But this success was nearly proving fatal to the French band ; for, borne away in the ardour of the pursuit, they followed without order, and the retreating party perceiving that they were numerically inferior to them, rallied, poured in an effective fire, and then charged them. At this juncture, a body of French cavalry unexpectedly made their appearance, and created a diversion, allowing the little party to retreat. This was effected by all except the leader, who had been successful in planting the standard on the height, and who was too much in advance of his party to avail himself of the succour. He was hemmed in, and though defending himself with superhuman strength, he must have eventually been overpowered, but for one of the cavalry officers who galloped up at full speed to the spot, and riding into the midst, cut right and left, until he reached the soldier, whom he seized by the arm, and dragged upon the horse. But he had scarcely effected this, than a ball struck him, and he rolled with the man he had rescued on the ground, apparently lifeless. The relief had by this time approached, and both were conveyed to the rear. The rescued man soon recovered from his state of unconsciousness occasioned by the fall, and was ordered to resume duty, while the officer to whom he was indebted for his life was borne away in a state of insensibility and bleeding profusely from a wound in his side, before he could ascertain who he was.

The soldier who had so narrowly escaped death was Simon Le Trouve. Weared of life, which had lost all enjoyment for him, he entered as a volunteer in the service of Napoleon. He had little interest in the objects of the war, but he considered that the stirring scenes of military life would wean his thoughts from the past, and supply a void in his mind. Besides, there was something of the gladiator in his spirit, which only required the breath of strife to kindle it into flame. Scarcely valuing his existence, and endued with savage valour, as well as great physical strength, he sought the contest with ardour and determination. Even amongst his brave associates in arms, he had already distinguished himself by the recklessness with which he rushed into the thickest of the fight, utterly indifferent to personal danger, and animated, as they fancied, by motives similar to their own.

It is rarely that emulation exists without producing envy, and a few endeavoured to detract from Simon's achievements, but the majority still admitted his claims, and awarded him their praise. If they knew how little at first he was actuated by the love of country, devotion to the military meteor who surveyed their destinies, or by the other feelings which had drawn them into strife, they would have viewed him with aversion. But they could not penetrate the springs of his actions, it was sufficient that they recognised and applauded them.

Once more he found himself in a position of superiority, but, oh, how different from that in which he had first sought distinction! The contrast suggested itself to Simon's mind, but he wisely banished it together with the soft image of *Ida*, which also intruded. Notwithstanding his idiosyncracies, he was human in heart, and as such, could not altogether be unaffected by the praises bestowed on his bravery, and the community of enterprise and association to which he was admitted, without reference to his exterior. Despite of the misanthropy which he strove to cherish, a bloom was creeping over his existence. It was true that the alteration was produced, not by means consonant to the sentiments of a Christian, or in harmony with the feelings of a philanthropist. The accident that made him a homicide was also rendering him more human. A fiend that had been slumbering in his bosom might have been awakened, but it was no sooner roused to action, than it showed that he had faculties that enabled him to surmount his personal defects, and even win him an honourable position amongst his fellow men.

And who ever felt himself on an equality with his fellow men without some sympathy springing from that consciousness? The man who has been trodden down by adversity, felt the iron heel of poverty or disease pressing daily on his spirit, may well grow cynical. But it is only the surface that is frozen, for let a few gleams of prosperity shine forth, and the crust will dissolve, and the living spring of human love and feeling will bubble forth in all its natural warmth and play. What wonder, then, if there should be a change wrought even in Simon, by an intercourse with his fellow men, sharing the same perils, enduring the same hardships, gazing upon the same scenes, and breathing daily the same atmosphere? But we must not anticipate, for at the period when he has just re-appeared there was much of the Simon in his breast, for he was still brooding in bitterness of spirit over the past incidents of his life.

On the night after the battle of *Lutzen*, Simon was roused from a short repose to take his place on watch. It was a bright moonlight night, and the battle field in all its gory attributes was fully revealed. The soft light fell upon many an upturned face with cold leaden eye, and with features on which was traced, in convulsion, all the agony of a violent death; or, perhaps, it irradiated the countenance soft and calm of one whose spirit had passed away without a pang. There was the young stripling with scarce the down on his youthful and rounded cheek, stretched beside the veteran with his grizzled locks, and seamed and scarred features,—the young and old victims at a common alter. And struggling through the torn vest might be seen glittering, some locket sparkling in that grey light,

a memorial of love, containing, perhaps, the hair of some cherished object, but at all events a relic too sacred to be parted with in life.

Had Simon been inclined to meditate on the effects of war, he had sufficient material strewn around him for that purpose; but all such desire, if it existed, was repressed by the sound of voices issuing from behind a barrier erected near the spot where he stood. The persons of the speakers were effectually concealed, and their words were scarcely audible, but he heard distinctly a name pronounced which made him hush his breath and strain every nerve to catch the conversation.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The Annual meeting for the Installation of Grand Master for the coming year, was held on Wednesday last, April 25, when the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland having been duly re-installed and proclaimed as G. Master, he was pleased to appoint his officers as follows:—

Dep. G.M.	.	.	Rt. Hon. Earl of Yarborough.
Senior G.W.	.	.	Wm. Stuart M.P.
J.G.W.	.	.	Henry Wm. Eaton.
G. Chaplains	.	.	Rev. J. E. Cox.
			Rev. E. Moore.
G. Treasurer	.	.	S. Tomkins.
G. Registrar	.	.	Alex. Dobie.
G. Secretary	.	.	W. H. White.
G. Sec. for German Correspondence.	.	.	H. S. Crohn.
S.G. Deacon	.	.	H. Lloyd.
J.G. Deacon	.	.	J. N. Tomkins.
G. Sup. of Works	.	.	P. Hardwick.
G. Dir. of Cer.	.	.	R. W. Jennings.
Asst. G. Dir. of Cer.	.	.	J. Chapman.
Grand Sword Bearer	.	.	Chas. Wm. Elkington,
Asst. G. Sec.	.	.	W. Farnfield.
G. Organist	.	.	E. Ransford
G. Pursuivant	.	.	G. G. Elkington.

The Grand Stewards for 1856 were presented as follows:—Arthur S. Douglas, 1; James Scott, 2; John Randall, 4; Benjamin Head, 5; R. W. Crawford, 6; H. B. Pigott, 8; Henry Lee, 14; F. B. Thomas, 21; Jas. W. Adams, 23; Thos. H. Hill, 27; Thos. Hutchings, 32; Andrew Holman, 54; Robert Kynaston, 66; Jeremiah Long, 72; H. G. Warren, 108; J. H. Hervey, 116; A. B. Friend, 233; G. J. Lyons, 324.

The whole of the business having ended, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the Brethren proceeded to the Hall to take part in the

GRAND FESTIVAL.

The hall was densely crowded by the Brethren, and on the entrance of the Grand Master, he was received with loud and long continued cheers. The noble Earl on taking the chair, was supported by his Grand Officers; by Br. Bagshaw, R.G.M. for Essex; T. H. Hall, Pl. G.M. for Cambridge; Dr. Kent, Pl. G.M. for Australia; Col. Buriton, Pl. G.M. for Bengal; Br. Nollond, P.G.W.; P. J. Solomons, P.G.D.; T. Parkinson, P.G.D.; J. Nelson, P.G.D.; H. Faudel, P.G.D.; Jno. Hervey, P.G.D.; C. Baumer, P.G.D.; J. S. Gaskoin, P.G.D.; J. B. King, P.G.D.; — Goldsworthy, P.G.D. S. C. Norris, P.G.D.; T. R. White, P.G.D.; Jno. Havers, P.G.D.;

Rev. Sir M. Hayes, P.G. Chap.; R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; G. P. de Rhe Philipe, P.G.S.B.; G. W. K. Potter, P.G.S.B.; E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.; A. A. Le Vean, P.G.S.B.; Geo. Biggs, P.G.S.B.; Jno. Masson, P.G.S.B.; &c., &c.

A very elegant repast was prepared by Brs. Watson, Coggen, and Banks; upwards of two hundred brethren sat down to the dinner, and the gallery was filled with elegantly dressed ladies.

The cloth having been removed the M.W.G.M. rose and said, that there was one toast always acceptable in every committee of Englishmen, but especially so among Masons, the health of the Sovereign—(applause). He begged, therefore, to propose her most gracious Majesty “The Queen.” The toast having been drunk with enthusiasm, the M.W.G.M. proposed the health of “His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family”—(applause).

The M.W.G.M. said there was another toast which he had great pleasure in proposing. Perceiving that there were a great many brethren present from Ireland and Scotland, he begged to propose “The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland”—(applause).

Br. Thomas Henry Hall, P.G.M. of Cambridge, then rose and said that he had the permission of the M.W.G.M. to propose a toast which was one that he had no doubt every brother present would drink with enthusiasm. By the cordial manner in which they had drank the health of the Queen, they had shown their attachment to their Sovereign, and he was sure there was no brother present who would not exhibit the same feeling towards their Masonic Chief, on whom they had conferred the hon that day of placing him, for the twelfth time, in the G.M.’s chair—(loud cheer). The services which the M.W.G.M. had conferred upon the Craft were fresh in the recollection of all, and it would be strange if one who had so much Masonic blood in his veins, should be wanting in those qualities and feelings associated and identified with Masonry—(applause). There was no one more sensible of the duties of his station than the G.M., and there was no one who had taken the obligations devolving upon him in virtue of that office with more readiness and goodwill—(hear, hear). He (Br. Hall), appealed to the brethren whether the G.M. had not fulfilled his obligations, and whether the brethren had not been justified in confiding to him the honour and interest of their Order. He was also happy to be able to state that nothing could exceed the prosperity which had attended the Order since the W.G.M. had assumed his office—(applause). Since that period no fewer than 200 new Lodges had been opened in England, in addition to a great number in the Colonies. The reign of Masonry was essentially a reign of peace, and whatever quarrels might rage without, they could never in this free country intrude upon the threshold of the Temple of Masonry—(applause). Long might this state of things last, and long might their G.M. enjoy the confidence, affection, and loyalty of the brethren—(applause). He begged to propose “The health of the M.W.G.M.”

The toast having been responded to with every demonstration of cordiality,

The M.W.G.M. returned thanks in the following terms:—Brethren, I sincerely thank you for the kind manner in which you have drunk the toast just proposed. On every occasion when I have presented myself to you, I have always had to acknowledge your kindness, and to express my gratitude for the cordial manner in which you have received me. I assure you, I feel deeply the kindness and confidence reposed in me, and the more so, when I find that during a period of 12 years that confidence has not been diminished. Brethren, my worthy friend and brother on my right, has told you that ours is a reign of peace. It is so essentially, and if we look at the progress of Masonry all over the world, you will find that those nations which have longest preserved peace are the free nations in which the principles of Masonry have been received and approved—(applause). Brethren, I do not mean to verge upon politics; but I must ask you what nations are really free in which Masonry is not encouraged? Brethren, whatever other nations may think of Masonry, this we know, that wherever one Mason meets another, even if it be among a nation hostile to us, he will be received as a brother—(applause). Our object is peace and good-will towards men. It is, I assure you, most gratifying to me to be assured that Masonry has not only improved in the number of Lodges, and in the number of members fre-

quencing each Lodge, but also that in distant colonies where some years ago Masonry was scarcely known, there are now numerous Lodges formed. When we see also that our charities are increasing in wealth and usefulness (applause), it must be gratifying to see the good that we are doing, not only in this country, but over a large portion of the globe. I assure you, brethren, in conclusion, that it will be my anxious desire as long as I hold this office, to promote the prosperity of our Order; and again I beg to thank you for the kindness and confidence you have accorded to me this day—(applause).

The M.W.G.M. shortly afterwards rose and proposed "The health of the D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough"—(applause). There was no one who had performed his duty more conscientiously than their D.G.M. He had not seen their brother for some time, and could not consequently state the reason of his not being present, but there could be no doubt that his engagements were urgent and numerous. They all knew, however, that when the D.G.M.'s services were required, he was always anxious to do his duty in Masonry.

The toast was very warmly responded to.

The M.W.G.M.—Brethren, I have now to draw your attention to the next toast, which is, "Our Grand Wardens and Officers of the year"—(applause). These gentlemen are new in their offices, but old in Masonry, and they are well known for their zeal and sincerity in all that relates to the Order. I am sure you will heartily and sincerely join with me in drinking the healths of the Grand Wardens and Grand Officers of the year.

Br. Stuart, G.S.W., returned thanks for himself, and the other Grand Officers. He had only been a Mason twelve years, but during that time, he was glad to say, that Masonry had increased in strength, and had spread widely in India, and other distant lands. On the Continent, in France, Germany, and even in Spain, it had taken hold, and it was some consolation to know, now that we were engaged in war, that there was a bond of union even in the battle-field, which had spread widely through every Christian clime. And that, amid the plain where the horrors of war were rife, a friend might be found among the ranks of the foeman—(applause). He felt assured that he spoke the sentiments of all the Grand Officers, when he said, that they would faithfully discharge their duties to the Craft, to the W.G.M., and to the Grand Lodge—(hear, hear).

The M.W.G.M. next proposed the health of "The Prov. G.Ms.," and called attention to the fact that the Prov. G.M. of Australia was present.

Br. Dobie, P.G.M., of Surrey, and G.R. of England, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed his regret that some other brother, better qualified to do justice to the toast, had not risen. He sincerely thanked the brethren for the honour they had done the P.G.Ms., and he might say on their behalf, that they would upon all occasions discharge the duties devolving upon them, and support the G.M., and like him, do all in their power to promote the honour, and extend the usefulness of the Craft—(applause).

Br. Kent, G.M. of Australia, also returned thanks. He assured the brethren that it afforded him great pleasure to be able to report that Masonry was flourishing in South Australia, and that the number of Lodges was rapidly increasing. When he first went to that distant colony, there was only one Lodge in it (No. 613), and now there were several. The last official act which he had performed before leaving the colony, a short time since, was to open a new Lodge, the warrant for which he had brought over, in order to obtain the signature of the G.M. He was happy, also, to be able to state that the Order held a high position in the estimation of those who were not Masons in South Australia; and a proof of this was to be found in the fact, that when application was made for the use of the cathedral to preach the inauguration sermon, the Dean and Senior Canon, although not Masons, assisted at the divine service, thereby showing the respect which they entertained for the principles of the Order. He might also add his testimony to the loyalty which was felt in the colony to the W.G.M., whose courtesy upon all occasions he was now desirous to acknowledge. He hoped that upon his return to the colony, he would be enabled still more to further the interests of Masonry in that remote dependency—(applause).

The W.G.M. next proposed The Masonic Charities, not forgetting the Girls' Festival on the 16th of May—(applause). He was sure that this was a toast in which they could all sympathise. At the late Festival of the Boys' School, which he was prevented from attending, he was given to understand that a large sum of money had been collected, and he trusted that the sympathies of the Brethren would be yet more generously evoked in aid of the gentler sex. The Institution had lately been increased, a considerable sum of money had been expended in re-building the School, and the health of the children was now much better than it had been before. (Hear). He felt he need say no more in recommending the Masonic Charities to their notice, but would conclude by giving, "Success to the Masonic Charities, not forgetting the Girls' Festival on the 16th of May."

The W.G.M.—Brethren, I know you will drink the next toast I have to offer you with the enthusiasm it deserves. I beg to propose "The health of the Ladies in the gallery," and I am sure you will join with me in thanking them for the honour they have done our Festival by consenting to be present on this occasion. The toast was drunk amid loud applause.

The W.G.M. again rose and said, Brethren, I beg to propose the last toast of the evening, "The health of the Grand Stewards"—(applause.) I am sure we have to express our thanks to the Stewards for the excellent arrangements of the day, and for the exertions which they have made to secure our comfort at the present entertainment. I beg you will join me in drinking the health of the Grand Stewards.

Br. Scott briefly returned thanks for the Grand Stewards.

The G.M. then left the chair, and the privileged Brethren shortly adjourned to the glee room, to join the ladies, and where it is needless to say we did not follow them. Indeed, no one who values his health can be expected to enter a place which he knows to be more hurtful to the constitution than would be the proffered performance of the late M. Chabot, of being shut up for an hour in a baker's oven whilst the Sunday dinners were cooking.

The musical arrangements which gave general satisfaction, were under the direction of Br. Ransford, (grand organist), assisted by Miss Birch, Miss Eliza Birch, Miss Ransford, and Brs Donald King, Genge, G. Perren, W. E. Ransford, and Smythson. Br. Harker officiated as toast master.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on Thursday, April 26th, petitions of a number of applicants for relief were taken into consideration, and various sums, amounting in the whole to £38, disbursed.

THE FREEMASONS GIRLS SCHOOL.

On the 12th ult. the quarterly court of the Governors of the Girls School, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, Br. Taylor in the chair. There were also present Br. W. H. White, Grand Sec.; Br. Barrett, Br. Adlard, Br. Barnes, Br. Davis, Br. Patten, Br. Robinson, Br. Symmonds, Br. Tomlinson, &c., &c.

Br. Crew, the esteemed Secretary of the Institution, read the minutes of the proceedings of the last quarterly court, and of the special court held on the 29th of March, which were unanimously confirmed.

The court then authorised the payment of the accounts, for the maintenance of the Institution, up to last Lady day.

The Secretary next informed the court that the committee had considered and approved of the petitions of seven candidates, for election into the school, and that as there were vacancies for that number it would not be necessary to have recourse to the ballot.

The Chairman upon this intimation put the names of the candidates to the court, for the formal declaration of their election. They were, Emma Charlotte Thurrell, Ellen Jackson, Sarah Osborne, Caroline Priest, Malvina Rogers, Helen Shaw, and Selina Taggart.

Br. Crew remarked, that although the Institution was chiefly maintained by the

subscriptions of the metropolitan brethren, yet that in the election of children no difference was made between those coming from the London, and those from the Provincial Lodges. He wished this fact to be understood by the Craft, as he was afraid that the country Masons were of opinion that the opposite was the case. At almost every one of the recent elections, the majority of the children admitted came from country Lodges. Some conversation here arose with respect to the case of a child who had been after election, refused admission on the authority of the medical officers who certified that she was labouring under a scrofulous affection. She had been sent to Margate, for sea bathing, and would in the event of her recovery be at once taken into the school. The consideration of the bye-laws was then proceeded with, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

NEW JUNIOR UNITED SERVICE CLUBHOUSE.

On Thursday, March 29 (briefly noticed in our last), the Right Hon. the Earl of Orkney, assisted by the committee, performed the ceremony of laying the first stone of the new Club-house, in Regent-street, Waterloo-place, numerous members of the club being in attendance. His lordship explained, that the first stone of the old Club-house was found in the south-west corner of the building; but the present stone was to be laid in the north-east corner, that being the recognised Masonic position for placing a foundation-stone. He then read the inscription on the plate as follows:—

“The Club-house, built by the United Service Club in the year 1817, was purchased by the Junior United Service Club, on its formation in 1827, and occupied by the latter Club until 1854, when the original building was taken down, and a new Club-house erected on the site.” The stone bore the following inscription:—

“The first stone of the new Club-house was laid by the Right Hon. the Earl of Orkney, late of the 9th Lancers, and the committee of the Junior United Service Club, on the 29th day of March, in the 18th year of the reign of Queen Victoria, 1855.”

A series of coins of the present year were deposited under the stone, and the mortar having been spread with a silver trowel, presented by the Club to Lord Orkney, the stone was lowered into its position.

The ceremony was invested with more than usual interest, by its being known that the celebrated mallet which originally belonged to Sir Christopher Wren, and had been used by Charles II., in 1673, in laying the first stone of St. Paul's Cathedral, would be made use of on this occasion.

In alluding to the mallet, his Lordship stated that it had never been used since the death of the Duke of Sussex, who was master of the Lodge of Antiquity; and after passing a eulogium upon his late Royal Highness, and thanking the Lodge for their kindness in lending it, he proceeded to announce to the workmen that it was the intention of the committee to give each man a day's wages instead of a dinner. His lordship, in the course of his speech, expressed a hope that the good understanding now so happily existing between masters and workmen in this country would always continue; and that there might never be a scarcity of labour for those willing to work, and a fair remuneration as the reward of their exertions.

Mr. Foudriner, Past Master of the Lodge of Antiquity, acknowledged the compliment that had been paid to the Lodge, and said that although it was unusual to lend the mallet, they had on this occasion unanimously agreed to do so, in recognition of the eminent services lately rendered to the country by members of the Club.

Three cheers were given by the workmen, and Lord Orkney having struck the stone three times with the mallet, declared it to be well and duly laid, and the ceremony concluded.

LONDON LODGES.

GRAND MASTERS LODGE (No. 1).—This Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 16th April, under the presidency of the W.M. Br Geo. W. K. Potter, who is now performing the duties for the second year. The business, which were merely of a former nature, having been transacted, upwards of thirty of the brethren adjourned to dinner. Amongst the visitors were Brs. John Hervey,

P.M., No. 7, P.G.S.D.; Biggs, G.S.B.; Adlard, P.M., No. 7; Capt. Ward, No. 6; Holland, N. 5; &c. The evenings amusements were varied by the vocal exertions of Brs. T. Jolley, Lea, &c.

ROYAL SOMERSET HOUSE AND INVERNESS LODGE (No. 4).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Monday, the 23rd April, Br. Locock Webb, W.M., was duly initiated a brother into the Order. After the transaction of some other business the brethren, to the number of 35, adjourned to refreshment—the intervals between the toasts being well filled up by some excellent music, to which Br. Jolley much contributed.

ST. GEORGE AND CORNER STONE LODGE (No. 5).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 9th of April, when the M.'s chair was occupied by P.M., Br. E. S. Snell, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Br. Benjamin Head. The business was merely formal. Amongst the visitors were Brs. John Hervey, now P.G.S.D.; and Dr. Tomkins, G.J.D. for 1855-6. In the after part of the evening, when the brethren retired to refreshment, the musical efforts of Br. T. Jolley tended much to the general enjoyment.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—On Wednesday, the 18th April, the members of this distinguished Lodge met for the despatch of Masonic business, when Br. John Hervey, S.G.D., acting for the W.M., very ably initiated Mr. Frederick H. Geach into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and passed Br. Champaloup to the second degree. A sum of 2*l.* 2*s.* was voted to the Asylum Fund, and at the conclusion of the Lodge business, the brethren retired to an elegant dinner, provided by the worthy hosts of the Freemasons Tavern, Br. J.S.S. Hopwood, W.M. presiding. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drank, and all appeared happiness and good feeling; indeed, no Lodge in the Craft can possibly be more united than the Royal York. The visitors included Brs. J. Bagshawe, P.G.M., Essex; G. W. K. Potter, P.J.G.D. W.M., 1; Alhertz, S.W., 108; Wm. Atkins, 164; W. G. Moore, 23; Sable, 229; Leslie, 329, &c., &c.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—This distinguished Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, April 16th. The W.M., Br. Massey Dawson, gave a lecture on Masonry. The Lodge then voted 5*l.* to the widow of their deceased Tyler, Br. Dalson, as a slight acknowledgement of the value of his services, during eighteen years he held that office. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to partake of a most elegant banquet. After proposing the health of the Queen, which was responded to with the greatest enthusiasm, the W.M. proposed the health of the Emperor and Empress of the French, and spoke in the most eloquent terms of the pleasure every Englishman must feel at the happy union existing between two such great nations as France and England, and stated that he had had the honour of being introduced, while in France, to those august personages. The brethren responded to the toast in the most Masonic spirit. The W.M. then proposed the health of the M.W.G.M., and after eulogising his merits, the brethren responded in the usual Masonic manner. He next gave the health of the Earl of Yarborough, and the rest of the grand officers, coupling with the toast the health of Br. Dr. Rowe, as a visitor, and observed that the pleasure felt by the brethren in his presence was but shown by the regret expressed on all occasions when his professional engagements prevented his attendance. Br. Rowe, in a most feeling and eloquent manner, returned thanks for the grand officers, expressing his conviction that it was at all times a great satisfaction to them to feel that they had done their duty; and next to that, for his own part, he knew no greater pleasure than visiting the British Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the P.G.M. of Kent and his deputy, and regretting the absence of the former, Br. Purton Cooper, he congratulated the Lodge on the presence of the latter, Br. Bisgood. After speaking in the highest terms of the province, as pre-eminently distinguished for its working and Masonic charity, he called upon the brethren to drink the toast, as expressing the pleasure they felt in having such eminent Masons among them. Br. Bisgood, in a most witty speech explained the reason of Br. Cooper not attending, and questioning whether the province of Kent merited the pre-eminence in matters of charity ascribed to it, assured the brethren that it always endeavoured to maintain the principles of Masonry in the fullest extent. The health

of the W.M. was then proposed, and reference having been made to the ability with which he discharged the duties of his high office, during the past year, as well as in the present, not only in the performance of the ceremonies; but in amusing and instructing the brethren with his lectures. A strong conviction was expressed that no Master could leave the chair with greater honour. After returning thanks to the brethren for their kindness and support on all occasions, the W.M. proposed the health of the P.M., whom he denominated the sustenance and support of the Lodge, and thanked them for their extreme readiness to render assistance in the working whenever required. He then proposed the health of the officers of the Lodge, particularising the Treasurer and Secretary, for their ability and attention in keeping the affairs of the Lodge in order; and, also, expressed the great obligation he felt under to the remainder of the officers for their constant support. The S.W., in returning thanks, said the officers could not fail in doing their duty, when so excellent an example was set them by the W.M., and P.M.'s; indeed, the greatest satisfaction they could desire was to feel that they had discharged that duty.

ALDION LODGE (No. 9).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday the 3rd ult., under the able presidency of the W.M., Br. James Burton, when some alterations were made in the bye-laws, and three gentlemen proposed for initiation. The Lodge having been closed in perfect harmony, the brethren entertained at their hospitable board the following visitors:—Brs. T. Ferguson, P.M., No. 2 (Irish Registry); J. Coggin, No. 25; Williams, No. 202; and Benlar, the vivacity of whose singing, and the sparkling fun of whose songs gave a peculiar zest to the pleasures of the evening.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—The last regular meeting of this Lodge for the season which, principally owing to the exertions of the late W.M., Br. Ledger, has been more than usually prosperous, took place on Wednesday, the 11th April, when the W.M. Br. Spooner passed two brethren to the second, and raised four to the third degree. On the motion of Br. Bincks, S.W., seconded by Br. W. Young, P.M., the sum of £5 was voted towards the building fund for the "Asylum for Aged Freemasons and their Widows," at Croydon. At the conclusion of the business, the Lodge was formally adjourned till November, but the brethren will assemble under the banner of Br. Spooner, W.M., at the Girls School Festival, on the 16th inst., and once again in the course of the summer at a grand banquet—the time or the whereabouts being as yet undecided—to commemorate the completion of the first 100 years since the granting of their Charter. We believe few Lodges can boast of passing through a century with such continued and uninterrupted prosperity as the Enoch.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE AND OLD CUMBERLAND (No. 12).—The members of this Lodge assembled together at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, April 9, when Br. Louis Meunier initiated a candidate into the Order, passed one brother to the second degree, and raised another to the third degree, the whole of the ceremonies being excellently performed. Br. Marriott, P.M., then rose to propose that £2 be voted towards the fund for relieving the Asylum at Croydon from debt. In doing so, he said, "With the fear of a failure before our eyes, have we not reason to rally round such an Institution, whose permanent establishment I am now advocating? How unspeakably must needs be the embittered fears that this great and excellent Institution should not be placed beyond the pale of a failure, knowing, as we do, the many increasing, and at the same time deserving, claims that must of necessity be made on this noble charity by the great augmentation to the Craft by the members that have within the last few years enrolled themselves under the banners of a free and an accepted Mason? Then, brethren, while we have so much young blood infused into our respective Lodges, let us take every opportunity of fully developing our distinguishing characteristic (charity), and of finally cementing it in the breast of every young Mason, in order that its powerful ramifications may ever prove lovely in his sight; and if we fully establish this, our Masonic charities cannot fail, for the very thought and fear of a failure exercises and influences our charitable feelings, and thereby insures our faith in success, without despondency, by awakening us into a consideration of the powerful motives by which we are prompted, and confirms our hope by the experience of the great good already achieved. It teaches prudence in

our anticipations; temperance in our desires to attain that great climax—permanent establishment; and we have learnt fortitude in bearing and being inured to many difficulties in establishing this Asylum, where those unfortunate brethren whom we may have removed from entire adversity, may all mingle their remembrance of their past affliction with the acknowledgment of the present blessing they experience in their abode of charity.” The motion was of course unanimously carried. The brethren afterwards retired to refreshment, and in the course of the evening, Br. Donald King favoured them with some of his manly and patriotic songs, which never fail to give unqualified pleasure wherever he sings them.

KENT LODGE (No. 15).—The members of this flourishing Lodge met at Br. Harris’s, the Three Tuns, High Street, Borough, on Wednesday the 11th day of April. In consequence of the sudden indisposition of the W.M., the ceremonies of the Lodge were ably given by Br. Whitehouse, P.M., who initiated one gentleman into the mysteries of the Order, and passed Brs. Jones and Crammis to the second degree. All business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet. The usual toasts having been duly honoured, the W.M.P.T. Br. Whitehouse, proposed the better health of the W.M., Br. Procter, whose sudden and alarming indisposition they so much regretted. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Past Masters, which was responded to by Br. Smith, P.M. The next toast given was the newly initiated Br. Plummer, who expressed himself highly delighted with the ceremony of initiation, also his full conviction that Freemasonry possessed more than a superficial surface; and assured the brethren, it would be his utmost endeavour to carry out those truly Masonic principles which had been so beautifully delineated to him that evening. The W.M. next proposed the healths of Br. Richard Barnes, Treasurer, and Br. R. E. Barnes, Hon. Sec., who severally returned thanks. Br. Barnes, Treas., proposed, prosperity to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Annuity Fund, which was received by the brethren with marked enthusiasm. The Wardens and officers was next proposed. Br. Westley, S.W., returned thanks, and assured the brethren the honour conferred would be a stimulus to future exertions in the cause of Masonry. The evening was spent in true Masonic feeling.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This distinguished Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Thursday 19th April. Two brethren were passed to the second degree, and three gentlemen initiated into the mysteries of the Order, amongst whom was the talented (now) Br. Emery, of the Olympic Theatre. After discharging their Masonic duties in a most efficient manner, the brethren proceeded to partake of an elegant banquet. Subsequent to the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed the health of the newly initiated brethren, and expressed the pleasure he felt in receiving them into Masonry, more particularly his old and esteemed friend Br. Emery, and assured them that what they had seen that evening was but a small instalment of the beauties of the Order. Br. Emery in a most eloquent manner returned thanks, and stated that he felt so much impressed with what he had already seen of the Order, that it should always be his study to render it every support in his power. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors, Brs. Crew, No. 1; Bennet, 25; Aznavours, 237 (Proprietor of the Turkish Exhibition). Br. Crew in returning thanks explained to the younger brethren in a most feeling and eloquent manner, the excellent charities for which the Order is so eminently distinguished, and concluded by saying that as in his early days he had known this Lodge as one of the most eminent in the Order for its working and support of the charities, he felt delighted in seeing that it had regained its former position. The health of the W.M. was then proposed by Br. Hewlett, P.M., who thanked him on behalf of the Lodge for his great attention and his ability in discharging the duties of the office. After returning thanks the W.M. proposed the health of the Past Masters, thanking them severally for the eminent services they had rendered to the Lodge, from Br. Watson who had first taken the child by the hand and taught it to walk, to those who had rendered such valuable assistance in bringing it to maturity. The W.M. then proposed the health of the officers, which was responded to by Br. Oliver, as locum tenens for the S.W. The evening was enlivened with some excellent songs and the brethren did not separate until a late hour.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—This Lodge met at the Freemason's Tavern, on Monday, April 2nd, when two brethren were passed to the degree of Fellowcrafts, and one Br. raised to the third degree. In accordance with the Circular signed by the G.S., calling upon Lodges to subscribe £1 each for the purpose of paying off the debt of £362 still upon the Masonic Asylum at Croydon, £1 was cheerfully given as their mite, and it is to be hoped that the call will not be made in vain.

UNITED MARINERS LODGE (No. 33).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on the 3rd ult. at Br. Jagel's, the Chequers Tavern, Finsbury. The W.M. Br. Hookey, being absent from indisposition. Br. Richard Barnes, P. M., presided, and performed the duties of the Lodge in his well-known and efficient manner. The business of the Lodge having been concluded, it was then closed, when the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served in Br. Jagel's usual excellent style. The health of the Queen and the M.W.G.M. having been duly honoured, Br. Barnes, P.M., proposed the health of the presiding Master at the banquet, Br. J. Turner, P.M., which was responded to in a very able and effective speech. The next toast proposed by Br. Turner, was the health of the Past Masters, Br. Barnes, Senr., Br. Vagts, and Br. Wood, who were not only the pillars of the Lodge, but upon whose individual qualification he could not refrain from dilating. In alluding to P.M. Barnes, he begged to remind the younger members of the Lodge, of his high standing in the Craft as a teacher—of his willingness at all times to impart Masonic information to all who might claim his assistance—and to Brs. Vagts and Wood, that the thanks of the members were especially due for their *unceasing energy in promoting the welfare of the Lodge* for very many years. Br. Barnes, Senr., having returned thanks in behalf of the Past Masters, drew the attention of the Junior Members of the Lodge to the pleasing fact, "That the Boys' School originated from this Lodge," and gave them a brief account of the Masonic Charity for clothing, educating and apprenticing the sons of indigent and deceased Freemasons, Established 1798, and sanctioned by his Grace, John Duke of Athol, 1801. Br. Barnes,—continued, that the United Mariners Lodge, No. 23—now 33, observing with concern the distressed circumstances of several brethren, and the exposed situation of their children; at the same time viewing with pleasure, the daily progress making in the *Masonic School for female children—induced them*, at a meeting held on the 3rd day of July, 1798, to consider the means of establishing a Masonic Charity for clothing and educating the sons of indigent Freemasons—and for that purpose they immediately opened a subscription, which at their second meeting increased beyond their most sanguine expectations. They were thus enabled to receive six children to the benefit of this charity, but as it was their intention to extend the same—the fraternity at large were most earnestly solicited to contribute towards accomplishing this laudable undertaking—whose object was to clothe and instruct the sons of indigent Freemasons, and to train them up in the knowledge of virtue and religion, and to inculcate strongly on their minds, *obedience to their superiors*. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Wardens, Br. Tyler, S.W., and Br. Adamthwaite, thanking them for their support, and the efficient manner in which they had discharged the duties of their respective offices; which was responded to in a feeling manner. The evening was spent in true Masonic feeling, and the brethren separated, highly pleased with their meeting.

CONSTITUTIONAL LODGE (No. 63).—This Lodge met on Thursday, April 26th, it having deferred its meeting from the usual night (the third Thursday). The W.M. being obliged to leave the Lodge on business, the P.M. and Treasurer passed one brother, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry.

GRENADIERS' LODGE (No. 79).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 26th, a brother was ably passed to the second degree.

LODGE OF UNITY (No. 82).—A very crowded meeting of the members of this Lodge was held at the London Tavern, on Monday the 2nd of April, under the able presidency of Br. Bellingier, W.M., when Br. Funge was raised to the third degree; two Brethren passed to the second degree; and three candidates initiated into the Order; the whole of the ceremonies being ably performed, and the different officers evidently well skilled in their respective duties. At the conclusion of these ceremonies, the

W.M. had the agreeable duty to perform of presenting ten or a dozen P.M.'s with jewels as a mark of esteem from the members of the Lodge. The Lodge appears to have been about as dilatory in rewarding its officers as the most model Government board could well be; but this advantage has at least been obtained, uniformity in the Lodge Jewels. The brethren, amongst whom were a number of visitors, afterwards dined together, and spent an hour or two in most agreeable and brotherly communion.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The members of this Lodge, held their monthly meeting at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street, on Tuesday, April 3rd, when three brethren were passed to the second degree, and a candidate initiated into the Order. Other business having been transacted, the brethren to the number of upwards of 30 adjourned to refreshment.

LONDON LODGE (No. 125).—On the 7th of April, a meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Br. P.M. Phillips, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M. Br. Bouverie, initiated three candidates into the Order. At the conclusion of the business, the members of the Lodge dined together, and passed a very pleasant evening. This Lodge has for a long time past been in a very drooping position, but having been lately taken up by the Oxford men, it is likely, ere long, to become one of the most flourishing in the Order. Looking at the number of excellent and distinguished Masons which *Alma Mater* turns out, it has been matter of surprise that they have not before formed a re-union under the banners of a London Lodge.

CADOGAN LODGE (188).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, April 17th, Br. Hardman, W.M., presiding, a candidate was initiated into the Order, and a duly qualified brother raised to the third degree. There were upwards of twenty brethren present.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, April 3rd. The business of the evening consisted in passing Br. Dadswell to the Second Degree, and raising Brs. Smith, Carne, and Holden, to the Sublime Degree of Master Masons; after which, the Lodge voted one pound to the Building Fund of the Royal Benevolent Institution; several propositions for new members were made, and some other business of the Lodge having been gone through, it was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to partake of a very excellent banquet, after which the usual Masonic toasts were proposed and heartily responded to. The W.M. (Br. G. M. Gurton) then proposed "The Visitors," when Br. Dix (19), Br. Frampton, (211), and Br. Thomas Hill (356), each returned thanks, and expressed their gratification in visiting this Lodge, and the admirable manner the business of the same was conducted. The W.M. then proposed the health of Br. the Rev. J. W. Laughlin (Chaplain to the Lodge), and in doing so, expressed the great pleasure it gave him at seeing Br. Laughlin remaining at the banquet (which was the first time since his initiation), to give him and the rest of the Brethren an opportunity of drinking to his good health. The Rev. Brother, in returning thanks, expressed his gratification of the step he had taken in seeking admission into the ancient and honorable body of Masons. The son of a P.M., he had always heard his father say, that to be a good Mason, one must be a good man, and his own observations led him to see and feel the truth of that remark, but he begged to say to his brethren, that in order to recommend Masonry to the external world, they must not fancy it to consist merely in attending the Lodge and seeing Initiations, Passings and Raisings, or even in witnessing that display of brotherly love, so evident at the banquet which succeeds; they must study Masonry, and they will see that it is as old as the creation; "that wherever 'light' existed, there Masonry was to be found, and wherever Masonry existed, there was 'light.'" One of its most admirable features, is its avoidance of political and religious warfare, so that the true Mason is ever a quiet citizen; and whatever be his political opinions, he creates no evil commotion, but where he cannot approve, he is at least silent and peaceful. As brotherly love is the doctrine which it is his (the chaplain's) mission to preach, so he rejoices to see the development of it, which Masonry affords, and which must recommend it to the world, if carried out in its integrity. He begged to thank the W.M., and the rest of

brethren for the compliment paid him, and to add, the great pleasure it gave him in witnessing the brotherly love and cordiality which existed amongst the members of this Lodge, and he hoped to be with them to witness the same for many years to come. Several other toasts having been proposed and responded to, the brethren retired.

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Saturday, April 14, Br. Webber, W.M., presiding. Three brethren having been raised to the third degree, a ballot was taken for Master for the ensuing year, which unanimously fell upon our highly esteemed Br. Chas. Russell Harrison. Br. Lewis Houghton, than whom none can better fill the office, nor be more highly respected in the Lodge, was also unanimously re-elected Treasurer. At the close of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and a variety of toasts and songs very pleasantly wiled away an hour or two. Br. P.M. Bohn, of No. 7, returned thanks for the visitors, and expressed his gratification at observing the flourishing state of the Lodge, and the excellence of the work—and Br. Jacob Beular, by his comic singing added much to the general enjoyment.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season of 1854-5, on Monday, the 9th of April, when Br. Adams, the W.M., initiated a candidate into the Order, and afterwards worked the first and second sections of the first lecture. It having been resolved to hold a summer festival in the course of six weeks or two months the Lodge was adjourned until October next, unless indeed the pressure of business, which is very probable under the presidency of so energetic a Master as Br. Adams, should render emergency meetings necessary. The Brethren afterwards supped together, and to those who know the Lodge and the worthy host, Br. Ireland, we need not say spent a very pleasant evening.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE (No. 229).—The brethren of this Lodge, assembled at the London Coffee House, on Tuesday the 17th April. The members present were as usual, excepting the Treasurer, Br. Foster White, who was absent from illness, which was announced as progressing favourably. The W.M. Br. Randall, proceeded with the business in his usual practical manner. The Girls' School Festival was the engrossing subject, and we have reason to think will be well attended on this occasion; the Steward, Br. Watson, having exerted himself on behalf of the Charity, very much. But little more than the ordinary business was transacted, and the Lodge separated with every satisfaction and harmony.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Wednesday, the 4th April. Br. Lewis Crombie, W.M., presiding, a duly qualified brother was raised to the third degree. At the conclusion of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, the visitors present being:—Br. E. L. Bellinger, W.M., No. 82; Br. Anderson, and Br. F. Crew. In the course of the evening Br. Crew most ably advocated the cause of the Masonic charities, and sung a number of songs as he only can sing them. It would be a curious statistical problem to ascertain how many brethren have been induced to visit the festival of the Girls' School, and other charities by Br. Crew's winning eloquence and exquisite singing, and how many guineas they are the richer in consequence of such visits. We should be inclined to think that the result would be found to weigh down the balance against the salary which he so well earns as Secretary of the Girls' School a position for which no brother could be better fitted. May his shadow never grow less.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The members of this Lodge met on Friday, the 20th ult., at the Freemasons Tavern, Br. Spooner, W.M. presiding; when Br. Robinson was raised to the third degree, and Major E. W. Chichely Plowden, was initiated into Masonry. In proposing the health of the initiated brother, the W.M. took the opportunity of alluding to his early departure for the seat of war. In reply, Br. Plowden, in an eloquent and characteristic address, expressed his acknowledgments to the brethren for their good wishes; and the remainder of the evening passed in the enjoyment of every social and Masonic feeling.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at Br. Rackshaw's, Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday, April 10th. The W.M., Br. Cooper, raised two brethren (Br. Waterhouse and Cowdrey), to the third degree,

passed Br. Waterhouse, jun., to the second degree, and initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Masonry, in a manner highly creditable to himself and his officers. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren proceeded to partake of an excellent banquet. After the usual Masonic toasts the W.M. proposed the health of the visitors, Brs. Fox, P.M. 25; Caldwell, 25; Turner, W.M. 53; Crawley, P.M. 103; Kardel, I.G. 165, and several others. The W.M. stated that he had had the pleasure of being acquainted with the majority of the visitors for a number of years, and expressed the great satisfaction felt by the Lodge and himself in seeing them at their meeting. Br. Turner in returning thanks for the visitors, expressed the pleasure they all experienced in observing the ability and unanimity with which the business was conducted. The W.M. then proposed the health of the newly initiated brother, thanking him for his selection of this Lodge, and trusting that he would duly appreciate the principles inculcated in Masonry. The newly initiated brother in return, expressed much delight in being received into the Order, and stated that as long as he lived he would do his best to support it. Br. Tilt, P.M., in proposing to the health of the W.M., thanked him on behalf of the Lodge, for the kindness he at all times displayed as well as his great ability in discharging the duties of his office. The W.M. returned thanks, and stated that he had gone through all the various offices, and whether in the chair or amongst the Past Masters, as long as he lived, it should be his study to render every assistance in his power to the Lodge. In proposing the health of the Past Masters, he thanked them severally for their support, and for the valuable service they had each rendered to the Lodge. The Past Masters having returned thanks, the W.M. expressed his obligations to his officers for the able manner they discharged their duties. Br. Carter, S.W., after stating the readiness of the officers at all times to support the W.M., begged to call the attention of the brethren to the United Strength Lodge of Instruction, lately held at the Stafford Arms, and proposed that it be removed to Br. Lloyds, Enterprise Tavern, corner of Endell Street and Long Acre, which was unanimously agreed to. The health of Jerome Buonaparte, Grand Master of France, in connection with French Masons, was next proposed by a brother, who stated, that during his travels in that country he had always met with the greatest kindness, and truly Masonic feeling. The toast was greeted by the brethren with the greatest enthusiasm.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—The brethren of this Lodge, held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday the 2nd inst., under the able presidency of Br. Blair, W.M., who initiated two gentlemen into the Order, and passed a brother to the second degree. On the motion of the Treasurer, Br. Rouse, the sum of £2 was unanimously voted to the fund for defraying the debt on the building of the Croydon Asylum. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment. Amongst the visitors we observed Brs. Binckes, No. 11; Rebbeck, No. 23, and Fielding, No. 25, the latter of whom contributed by his excellent singing not a little to the harmony of the evening.

UNITED PILGRIMS LODGE (No. 745).—This Lodge is going to have a Masonic ball in aid of the Benevolent Fund attached to it. The ball will take place on Monday the 7th May next, at the Manor House Rooms, Walworth. Br. Adams is engaged, with his celebrated quadrille band, to enliven the scene, and Br. P. Moss acts as the M.C. The Stewards, upwards of twenty in number, are determined, with the assistance of the Craft generally, to spare no pains in making the evening pass off agreeably to all that may patronize them on the occasion. The Lodge met on Wednesday, 28th March, for the first time in its new quarters, the Manor House Tavern, Walworth, when Br. D. Farmer was installed in ancient form as W.M. for the year, the ceremony being efficiently performed by Br. J. Thomas, P.M. of the Lodge. This done, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follows:—Brs. J. R. Warren, S.W.; Neats, J.W.; C. Ellis, S.D.; Josh. Warren, J.D.; Batley, I.G.; Mackintosh, Steward; Wood, Treasurer; and Angus, Secretary. The W.M. then initiated Mr. W. W. Wale (the proprietor of the tavern), and Mr. J. Harrop into the Order; passed two brethren to the second degree, and raised one to the third degree. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren, to the number of thirty-four, adjourned to banquet, which was served in excellent style, the whole of

the arrangements auguring well as to the desire of Br. Wale to do all in his power to promote the comfort of the brethren. Br. T. A. Adams, P.M., No. 196, returned thanks on behalf of the visitors, among whom we noticed Brs. Drysdal, P.M., No. 253; W. Walkley, W.M., No. 367; Ireland, W.M., No. 805; Morris, P.M., No. 103; Slee, No. 11; Binkes, S.W., No. 11; J. W. Ward, No. 12; Reach, No. 25; and H. Garrod, No. 206. [We ought to observe that no notice of removal was given to us. If Masters or Secretaries will not pay us that courtesy, it is impossible to keep our list of Masonic appointments correct.—Ed.]

BEADON LODGE (No. 902).—An Emergency Meeting of this Lodge was held at Br. Adams', Star and Garter Tavern, Kew, on Wednesday, April 4, when two candidates were duly initiated into the Order, by Br. Watson, W.M., and a brother having gone through the necessary examination, passed to the second degree. The newly initiated Br. Kingshote is the worthy host of the Railway Inn, Isleworth, a house much resorted to by brethren resident in that district.

ROYAL ARCH.

ROYAL YORK CHAPTER (No. 7).—The members of this flourishing Chapter, held a convocation on Tuesday, the 24th April, when Comp. A. A. Le Veau was most ably installed into the first principals chair, by Comp. John Hervey, M.E.Z. Two brethren were afterwards exalted into the Royal Arch. All business being ended, upwards of 40 of the companions dined together, and spent a very pleasant evening.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—On Tuesday, 17th April, the Companions of the Chapter met at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, to elect the officers for the ensuing year, and Exalt Br. Levinson and Comp. Joseph Smith was elected Z.; Comp. Cooper, H.; Comp. Potter, J.; and Comp. Daly, P.S. Comp. Andrew exalted Br. Levinson with his usual ability, and, after the close of business, the Companions sat down to an excellent supper, and separated early.

DOMATIC CHAPTER (No. 206).—A Convocation of this Chapter was held at Comp. Ireland's, Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane, on the 26th April, when Br. Odell was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. The installation of officers for the year then took place. Comp. Sigrist, assisted by Comp. Blackburn, installed Comp. Clark, Z.; Comp. Buss, H.; and Comp. T. A. Adams, J. On the motion of Comp. Child, seconded by Comp. T. A. Adams, it was resolved that Comp. Selig should be presented with a jewel, for the very able manner in which he had presided over the Chapter during his year of office. All business being ended the Comps. adjourned to a very elegant supper, and spent an evening of unalloyed enjoyment in the interchange of those courtesies and amenities which so much distinguish the order.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—This Chapter held its monthly meeting, on Tuesday, the 10th ult., at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, when Comp. Scambler was duly installed Z.; Comp. Thomson, H.; and Comp. Sheen, J. Br. Rip-pin, No. 196, was exalted to the sublime degree of the Royal Arch. The companions then retired to refreshment, and the evening was spent in perfect harmony and true Masonic feeling. The visitors present were Comps. Muggerridge, Z., 13; Mallalieu, P.Z., formerly of this Chapter; Levinson, 7; Beular, 593. The members also met, according to summons, to a Chapter of Emergency at the same place, on Wednesday, the 18th ult., when Brs. Joseph Henry, and Levy, jun., were exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. The Chapter was then adjourned (E E) to the second Tuesday in October; after which the companions retired to refreshment, and, after having passed a pleasant evening, parted at an early hour. The visiting Comps. present were Comps. Solomons and Ely, both of 223.

POLISH NATIONAL CHAPTER (No. 788).—The April convocation of this Chapter was held at the Freemason's Tavern, on the 26th, to elect the officers for the ensuing year. The election for principals fell upon Comp. James Wilder Adams, as Z.; Comp. Henry, Geo. Warren, as H.; and Comp. Mickalski (who has already filled all the offices in the Chapter with distinguished honour to himself and advantage to the Comps.), as J. A duly qualified brother was afterwards exalted into the Arch. The Comps. subsequently supped together, and having spent a pleasant evening, adjourned until the last Thursday in October.

INSTRUCTION.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—This Lodge of Instruction had its Annual Supper at Br. Testar's, Union Tavern, Marylebone Street, on Thursday evening, March 29, Br. Rackstraw, P.M., 9, W.M.; and Br. Watson, P.M., 25, S.W. Forty-one brethren were present, and a most delightful and harmonious evening was spent. After the usual Masonic toasts were given, prosperity to our various Lodges was responded to by different brethren. The evening was farther enlivened by the excellent singing of Brs. Cogan, Bennett, Tyrrell, and the particularly quaint harmony of Br. Goring; the banquet was most ably carried out by Br. Testar, and the brethren separated long before chanticleer was awakened. This Lodge of Instruction, with the very small fee for each attendance, contributed during the season £3 each to the old mens' and widows' annuities; also 21s. to the boys' and girls' schools.

KENT LODGE (No. 15).—The members of this excellent working Lodge of Instruction held their usual weekly meeting on Friday, the 13th ult., at the Halfway House, Webber Street, Blackfriars. After the usual business of the Lodge, which is at all times admirably conducted, and reflects the highest credit upon the members generally, for the very efficient manner in which the ceremonies and lectures are given, the following sums were voted from the Funds to the under-mentioned Masonic Charities:—to the Annuity Fund, £2 2s.; to the Widows Fund, £1 1s.; to the Boys School, £1 1s.; to the Girls School, £1 1s.; to the Building Fund for the Almshouses at Croydon, £1 1s.; to the Building Fund for the Boys School, £1 1s.; Total £7 7s.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—The brethren of this Lodge of Instruction celebrated their annual festival on Monday evening, the 2nd ult., at Br. Morbey's, Sun Tavern, Long Acre, on which occasion Br. Wm. Carpenter, P.M., of the Domestic Lodge, No. 206, most ably fulfilled the duties of chairman, supported by Br. John Webber, W.M. of the Phoenix Lodge, No. 202, who, with equal ability, acted as vice-chairman. The evening was most pleasantly spent, the only subject of regret being, that when the toast of the parent Lodge was proposed, there was no one to reply to it but the Tyler, Br. Bradley, a worthy Mason, esteemed and respected by all who know him, but scarcely the proper representative of the Mother Lodge on such an occasion.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—This Lodge of Instruction has just been re-established in a district where one was much wanted, Walworth. The first meeting for the season was held on Wednesday, April 4, at the Queen Elizabeth, King's-row, Camberwell-gate. Br. T. A. Adams, W.M., 206, and P.M., 196, presided on the occasion, and was efficiently supported by Brs. T. Thomas, P.M., 745, as P.M.; Dr. Farmer, 745, as S.W.; Josh. Warren, S.W., 745, as J.W.; Hill, P.M., 212, S.D.; Oddey, 206, J.D.; Garrod, 206, I.G.; Ireland, W.M., 805, Sec. The ceremony of initiation, and the seven sections of the first lecture were ably worked, at the conclusion of which the brethren separated, evidently pleased with the success of the evening's labours. This Lodge of Instruction will meet every succeeding Wednesday evening, at eight o'clock, and we can conscientiously recommend every brother who seeks to make a progress in Masonic science, to attend as often as possible. The accommodation is ample, the room spacious and comfortable, and the whole of the arrangements being under the superintendence of Br. Ireland, the respected host of the Masonic Hall, in Fetter-lane; nothing more need be said in its recommendation.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—This Lodge will to-morrow, present a handsome testimonial to Br. Bywater, in acknowledgment of his valuable services.

STABILITY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION (No. 264).—On the evening of the 27th ult., the anniversary festival of this excellent Lodge of Instruction was held at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge Street, and was attended by about 150 of the brethren, among whom Br. Havers, P.G.D.; Br. Potter, P.G.D.; Br. John Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. Evans, P.G.S.B.; Br. Masson, P.G.S.B.; Br. Patten, P.G.S.B.; Br. Biggs, P.G.S.B.; Br. Massey Dawson, Br. John Dennison, Br. Donald King, &c. Br. Muggerridge

occupied the Master's chair and directed the working of the Lodge which consisted of the sections of the first lecture. These were given with beautiful precision, and elicited the warmest applause from all the visiting brethren. A sum of £5 5s. was voted to the Girls' School, the same amount to the Widows' Fund, two guineas to the Boys' Institution, and a like sum to the Annuity Fund. The Lodge having been closed for the season, adjourned to the first Friday in September. The brethren sat down to an excellent supper, over which Br. Havers, P.G.D., presided with great ability. The cloth having been removed and Grace having been said. The Chairman gave the "Queen and Craft" a toast which was received with all the masonic honors. The Chairman then said that, in proposing to them the next toast, he was aware that he was in some degree departing from Masonic precedent, but he was sure that ere he was done he would strike a chord which would meet with a generous response in the heart of each one present. As Masons, they were men of peace; but they were also patriots, and he was sure that when they bore in mind the present situation of our troops in the East, and that there were both in the Army and Navy some of the brightest ornaments of Masonry, they would feel no reluctance to drink the toast he was about to propose to them. Whether they contemplated the bravery of the British soldier storming the heights of Alma, sustaining the attack on Inkermann, and participating in the glorious charge of Balaklava, or bearing without a murmur the dreadful horrors of sickness, exposure, and disease, they would find him equally entitled to their admiration, for it was impossible in the whole range of history to point to anything to equal such bravery and such endurance. They should not, then, forget their soldiers and sailors on an occasion like the present. Two members of his own Lodge were among them in the Crimea, and it might be that there were those present knew other brethren similarly situated, and nobly doing their country's service. With these remarks, he would give them "The Army and Navy," wishing them a speedy victory. The toast having been received with enthusiasm, Br. Donald King sang in admirable style the popular song, "the Queen's Letter." In proposing the next toast, "the health of the Earl of Zetland," the M.W.G.M. the Chairman, said that they had now for the twelfth time elected him to the high office of G.M., a proof of the respect entertained towards him by the Craft. Coming from a good old Masonic stock, he felt the greatest interest in Masonry and was as accessible to the humblest Mason in the Craft as to the highest in the land. Next followed the health of the "Earl of Yarborough and of the other Grand Officers," in proposing which the Chairman observed that to any one acquainted with the noble Lord's urbanity to all, but to Masons in particular, it would be unnecessary for him to say a single word in recommendation of that portion of the toast which related to him. Of the Grand Officers they had before them a goodly array, and it was with peculiar pleasure he saw so many of them present, for if there was one society more than another which their attendance could promote, it was the Lodge of Instruction meeting under the Lodge of Stability. Having highly complimented each of the Grand Officers present, he concluded by associating with the toast the name of "Br. Evans, P.G.S.B." The toasts having been duly honoured Br. Evans briefly expressed his acknowledgements of the compliment, after which the Chairman proceeded to give the toast of the evening, and in doing so said that if he thought any words of his could add dignity to the toast he would wish to be possessed of the eloquence of Demosthenes and to be able to speak in impressive tones. His duty, however, was but a simple one, being merely to propose a toast and in the list of toasts before him he saw none more worthy of their attention than "Prosperity to the Stability Lodge of Instruction." He believed from his heart that there existed in Masonry one of the kindest of bonds—a bond which bound them together as creatures willing to acknowledge their want and to pay due reverence to the Great Power of their Creator. It was necessary, he thought, that there should be some forms and observances in carrying out Masonry. Hence it was desirable that they should agree together on one form of ritual which they would adopt. It was, he knew, impossible that they could have any form which would be universally observed to the letter, but they could have an unity of principle of thought and of idea. He would, therefore, impress upon the younger brethren the policy of their trying to

follow out the ritual of that Lodge of Instruction to which he belonged. For himself, he would say that, having been instructed by their late worthy brother, Peter Thompson, he felt an attachment to the ritual in use in the Stability Lodge of Instruction. Having spoken of the Lodge, he now wished to turn to those who have helped in its working, and couple with the toast the name of him who had been their teacher in Freemasonry since the death of Peter Thompson. The zeal, the labour, the care, and the constant attention of Br. Muggeridge to the instruction of the Lodge deserved all the praise they could give him. He was quite sure that they would rejoice with him that, by his willingness to give up every Friday evening to Masonic instruction, and to be ever ready to prompt the learner, and to point out whatever might be amiss, he had well merited the high estimation in which they all held him. He, therefore, wished them to rise with him, and drink "prosperity to the Stability Lodge of Instruction, and long life and prosperity, and a great deal more the high honours which he had already attained in Masonry, to his esteemed friend, Br. Muggeridge." To this compliment Br. Muggeridge replied, and said that for many years past, both before and since the death of Peter Thompson, he had done every thing in his power to promote the usefulness of the Lodge, and if supported by the brethren in the manner in which they had already supported, he should continue to exert himself in the same manner. The Chairman then gave "the health of the brethren who had worked the sections of the lecture," and highly eulogized the manner of their working. This toast having been drunk and responded to, the Chairman said that as they had present a gentleman, Br. John Hervey, P.G.D., who was the representative of the rival Lodge of Instruction—the Lodge of Emulation,—he would now propose to them the health of that distinguished and popular Mason, who had lately received from that Lodge a mark of the high esteem in which its members held him. The company having drunk the toast, Br. Hervey briefly expressed his thanks for the honor which they had done him. Several other toasts followed, which were cordially received by the brethren, who expressed themselves gratified with all they had seen and participated in. It is but due to Br. Donald King and the other musical brethren to state that the musical arrangements gave the highest satisfaction to all present.

MARK MASONS.

THE BON ACCORD LODGE of Mark Masons meeting in London, without, ^{as} we are informed, any legal authority—though professing to do so under the G.C. of Scotland, assembled together at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 11th of April, when Lord Leigh was elected W.M. for the coming year. We trust his Lordship will make the necessary inquiries from the S.G.C. of Scotland, as to the *bona fides* of the Charter before allowing himself to be installed.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

BRISTOL.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—The annual Festival of this very useful Lodge was celebrated on Friday, March 23rd, at the Montague Tavern, Kingsdown, when upwards of fifty brethren partook of an excellent supper, prepared by the worthy host, Br. Ward, with his usual good taste. The chair was taken at eight o'clock p.m., by the president, W. H. Bowden, supported by the R.W.D.P.G.M., and other officers of the G.L. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, the president called on the brethren assembled to join him in drinking the health of the R.W.P.G.M., the R.W.D.P.G.M. and G.L. of Bristol. He regretted the unavoidable absence of their P.G.M., but congratulated them upon

having, on this occasion, the countenance and support of their greatly esteemed and talented Br. D. W. Nash, D.P.G.M., whose presence he felt to be a high compliment to himself and the Lodge of Instruction. The R.W.D.P.G.M., in rising to return thanks was received with enthusiasm. After reading a letter from the R.W.P.G.M., stating the reasons for, and much regretting, his inability to be present, he said, he felt it his duty and privilege to be amongst them on this occasion, and assured them he was at all times accessible to every member of the province, and felt great pleasure in giving them any assistance or advice they might require. This was the duty of one filling the high and distinguished position he had the honour to hold; and of which he was justly proud, but every member of the Order had also his duty to perform. Masonry, like every other institution, having a great end in view, required strict obedience to the laws by which it was governed; those laws were patent, and by them he should at all times regulate the business of his province. And, as it was the duty of the superior officers to enforce such lawful obedience, so it was the duty and privilege of those in a less exalted position, to assist them in keeping up harmony, good-fellowship, and fraternal feeling, by a proper observance of the duties they had to fulfil. He could point to many distinguished brethren in the province of Bristol, who had commenced their Masonic career in the Lodge of Instruction, and having there laid the foundation, had raised a superstructure alike honourable to themselves, and beneficial to their brethren. He could not, therefore, but at all times give his most cordial support to that Lodge, which he was glad to find was working steadily, and was well supported. The D.P.G.M. subsequently called upon the brethren to charge their glasses, as he was about to propose a toast, which, on such an occasion, might be considered the toast of the evening, namely, the health of their worthy president, Br. W. H. Bowden, whose zeal and energy in the cause of Masonry and its best interests, were well known to them all. He (the D.P.G.M.) attached great importance to Lodges of Instruction. Masonic Lodges met to carry out the three grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and to do this according to the ancient Masonic plan, it was necessary that the ceremonies, as well as all their other proceeding, should be conducted in strict conformity with those land-marks which our fore-fathers had handed down. The Lodge of instruction, however, not only afforded brethren the readiest means of acquiring such experience as it was only their *bounden duty* to acquire, before accepting any office to which they might be called, but it was here more especially that the Masonic lectures, which to his mind, contained much matter interesting and instructive alike to the historian and antiquarian, were given, and studied. These lectures, it was true, were sometimes heard in the regular Lodges, but it too frequently happened that the other onerous duties of the W.M., and prepare of necessary business, rendered it impossible to give them that attention they merited. In the Lodge of Instruction, it was otherwise; there the younger brethren especially would have ample opportunity of studying more closely the true principles of the Craft, and of admiring the beauty and symmetry of the design. Now, as to their president, they all knew him to be a zealous and good working Mason, ever at his post, and ever ready and willing to devote his services to the cause of Masonry. If proof were wanting to show the estimation in which he was held, and their appreciation of his ability, he would only refer to the fact, that for seven consecutive periods of thirteen weeks, he had been unanimously elected to fill the (he would say) very important office of President of the Lodge of Instruction. He, therefore, had much pleasure in proposing the health of their president, Br. W. H. Bowden. The president, having returned thanks in a brief speech, but replete with feeling, and several other toasts having been drunk, the brethren separated in perfect harmony, much pleased with the evenings entertainment.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

SCIENTIFIC LODGE, CAMBRIDGE (No. 105).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Monday, April 9, at Br. Mitchell's, the Lion Hotel, in the Petty Cury. The business consisted of three initiations and one raising, the ceremonies being most efficiently performed by the W.M., Br. A. R. Ward. Too much cannot be said of the manner in which the whole of the business of the evening was carried out. A

most excellent supper was served for the refreshment of the brethren, about twenty-five in number, after the labours of the evening. The only visitor was Br. Binckes, S.W. (No. 11), who, in returning thanks for the toast of which he was the subject, passed a well-deserved eulogium on the W.M. and his officers, for the style in which the ceremonies had been worked, expressing his gratification at the truly kind and hospitable reception he, a total stranger, had met with, and assuring the brethren generally that amongst the most treasured of his Masonic reminiscences would be the occasion of this, his first visit to the Scientific Lodge.

DERBYSHIRE.

ROYAL SUSSEX LODGE REPTON (No. 446).—At a meeting of this Lodge on Monday, April 2nd, Mr. Walter Norton Evans, of Swadlincote, near Burton-on-Trent, son of Br. S. N. Evans, P.M. of 769, was initiated into Freemasonry, by his father in a most impressive manner. A dispensation was obtained for the purpose, he being a Lewis. Among the visitors were Brs. Stewart, W.M. (769), Wolverhampton; S. Henchly, jun., W.M. (315); and Haywood (75), Manchester. An excellent supper was provided by Br. Somers, of the Masonic Tavern, and the brethren were amused by the harmony of Brs. Smith, Evans, Henchley, Peach, Allen, &c. The Lodge is progressing favourably under the auspices of the W.M. Br. George Mason, and his Wardens, Brs. W. Allen and W. Prince.

DEVONSHIRE.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 4th April. The minutes of the previous Lodge having been confirmed, the W.M. Br. Gambell, read a communication from Br. White, Grand Secretary, calling attention to the want of funds for the completion of the Aged Freemasons' Asylum; and, in accordance with the request therein contained, it was resolved that the sum of £1 be contributed. A gentleman who had been previously ballotted for, and unanimously approved of, was then initiated into the Order, by Br. Pollard, P.M., P.P.G.T., after which ceremony, the Lodge being closed, the brethren retired to refreshment.

DURHAM.

ST. HELEN'S LODGE, HARTLEPOOL (No. 774).—The members of this Lodge have obtained leave from the P.G.M. for Durham, to change their days of meeting from the 1st and 3rd Fridays to the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, in each month, commencing from Thursday, the 5th April past.

LANCASHIRE—(EAST DIVISION).

KEYSTONE LODGE, FACIT (No. 469).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on the 4th April, at the Bay Horse Inn, at 7 o'clock, P.M. The W.M. Br. A. Shackleton presiding. The Lodge was opened in due form, on the three degrees, and when closed to the first degree, Mr. Edward Law was proposed as a fit and proper person to be admitted to the mysteries of Masonry. Afterwards, the brethren ably worked a portion of the sections of the first degree. There being no other business the Lodge was closed finally in due form, and with prayer, at half-past 9 o'clock. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, and after spending a couple of hours in harmony, retired to their respective homes.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKBURN (No. 336).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Angel Inn, on the 13th [April, in consequence of the previous Friday being Good Friday. After the Lodge had been duly opened, Br. John Nevill Haworth, was elected and initiated in a most impressive manner, by Br. Whewell, assisted by Br. Stocks, P.M., as S.W.; and Br. Yates, P.P.G.S., as J.W. After the ceremony, the brethren present partook of an excellent supper, provided by the worthy hostess, Mrs. Pemberton, and spent the evening most agreeably, and in a truly Masonic manner. It is worthy of remark, that although Br. Whewell is a young Mason, he has attained remarkable proficiency in the Masonic art, and promises to attain to much eminence in the Craft.

OXFORD.

A grand Masonic festival is to open in Oxford, on Monday, the 7th instant. At 12 o'clock upon that day, the Churchill Lodge is to meet, when the Rev. J. J. Sidebotham will be installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, and, at 7 p.m., the companions of the Alfred Chapter hold a convocation for the exaltation of brethren into the Royal Arch. Rumour states, that on the same evening, Br. Ald. Spiers, (the late Mayor), P.G.S.B., is to invite a party of his Masonic brethren to meet the new P.G.M., Br. John Atkins Bowyer, and his friends, at his house. On the following morning, it is also rumoured, that the P.G.M. will entertain his friends and the brethren visiting Oxford, at breakfast, prior to proceeding to the Provincial Grand Lodge, which is to open at twelve o'clock, when the new G.M. will be installed. And at half-past five o'clock, the brethren will meet at a grand banquet, at the town hall, in honour of the event. On the Wednesday, the annual festival of the encampment of Coeur-de-lion will take place. Candidates are to be installed at three, and the banquet is to be on table at five.

SOUTH WALES—WESTERN DIVISION.

ST. PETER'S LODGE, CARMARTHEN, (No. 669).—The *nucleus* for a testimonial to our worthy Br. Ribbans, the Treasurer of this Lodge, has just been laid by the unanimous vote of the Lodge, of five guineas from their funds, for the purpose of presenting some useful present in token of remembrance of the many benefits conferred on Masonry in general through the exertions of Br. Ribbans. We shall be happy to enrol the names of those who contribute in the pages of the "Masonic Mirror."

STAFFORDSHIRE.

LODGE OF ST. MATTHEW, WALSALL (No. 786).—The annual festival of this Lodge took place on the 4th April, at St. Matthew's Hall, on which occasion Br. John Wood installed his successor, Br. Frank James, who appointed the following brethren officers, viz. :—Brs. E. Jeavons, S.W. ; F. A. Edwards, J.W. ; W. Tolbey, Treas. ; Thomas James, P.M. Sec. ; Aldxander Brogden, S.D. ; James Douglas, J.D. ; Rev. James Dowries, Chaplain ; George Morley, I.G. ; Dr. Burton, P.M., D. of Cer. ; M. Cozens, and John Fairfield, Stewards. A handsome P.M.'s jewel was presented to Br. Wood. After the business of the Lodge was concluded, the brethren retired to a banquet, and devoted the remainder of the evening to social harmony and brotherly love.

WARWICKSHIRE.

FIRST LODGE OF LIGHT, BIRMINGHAM (No. 689).—The Brethren of this Lodge met at the Royal Hotel, on Tuesday, the 17th of April, when the Rev. Hamilton Lowry and another candidate were duly initiated into the Order. The W.M. and Treasurer for the ensuing year were then elected, but the Secretary has not as yet forwarded to us their names.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE, DUDLEY (No. 838).—Br. A. Patterson, the much-respected host of the Swan Inn, being about to leave in consequence of his premises having been purchased by the Board of Health for town improvements, the above numerous and highly respectable Lodge have determined to remove to the house of Br. Evan Roberts, Saracen's Head, Stone-street, that gentleman having promised to enlarge his house for their accommodation.

YORKSHIRE.—(WEST RIDING).

LODGE OF THREE GRAND PRINCIPLES, DEWSBURY (No. 251).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting in the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 29th March, when the W.M., Br. R. R. Nelson passed a brother to the second degree. Certain alterations in the bye-laws, suggested by the W.D.P.G.M., were agreed to. The quarterly communication, convoking a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire, to be holden at Huddersfield, on the 11th April, was read, when W. Br. J. O. Gill, P.M. and P.G.P., was unanimously elected to represent the Lodge on the ritual

committee of the province, for the ensuing year. The W.M. read to the brethren a circular he had received from Br. White, G.S., requesting subscriptions to pay off the debt on the Asylum at Croydon, for Aged Freemasons and Widows. It was unanimously resolved that a donation of £1 be granted from the funds of the Lodge, for this Masonic purpose, which sum the Treasurer, Br. G. Fearnley, M.D. P.M. and P.P.S.G.W. was requested to forward; and, also, the annual subscription of the Lodge of £2 to the Girls' School, and of £1 to the Boys' School.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS.

LANCASHIRE.—WEST DIVISION.

LIVERPOOL.—On the 16th of March, an encampment of Jacques de Molay was held at the Adelphi Hotel, when the Sir Knights present proceeded to elect Sir Knt. H. S. Alpass as E.C. for the ensuing year. Two companions of the Royal Arch were then installed Sir Knts., and the encampment closed. The members of the encampment afterwards dined at the Adelphi Hotel.

JERUSALEM ENCAMPMENT, MANCHESTER (No. 9).—On Friday, April 13th, 1855, the Provincial Grand Commander for Lancashire, the E. F. Matthew Dawes, installed Sir Knt. J. A. Hahnel, as E.C. of the above encampment for the ensuing year. The principal offices being distributed as follows:—Sir Knt. Richard Wood, Prelate; Chas. Ellis, 1st Capt.; Stephen Smith, 2nd Capt.; Lyons Wright, Export; Charles Clay, P.E.C. and Treasurer, Newton Bentley, Reg., &c. Afterwards the Sir Knt. sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by Bro. Halsey, of the Waterloo Hotel, and with the usual loyal and Masonic toasts concluded a very pleasant evening. We may mention that the care which is manifested in the working of this encampment which is the oldest in the district, is highly creditable to the officers.

SCOTLAND.

BANFFSHIRE.

Although it is far from our desire to enter into Masonic disputes, the more especially between the Grand Lodge of a country and subsidiary Lodges, yet we feel compelled to publish the following, in hopes that it may lead the way to the healing of a most unfortunate breach between the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Masons of Banff. A little concession, perhaps, on either side may be all that is required to bring the one again into friendly connexion with the other. At the same time, we must admit that we are somewhat astonished to find a claim set up for a divided authority between the S.G.R.A.C. and the G.L.; surely the former cannot acknowledge what the latter repudiates? We shall be glad to receive an explanation upon this subject from some competent authority, and trust that we shall then never have cause again to allude to the subject, until we have the pleasure of announcing that all differences are adjusted, and that every Freemason in Scotland acknowledges one and the same head.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR.—With reference to the paragraph that appeared in your last number of the "Mirror," regarding the position the St. Andrew's and St. John's Mason Lodges in this place, occupy with the Grand Lodge of Scotland, I would premise in regard to St. Andrew's, that that Lodge has been in existence for upwards of 150 years, and in reference to St. John's Operative, and St. John's R. A. Chapter, that they have existed over 91 years. I shall now state briefly how it happened that the St. John's Lodge is in the anomalous position, if such it can be called, in regard to the Grand Lodge. In the year 1830, a faction rose up among

us, bent upon a dissolution and division of the funds, which was strenuously opposed by another portion of the members, who, being good Masons and true, were determined to keep up the Lodge, and preserve the funds inviolate for their original ends and purposes—this state of matters went on till the year 1847, at which time the conservative party prevailed, and were in office, and the Lodge and its officers were beginning to recover from the effects of the schism that had so long prevailed. At that time an intimation was received from the G. Lodge Secretary, stating that St. John's Lodge was considerably in arrears for annual certificates, and fees for recording in G.L. Books, the names of Entrants—in replying to this intimation, the very peculiar position in which the Lodge had been placed for a long series of years, was brought before the G.L.—that we were by no means aware, nor had we any opportunity of knowing that such sums were due, especially as having come under the Friendly Society Act, we were precluded from touching for such a purpose our funds—that our Lodge at one time numbered about 800 members, but at that time it only mustered about 50 paying members, while we had over 100 decayed and superannuated members, widows &c., and we hoped in the circumstances they would accept of a composition—we were however told that a composition could not be entertained. On this last communication being laid before a meeting, it was resolved in order to satisfy the demands of the G.L., the amount be raised by the members, and that notice by the Secretary be made to Grand Lodge, that their claims would be satisfied. No sooner, however, did the Grand Lodge officials see that the demands already made upon us were to be paid, than proceedings of a most extraordinary kind, most unfeeling in the circumstances, and of a very unmasonic nature, were intimated as about to be taken—nothing less than an intimation that our Lodge had been struck off their Roll! and to forthwith send to them our Charter Books, &c., with a petition craving to be re-proved. This we absolutely and positively refused to do, as these documents shew or form the foundation for shewing the large sums that have, first and last, been paid from our Lodge, its funds and off-shoots of which there were no less than seven branches in and around this place.

In regard to the statement in the "Mirror," that our Members cannot obtain Diplomas from the Grand Lodge, the assertion is surely gratuitous, as there are still three-fourths of them for whom the Grand Lodge officials were paid fees for entering their names in their Register, and as a matter of course are entitled to a Diploma in a proper certified demand.

I speak truly in saying that the Lodges in this place have done a great deal for Masonry, kept its light burning in its purest splendour through years of difficulty and trouble. Should any of the members of the Grand Lodge come this way, we would be ready to shew them the true light of Masonry; and for the rest we shall refer all real Masons to our present Masonic Head, the Supreme R.A.C. of Scotland, who were recently visited by some of our newly exalted Brethren, as well as elder Fellows, and have shewn them true Masonic kindness and feeling.

Yours fraternally,

Banff, April 24, 1855.

JAMES MASON, R.W.M.

MASONIC PRESENTATION.—In consequence of the long and valuable services rendered to the St. Andrew and St. John's Masonic Lodges of Banff, by Br. Adam Mason, it was resolved to present him with some tangible mark of respect and token of regard for such services to the Craft. The Committee of Subscribers considered that in the circumstances a jewel would be a thing the most appropriate, and which Br. Black, jeweller, in this place, was requested to furnish. On the evening of the 20th inst., the brethren of both Lodges met in St. John's Hall, on which occasion Br. Rust, of St. Andrews, in a neat and humorous speech, and in the name of the numerous subscribers, presented to Br. Mason a very handsome gold jewel, having on one side various Masonic representations, and on the other the following inscription:—"Presented to Br. Adam Mason, for his invaluable services towards the Craft, for upwards of fifty years." Br. Mason replied to the honour in suitable terms. We may add that the Hon. G.M. of St. Andrews Lodge, the Earl of Fife, was a liberal subscriber.

GLASGOW.

The Lodge St. Mark, Glasgow, held their annual festival in their unique hall, Buchanan-street, on the evening of the 25th of April, the feast day of their titular saint, when about eighty of the Craft sat down to dinner, under the able presidency of their respected R.W.M., W. H. Huggins, Esq., of Craigton. The entertainment was of the most recherche description, and the pleasure it gave was much enhanced by the presence of many and highly illustrious visiting brethren. Amongst these we may name Brs. John Whyte Melville, Esq., of Mount Melville and Bamody, D.G.M. of Scotland; W. A. Laurie, Esq., W.S.R.W.G.S.; J. L. Woodman, Esq., C.S.R.W.G.C.; John Deuchar, Esq., of Morningside, V.W.G. Bible Bearer: John Boyle Gray, Esq., Kilwinning, P.G.M. of Ayrshire; G. A. Walker Arnott, Esq., of Arlary, L.L.D., Sub P.G.M., of Glasgow, &c.; also deputations from the Mother Kilwinning Lodge, the Lodge of Glasgow, St. John, the Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge, and the Greenock St. John's Lodge, No. 175; the officers of the Duke of Lancaster's own rifle regiment, and numerous others. After spending a very happy evening, enlivened by the spirit-stirring strains of melody from Brs. McClure and Julia Adams, the brethren separated, happy that they had met, sorry to part, and happy in the hope of meeting again.

ST. MARK'S LODGE (No. 102).—At the monthly meeting held on the 5th March, Br. Donald Campbell, D.M. in the chair, Br. Hughes, S.W., and Br. Elder, J.W., other office bearers and brethren inter alia, the R.W.M. officiating, read a circular from Br. J. Lianing Woodman, Clerk G.L. of Scotland, intimating the suspension of St. Stephen's Lodge, Edinburgh, No. 145, from Masonic privileges, and requesting Daughter Lodges and the brethren generally, to give effect thereto. A Committee of the office bearers, and P.M. Br. James Miller, and Br. William Murray, were, on a motion to that effect, appointed to carry out the preliminaries to the annual festival. Br. Murray read an interesting paper on "The Manners and Customs of the Highlanders of Scotland," which was well received by the meeting; and Br. Murray intimated that next monthly meeting, he would read the concluding portion of the Essay. The J.W. exercised the powers of his office, and after refreshment the Lodge was formally closed. On Monday, 12th March, at an Emergency meeting, presided over by Br. D. Campbell, D.M., the S.W., and acting J.W. Br. John McGaan, present, also the S.M., other office bearers, and a large attendance of brethren. The Secretary read last minute, which was approved of, the officiating R.W.M. read applications for admission to the mysteries of the Order, from four gentlemen, who, being all found properly recommended, &c., were initiated in the apprentice degree. Instructors were appointed to these apprentices. Brs. Carl Formes, Otto Gregor, Hubert Formes, and Guiseppe Cognà, all artists of the Italian Opera, then sojourning in the city, were affiliated, and were each presented with the jewel of the Lodge, in *propria forma*, by the R.W.M. The brethren having harmonized in the light, for a short period, and the meeting terminated. On the 19th March, a Bi-Monthly meeting was held. Present, D.M. Br. Campbell, in the chair, the S.W. and acting J.W. Br. James Horne, other officers, and a full attendance of members of this and other Lodges. The minutes of previous meeting were read, and a circular from the Glasgow Kilwinning, No. 4, inviting a deputation of the members of this Lodge, to their 120th anniversary, was laid before the brethren, several of whom agreed to attend. On the motion of the R.W.M., Br. A. Reichardt, of the Italian Opera, was affiliated and presented with the jewel of the Lodge. Brs. Jamieson St. Clair Nicholson, W. D. Sellar, Wm. Franklin, and Robert Cogan, having served a lawful apprenticeship, were passed to the degree of Fellow-craft. Br. Julian Adams, delighted the brethren with his beautiful execution of music on the concertino. On Tuesday, 20th March, Br. Donald Campbell, D.M. in the chair, the S.W. and acting J.W., and others. The minutes were approved of, and the applications for admission of Messrs. John Macadam, M.D., and Alexander McDowall, M.D., being found properly recommended, these candidates were initiated apprentices, and had instructors appointed to them; and after refreshment and the usual ceremonies, the Lodge was declared closed. On the evening of Monday, the 26th March, the members assembled, there being present Br. D. Campbell, officiating R.W.M., both Wardens,

and a large number of brethren. The minutes were read by the Secretary, and approved of. And petitions for admission from Messrs. Charles Scott, and David Houston, were considered by the meeting. These applications being found well recommended, and the candidates otherwise eligible, they were initiated, and instructors were nominated to them. Br. Friend, of the Glasgow Kilwinning, No. 4, was affiliated. Br. Campbell, read a circular, inviting a deputation of this Lodge to the Annual Festival of the Edinburgh Lodges. Brs. Wm. Liddell, Alexander A. McDowall, John Macadam, and A. Vauvert de Meaw, were (on a motion duly proposed, seconded and carried, and on account of Br. Macadam having to leave this country in a few days) passed to the Fellow-craft degree.

ROYAL ARCH.—The Glasgow Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, met on the 2nd March, M.E. Comp. Donald Campbell, Z., when Br. the Rev. T. P. Fenner, was admitted to the Mark and Past degrees, preparatory to his being exalted at the next meeting.

THE COLONIES.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTURE FROM ADELAIDE OF DR. KENT, P.L.G.M.

“And you, farewell, whose merits claim
Justly that highest badge to wear.”—BURNS.

Saturday the 23rd December, having been fixed on for Dr. Kent to go on board the *Antelope* steamer, an invitation appeared in the papers, addressed to all free and accepted Masons, to join in a farewell demonstration to their P.L.G.M. on the occasion of his departure for the mother-country. Shortly after two o'clock a considerable number of the officers and brothers of the various Lodges assembled at the Masonic Hall, North Terrace. When the room was nearly full, a deputation proceeded for Dr. Kent in a chariot drawn by eight horses, all iron-greys, most spirited animals, and beautifully matched. This imposing turn-out, with its postilions in scarlet and gold, and other brilliant appointments, attracted general notice. On the arrival of Dr. Kent at the Masonic Hall, the Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the D.P.G.M., Br. Lazar, and the dispensation appointing him to act during the absence of the P.L.G.M. was read by the P.L.G.S., Br. Dr. Mocre. The P.L.G.M., Dr. Kent, then presented the patent of authority (granted to him by the Earl of Zetland, G.M. of England) to Br. Lazar, who in a short but appropriate address acknowledged the honour that had been conferred upon him. The P.L.G.M. then took leave of the Grand Lodge in an affecting speech, and the Lodge was closed according to ancient usage.

While those proceedings engaged attention within the Lodge, numerous vehicles arrived with brothers anxious to join the procession. This concourse, together with the strains of a brass band, attracted a considerable crowd outside of the Masonic Hall, and several ladies secured seats under the ornate verandah which shades the front of the building. When the door of the Lodge-room was thrown open and Dr. Kent appeared, escorted by the principal officers in their regalia, several persons pressed forward, anxious to grasp the hand, to breathe a parting word, or catch a nod of recognition from one who seemed to have enjoyed the rare good fortune of living many years among them with universal respect, and whose departure was looked upon by all with regret. As the worthy P.L.G.M. proceeded to his seat in the chariot, he was saluted with Masonic honours by the Craft. When they subsided he arose, and taking off his hat, bade farewell to all his friends present who were not Freemasons. This courteous act elicited a round of cheers in reply. The procession started along North Terrace in an easterly direction until it reached King William Street, where it turned into Hindley Street. At the top of Hindley Street the cavalcade paused for a few moments, where the last arrangement of the procession was effected, and it proceeded rapidly to the Port, being loudly cheered at various points throughout the journey.

When the *cortège* arrived at the Port the harbour presented a most animated ap-

pearance. Nearly all the vessels were decorated with flags, and several displayed the "hieroglyphics bright" which none but Craftsmen understand, and as the leading carriages of the procession drew up in front of the Britannia hotel, some of the ships fired a salute. A double line was formed by brothers from the carriages to the entrance of the hotel, and the P.G.M. Kent, was met on alighting by Br. Leon, the W.M. of the Lodge of Unity, with several of his officers, who escorted him to the Lodge-room, where the ceremony of leave-taking was most impressive. The procession again formed and proceeded to the steam-tug, which was boarded by all the brethren, who seemed determined not to part from their respected President until the last moment. On the signal to start being given, the air was rent with cheerings from the shore and the deep booming of guns from the saluting battery below the Company's Bridge. On boarding the *Antelope*, the party proceeded to the saloon, which presented a most imposing appearance, as nearly two hundred Masons, in their rich regalia, occupied it. D.P.G.M. Lazar proposed the farewell toast in a brief but impressive speech; it was received with an unmistakeable manifestation of sincerity, and was responded to by P.G.M. Kent, who was deeply affected, in an eloquent reply. He acknowledged for himself and his family the great honour conferred upon him by the Craft in that public demonstration; he referred regretfully to the suspension of the intercourse that had evoked such kindly feelings, and declared that

"Strong memory on his heart shall write
Those happy scenes when far awa'."

He then bade "a heart-warm fond adie" to every brother present, and they, wishing him all prosperity, took their leave.—*Adelaide Observer*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND AND THE ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Allow me a little space in your useful and valuable (and I mean what I say) infant publication, on the point of the late grant of £1000 to the Patriotic Fund, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the disabled and wounded British seamen, and marines, serving in the war in the East. I need not remind you that there is a maxim, and a very old one, "That we should always be just before we are generous," and another is, that "Charity begins at home," or should do so.

Now, taking these premises, I should be last in the world to say a word about the noble and princely vote, on the part of the most worshipful Grand Master, who was mainly instrumental in its grant, but that I fear, from the state of the funds of the Masonic Benevolent Institution, for the granting annuities to the distressed and decayed brother Freemasons, it has made a most serious and frightful inroad on the finances of that excellent and praiseworthy Institution. Can it be possible, that out of a list of thirty-five candidates, only two can be admitted to participate in its bounty. And that is actually occasioned by the vote of £1000 to the Patriotic Fund just named. I would not for a moment attempt to cast the slightest shadow of reflection on our excellent Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, but it is much to be deplored that the funds will not allow the whole of the applicants to be admitted; more particularly, when it is taken into consideration, that not a few have applied, two, three, four, and even some eleven years following. And how dreadful it is to contemplate that, perhaps, the two candidates may be taken in on their first application. I have no doubt but that our excellent Grand Master brought forward the vote with the best Masonic feelings that even a brother could possess, and the only remedy I see, is to propose, through your widely reflecting "Mirror," that every Lodge would pay for every Member contributing, the sum of One Shilling, for three years, to put the fund in a proper condition. I think, if this be proposed, it will be most cheerfully responded to by the fraternity. Now, there happens to be about 800 contributing Lodges, and say there are twenty members to every Lodge, whose contributions may be depended on;

this will raise a sum of nearly £3000 in three years, and it would not be felt by the brethren or the Lodges respectively.

In the hope that something like a scheme for the augmenting the Royal Benevolent Institution may suggest itself from this hint, is the sincere desire of

Plymouth, April 17.

AN OLD PAST-MASTER.

[We insert the above, because we have evinced, from our earliest number, how anxious we are to increase the efficiency of the Royal Benevolent Institution, and we believe that something like the scheme indicated by our worthy brother, might be advantageously carried out. He is, however, altogether wrong regarding the fund from which the vote to the Patriotic Fund has been paid. It was made from the Fund of General Purposes, arising from the fees payable upon initiation, registration, &c., and which is altogether distinct, even from the Benevolent Fund of the Grand Lodge, arising from the quarterage of the members of the different Lodges in connection with it. The Royal Benevolent Institution is still much more distinct, not being even under the control of the Grand Lodge, though it has been often liberally supported from the very fund out of which the grant to the Patriotic Fund was made. Indeed, Grand Lodge grants £400 a year in its aid, and last year presented the Asylum, in common with the other charities, with a donation of £350. It is in fact a private charity of the Craft, supported by the donations of the brethren, these donations being so small (5s. per annum for the Male Annuity Fund, and a like sum for the Widows Fund) that we are indeed astonished the Institution is not more liberally supported; and we can only ascribe its not being so to the fact that the nature of its constitution is not generally understood. And here we may be allowed to add, that one reason why the "Mirror" was established, was the knowledge that the charities were not understood as they ought to be, and there being no convenient channel, of a sufficiently popular nature, through which information on the subject might be readily obtained, a want which we hope the "Masonic Mirror" now efficiently answers. Our brother is wrong in supposing that there are 800 Lodges from whom contributions might be expected. If he deducts the Colonial and Foreign Lodges, he will find that 600 is something nearer the mark.—ED. M. M.]

TESTIMONIAL TO BR. LORD DUDLEY STUART, P.G.M.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

A monument, or testimonial, is intended to be raised to the memory of our late lamented Brother, Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart. By the good, his loss is deeply deplored—by the Craft, who know how well he discharged his Masonic duties, especially that virtue which may justly be denominated the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart. May I suggest, through your columns, the propriety of laying the foundation stone of that testimonial with Masonic honours.

I think it would be a high honour to the Lodges to contribute to the fund.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Si. John's Wood, April 16, 1855.

A.—P.M.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR APRIL.

THE COURT.

The great event of the month has been the visit of the Emperor and Empress of the French, to the Queen at Windsor. On the night of Sunday the 15th H. R. H. Prince Albert proceeded to Dover to be in readiness to receive their Imperial Majesties, who were to leave Calais on the following morning. Their Imperial Majesties left Calais shortly after eleven o'clock, but owing to a dense fog nothing was heard of them until past one, when they were close in port. At half-past one the illustrious visitors landed, and were received by H. R. H. Prince Albert and the Corporation of Dover, by whom they were conducted to the Lord Warden Hotel. After partaking of some slight refreshment their Majesties descended to the saloon, when the Corporation presented the Emperor with an address of congratulation, to which he made a

suitable reply. At a quarter to three the Royal and Imperial party proceeded by the South Eastern Railway to the Bricklayer's Arms station, where they arrived about five. Their Majesties and party having entered the carriages waiting for them, proceeded at a slow pace, owing to the dense crowds in the streets, to the Paddington station of the Great Western Railway, and from thence by train to Windsor, where they arrived at ten minutes past seven, and were received by Her Majesty at the grand entrance of the castle. Their Majesties were loudly cheered throughout the whole of their journey, and Windsor in the evening was a complete blaze of illumination. On the 17th their Imperial Majesties received addresses from the Corporation of Windsor and other bodies, and in the afternoon attended a review of the 2nd Life Guards in the Home Park. On the following day his Imperial Majesty was invested with the Order of the Garter, in St. George's Hall, but did not appear in public during the day. On the 19th the Emperor and Empress came to town from Windsor, and paid a visit to the Corporation of the City of London in the Guildhall, being received throughout their route with the utmost acclamation. Their Majesties arrived at the Guildhall about half-past two o'clock. Shortly after which an address from the Corporation was presented to the Emperor, to which he made a suitable reply, in the course of which he said:—"For myself I have retained on the throne the same sentiments of sympathy and esteem for the English people, that I professed as an exile while I enjoyed here the hospitality of your country; and if I have acted in accordance with my convictions, it is that the interests of the nation which has chosen me, no less than those of universal civilization, have made it a duty. Indeed, England and France are naturally united on all the great questions of politics and of human progress that agitate the world—(cheers)—from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Mediterranean—from the Baltic to the Black Sea—from the desire to abolish slavery to the hope of amelioration for all the countries of Europe. I see in the moral as in the political world two nations, but one course and one end." At the conclusion of this ceremony and the presentations of various civic dignitaries their Imperial Majesties were conducted to the Council Chamber, where an elegant luncheon had been prepared under the able superintendence of Br. Staples of the Albion Tavern. No guests were admitted to the luncheon excepting their Imperial Majesties, H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge, the Ambassadors, and the Cabinet Ministers. In the evening the Emperor and Empress accompanied Her Majesty and H. R. H. Prince Albert in a state visit to the Royal Italian Opera, when *Fidelio* was performed for the first time this season, and *Cerito* made her first appearance at this house in a new ballet; but the only objects which excited any interest in the audience were the Royal visitors, and the performance of "God Save the Queen" and "Partant pour la Syrie." The club-houses and places of business of many of the principal tradesmen in the metropolis were illuminated in the evening.—On Friday, the Queen, Prince Albert, the Emperor, and Empress of the French visited the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, and expressed themselves highly delighted with the works of art it contains, the beauty of the gardens, and the general effect of the whole building and grounds. There were between 24,000 and 25,000 persons present; but they were not admitted to the interior of the building until the Royal party had completed their inspection.—Their Imperial Majesties took leave of the Queen and left London at ten o'clock on Saturday morning, and arrived at the Tuilleries early on the Sunday.

PARLIAMENT.

The Easter Holidays did not expire until the 16th, and very little in the way of the advancement of legislation has yet been effected. In the House of Lords on that day, the Charitable Trusts Bill (1855) was read a second time. On the following day, the Cambridge University Bill was read a second time, the discussion being postponed until the Committee. On the 20th, the Sardinian Treaty Bill, relative to the contingent, was read a second time; and, on the 23rd, it passed through Committee. On the 24th, the Cambridge University Bill passed through Committee, Lord Lyndhurst announcing his intention to propose some amendments at a future stage. On the 26th, the Militia (Ireland) Bill was read a third time and certain returns ordered. On the 27th, a discussion took place on Church Rates and Russian Produce, which came to nothing.

In the House of Commons on the 16th, the Metropolis Management Bill of Sir B. Hall was read a second time, and the House went into Committee of Supply. It was stated that the amount already voted for the new Houses of Parliament was £1,690,000, it was then proposed to vote £172,000, and a further sum of £651,000 would be required to fully carry out the views of Sir C. Barry. The vote was approved, and £100,000 voted on account of the Education Board. On the 17th, Sir George Grey stated that certain changes were contemplated in the construction of the Committee of Council for Education; and Capt. Boldero moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the state of the medical departments of the Army and Navy, but the motion was negatived by a majority of 73 to 69. On the 18th, Mr. McMahon moved the second reading of the Sea Coast Fisheries (Ireland) Bill, which, after a long discussion, was lost by a majority of 145 to 19. On the 20th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward his Budget. He calculated the income for the coming year, existing sources of taxation, exclusive of the sum to be lost by the repeal of the newspaper stamp, at £63,339,000; and the expenditure, including a margin of £4,400,000, at £86,339,000. This showed a deficit of £23,000,000, which he proposed to make good by a loan of £16,000,000, already contracted for at par; by an addition of 2d. in the pound on the income tax, calculated to produce £2,000,000; by an addition to the sugar duties of 3s. per cwt., calculated to produce £1,200,000; an addition of 1d. in the lb. on coffee, £150,000; an addition of 3d. in the lb. on tea, £750,000; stamps upon bankers' cheques of 1d. each, £200,000; and equalisation of English and Scotch spirits, and increase of 2s. upon Irish, £1,000,000. Resolutions in accordance with the proposal were agreed to, leaving the various points open for future discussion. On the 23rd, Lord Palmerston, in reply to a question, stated that the Conference at Vienna had come to an unsatisfactory conclusion; and the House went into a Committee of Ways and Means on the Budget, and, after a long discussion, the report was agreed to, and leave given to bring in the various bills necessary for carrying it out. The Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill then went into Committee, and the general principles were again affirmed, though it was resolved that the proprietors of all newspapers should register them, and give sureties against libel, as at present. On the 24th, the House was counted out without any business of importance being transacted. On the 25th, the second reading of the Marriage Law Amendment Bill came under consideration, but, after a long discussion, was adjourned to the 9th instant. On the 26th, various Bills in connection with the Budget were advanced a stage, and the second reading of the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill postponed, but at 12 o'clock the debate was adjourned. On the 27th, the Scotch Education Bill was read a second time by a majority of 39, the numbers being, for the second reading 210 against 171.

THE WAR.

Operations in the Crimea have at last been renewed with great activity—and news of importance is almost hourly looked for. The allied armies commenced the bombardment of the town on the 9th., but up to the 20th no national advantage appears to have been gained, though the allies were said to have the advantage, and a sortie of the Russians on the night of the 18th to have been repulsed with loss.

Omar Pasha, with 20,000 Egyptian troops are said to have arrived at Balaklava—and the fleets were understood to be preparing for some decisive course of action.

The Baltic fleet has sailed; and the peace conference having terminated unsatisfactorily, Lord John Russell, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys are on their return home to their respective courts.

PROVIDENT.

On the 3rd April, the Southampton Directors of the Unity Fire Insurance Association, entertained a deputation from the London Board, at dinner, to celebrate the completion of insurances of £1,000,000 of property in that district within two years. The proceedings were presided over by the Mayor, who was supported by several Aldermen and Magistrates of the town and neighbourhood, and in the course of the evening Br. T. H. Baylis, the manager, brought forward a plan for establishing a Unity Bank upon

Mutual principles—one half of the profits to go to the depositors, and one half to the shareholders, whose capital guarantees the safety of the bank.

The Waterloo Life Assurance Company held meetings at Doncaster, Wakefield, and Barnsley, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of April, to explain the position and prospects of the Company. The whole of the meetings, the more especially that at Barnsley, were well attended, and resolutions in support of the Company were passed unanimously—votes of thanks being given to the deputation, consisting of Mr. Williams, the Manager, Mr. Ed. Baylis, Dr. Hall, of Sheffield, and Mr. Saunders, for their attendance. In the course of the proceedings it was explained that the subscribed capital of the Company was 400,000*l.*, of which only 20,000*l.* was as yet called up. The Company had only been established four years, but had already obtained a premium income of 14,000*l.* a year, and had 30,000*l.* invested in a reserve fund. The Company set aside a portion of its profits to prevent assurers ever coming to want, by the creation of an annuity fund, and another portion as an educational fund for the benefit of their children—and above all, a policy once issued, could never be disputed.

The British Provident Life and Fire Assurance Company, held its third annual meeting on the 12th. The report stated that the total amount of business performed in the life department by the Company for the three years, might be thus summed up.—Proposals received, 1678; policies issued, 1269; premiums received, 6671*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*; annual income, 6831*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, being an increase upon the last year of 342 in the number of proposals received, 366 in the number of policies issued, 2016*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* in the amount of premiums received, and 1083*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* in the income. The fire department was also going on very successfully, and the subscribed capital of the company now, amounted to 69,710*l.*, being an addition of 27,440*l.* upon the last return. The report was adopted, and the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent per annum declared.

BENEVOLENT.

The Royal General Theatrical Fund Anniversary Festival took place according to custom, on the Monday in Passion Week, April 3, Mr. Buckstone presiding. He stated that after disbursing all the expenses of the year, including sums returned to the families of deceased members, the payment of funeral expenses, the payment of ten annuities, five of £30, four of £60, and one of £90, there still remained to the credit of the society, a balance of nearly £9,000. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to rather more than £300.

The Artists General Benevolent Institution held its Anniversary Festival on the 31st March, the Lord Mayor presiding. It appears that during the past year, upwards of sixty cases have been relieved with various sums amounting to £326; and, since the establishment of the Institution, 1,479 cases have been relieved with sums amounting to £16,936. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to upwards of £600.

The Fund of the Clergy held its Anniversary Festival on the 18th, when about £2,000 were added to the funds of the charity, but considerable gloom was cast over the proceedings by the announcement of a considerable defalcation having occurred, the late secretary having left the country.

That most excellent Institution, the Royal Society of St. Ann's, for affording clothing, maintenance, and education to children of those once in prosperity, orphans or not, held its Anniversary Festival on the 24th, Sir Robert Peel presiding, when upwards of £1,800 were added to the funds. The Hon. Chairman said he had only been induced to take the chair by the respect he entertained for our worthy Br. Lake.

On the following day the Anniversary Festival of St. Mark's Hospital took place, £1,350 being subscribed in its aid in the course of the evening.

The Anniversary of the London Hospital was celebrated on the 26th, under the presidency of the Duke of Cambridge. In the course of the evening H.R.H. stated the regular annual income of the hospital was about £11,000 and the expenditure about £4,000, generally made up by subscriptions and donations, but during the past year there had been a deficiency from those sources of £2,000. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to £1,350.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Quarters Revenue, ending March 31, showed a total income of £15,021,276, being an increase of £4,384,308 over the corresponding quarter of last year. The total revenue for the year was £59,496,154, and the net increase, £6,312,624, principally due to the doubled income tax.

A new Law Reform Association has been started, under the title of the Juridical Society.

Damages of 1,000*l.* have been given against Cardinal Wiseman, in an action for libel on the Rev. Mr. Boyle, a Roman Catholic priest.

AMUSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH.

Wm. Gran, having been charged with obtaining money from the Earl of Essex, by false representations, proposed to the magistrate, that instead of being sent to prison, he might be more usefully employed as a detective officer, to bring begging letter impostors to justice. Mr. Broderip, however, not approving of the proposition, sent him to prison for three months.

A Mr. Fitzroy, who gained a somewhat unenviable notoriety in October last, for riotous conduct at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, has been convicted at Chichester of uttering forged cheques, and sentenced to four months imprisonment. Mr. Fitzroy does not obtain his majority until June next, when he comes into 24,000*l.*

The Pope had a narrow escape from loss of life or injury at Turin, on the 12th. His Holiness, accompanied by several persons, was in the hall of the Convent of St. Agnes, near Rome, the floor fell in. Cardinal Antonelli and the French General Montreal received some slight contusions.

Mr. Gye, though somewhat tardily, has reopened the Royal Italian Opera, and has promised that in the course of the season he will produce at least two novelties, *L' Etoile du Nord*, of Meyerbeer, and the *Trovatore*, of Verdi, both possessing a great continental reputation, which, from what we have heard, appears to be fully deserved. The house opened on the 13th with Rossini's *Il Comte Ory*, the principal characters in which were personated by Madame Angiolina Bosio, Madlle. Marai, Madlle. Nantier Didiée, Signor Gardoni, Signor Zelger, and Signor Tagliafico; and the pretty little ballet entitled, *Une Etoile*, in which Mesdames Battalini, Esper, and Leblond, Mr. W. H. Payne, and M. Desplaces appeared. Madame Bosio fully sustained the reputation she has already won. Signor Gardoni, who made his first appearance at this theatre, was warmly welcomed as an old favourite, and the whole of the performance went off with great éclat. On the 19th, on occasion of the visit of the Queen and her Imperial visitors, *Fidelio* was produced and Madlle. Ney made her first appearance before a British audience in the character of Leonora, in which she achieved a complete success, which has been strengthened by subsequent performances. Madlle. Cerito has also appeared in a new ballet called *Eva*, and received fresh proofs of the public favour which she used to enjoy in the Haymarket.

At Drury Lane, notwithstanding former discouragements, a third season of the Royal Opera at moderate prices has been commenced, and if talent will command it, with every prospect of success. The opening opera on the 16th April, was *La Sonnambula*, in which Mdme. Gassier, a soprano of much talent, made a very successful debut as Amina, and was well supported by her husband and Signor Bettini. The same artistes have since appeared in the *Barber of Seville*, and been equally, if not more successful. Both the band, and the chorus are very creditable to the establishment, and a slight ballet divertissement agreeably winds up the evenings amusements. A French drama of *Les Cosaques*, which has run for 200 nights at La Gaité, has been produced on alternate nights with the opera, the whole of the French *troupe* who have been so long engaged in it, having visited England for the purpose. It is an excellent spectacle, and well deserves a visit. The enthusiasm of John Bull has shown no bounds in the applause which has been bestowed on this French "Patriotic drama."

On Easter Monday, a lively extravaganza from the pen of Planche, was produced at the Haymarket Theatre, entitled the *Haymarket Spring Meeting*, which amusingly satirises the want of improvement in the city, and the "go-a-headness" in that respect of Tyburnia and Belgravia, with various other salient topics of the day. The *Spring Meeting* promises to run very deeply into summer. Determined to well keep up the ball, Br. Buckstone has since engaged Miss Cushman, for tragedy, with Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, &c., for opera, so that there can be no complaint on the ground of want of variety in the entertainments offered at this theatre.

At the Princesses, a slight drama, adapted from the French, entitled the *Muleteer of Toledo*, or *King, Queen, and Knave*, was produced at Easter, and though of slight pretensions, was decidedly successful.

The Adelphi produced a new version of the *Fairy Tales of Mother Goose*, which as a spectacle and a vehicle for wit and humour, has not been equalled for many a day.

The Olympic only brought out a new farce, *Law for Ladies*, the Christmas piece of the *Yellow Dwarf* being still sufficiently attractive to prove the staple of the evening's entertainment.

At the Strand, a burlesque on *King Lear*, entitled *King Queer, or his Daughters three*, was the *piece de resistance* for the holidays. It is full of fun, and was perfectly successful. It is the joint production of Mr. Halford and Br. C. J. Collins, the author of the "Heir of Bendersleigh," which lately appeared in our pages.

Cremorne Gardens have opened their portals, and notwithstanding the lateness of the season has hitherto deprived them of a large portion of their natural beauties, there has been no want of entertainment for their patrons. Br. Simpson well knows how to cater for the amusement of all classes of society, and Br. Hayward has become a great favourite as leader of the dance music. The Allegorical Triumphal Arch, in honour of the alliance between England, France, and Turkey, has excited great attention, the more especially during a series of *fêtes* given in honour of the visit to this country of the Emperor and Empress of the French.

Miss P. Horton (or rather, Mrs. T. G. Reed), the popular actress, has come forth at St. Martin's Hall with an entertainment *a la* Matthew's the elder, under the title of "Illustrative gatherings," which promises to be extremely popular, as by the variety of characters she has to represent, these gatherings are admirably fitted for displaying the versatility of the lady's talent.

We paid a visit to the Royal Polytechnic Institution during the Easter Week, and were much gratified to find that Mr. Pepper, the resident director, is pursuing his career of management with unabated vigour and perseverance. He is evidently resolved to surpass his neighbours in his search after novelty, and his exertions have been so far successful that one cannot easily pay a visit to the Institution without seeing some exhibition which has not been witnessed before. It is, moreover, obvious that the blending of the scientific with the amusing has been carried out with the wisest judgment and taste, so much so, that there is something to please all and nothing to displease any one. The last novelty which has been introduced is a Dioramic Entertainment, called "Sam Slick at home and abroad, with sparks and specs of American Humour," comprising a trip across the Atlantic and a visit to some of the principal cities of the United States. The Diorama is accompanied by an interesting and humorous description, in which a variety of anecdotes from our old friend the clock-maker, shine conspicuously, and the attention of the audience is frequently arrested by some interesting historical details respecting the places visited; many well-known incidents which have occurred on the voyage,—such as the burning of the "Ocean Monarch," and the stranding of the "Great Britain," are also depicted with considerable skill, the effects being heightened by mechanical contrivances which impart an unusual degree of reality to the scene. On the whole this entertainment may be pronounced one of the most successful which this Institution has ever produced, and we cordially commend it to all who would enjoy a brief interval of leisure amid the cares and pursuits of life.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

That Editors are like the old man in the fable, who could not please everybody whether he rode or carried his ass, has long been proverbial, and we do not expect to be more fortunate in that respect than others. Whilst, however, we act independently and courteously towards the brethren, we expect some degree of indulgence and courtesy from them—and at all events, low ribaldry will not cause us to pause in performing what we believe to be our duty towards the Craft. We could scarcely have conceived it possible, in answer to our temperate remarks in our last, for any brother to have penned the following, which we print verbatim et literatim:—

King Street, Devonport, Apl.

Sur,

“i see sum fule as a bene a riting to yu abowte our loge i think he had best min h's on business and wele min ours sum peepl his only Enyus of our making six in a night and uther loges not doing nothin. i dont think you can be a 100 mils from u —yousself for puting such trash in yuor buk.”—John Bite.

Did the Lodge obtain the necessary dispensation for making six in one night? We hope we shall receive some explanation of the mode of working in the Lodge alluded to, from a brother more worthy of attention than one, who has evidently disguised his real name as well as his style and writing.

J. B. F., PLYMOUTH.—The Lodge of Prudent Brethren, Freemasons Tavern, or the Domestic Lodge, Br. Ireland's, Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane. Br. Hewlett is W.M. of the first named Lodge, and Br. T. A. Adams, the second. Let your friend put himself into communication with the Editor of the “Mirror.”

W. C., EXETER.—We shall have great pleasure in hearing from W. C. as often as he can make it convenient.

BON ACCORD LODGE OF MARK MASONS.—A Mason high in official position in Scotland, thus writes:—“I perceive you are working away at the Mark Mason Degree. It is purely illegal. The Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, had no power to grant the warrant in any way.” The Lodge does not hold its Charter from the Grand Lodge or Chapter of Scotland, as has been stated—and we have long suspected, the Aberdeen Chapter had no more power to grant it, than has any private Lodge in England to delegate its power to others. The above extract of a private letter upon the subject fully confirms our suspicions.

R. R. N. DEWSBURY.—Our last number was ready for delivery to the trade, at 11 o'clock of the morning of Saturday, March 31. We have never been so late as the 2nd in publishing. If your present bookseller cannot supply you before the 17th or 18th we should feel obliged by your trying another. The “Mirror” ought to be served in Dewsbury by the 2nd at the latest.

W. H. BLACKBURN is thanked. We shall at all times be glad to hear from him.

MASONIC CLOTHING.—A correspondent, for whom we have the highest esteem, writes:—“In the Bristol Lodges, the brethren are allowed to wear a very highly ornamented Craft apron entirely at variance with the Constitution. Half an inch from the sides of, and bottom, is a sort of silver lace-work; above the blue ribbon, an inch of the same material; and half an inch of the same round the bib, or fall.” We should like to be informed how the introduction of this frippery has been tolerated. It has been hinted to us that it originated with the desire of one or more Tylers to increase their own gains by adding to the expense of the clothing. If so, not only has the constitutional rule for obtaining uniformity in clothing been violated, but a gross injustice inflicted on the brethren, who ought (especially whilst new to the Craft, and they may be supposed not to know what is exactly in accordance with the constitutions of the Order) to be protected from wrong. It is the duty of the P. G. M., or his deputy, to see that the rules laid down in the Book of Constitutions are observed in the Lodges within his jurisdiction.

We have repeated complaints of numbers of the “Masonic Mirror” sent through the Post Office not being delivered, and, sooth to say, it imposes a heavy tax upon us in making them good, as well as causing grievous disappointment to our subscribers. This month, to, we have had more than one complaint of one shilling postage being demanded, on the ground of over weight. The more especially we are informed that the authorities at Liverpool charged one shilling for a number for being more than 2ozs. in weight, whereas, the weight allowed under the regulations of the General Post Office is 3ozs. We should like some explanation of this. Is our Correspondent sure he had not written anything upon the Mirror beyond the direction to which he sent it, because, if he had, that would render it liable to postage. We trust before we next greet our brethren, the New Newspaper Stamp Act will have passed, when there will be no further difficulty regarding the weight, which we forward through the Post Office, we having from our first number been registered and given the securities required from Newspaper proprietors.