

THE
MASONIC MIRROR:

JULY, 1855.

MARK MASONRY.

WE had intended to have reviewed the correspondence relative to the position of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons, but we are spared the necessity of doing so by the energetic measures of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, calling upon the Aberdeen Chapter at once to withdraw the Charter to the London Lodge, under pain of ulterior proceedings, as will be seen by the official resolution of the Grand Chapter, which we publish in another page of the "Mirror." This is as it should be, and we trust the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England will assist that of Scotland in endeavouring to put down, within their jurisdiction, the illegal practice of Masonry, no matter under what denomination. We cannot help observing, as regards Comp. Rettie, whose letter we also publish, that he has evidently fallen into the strange blunder of confounding two very different things. Unquestionably, the power to confer the Mark Degree is vested in *Chapters* only, as he observes; but that is a totally different thing from a power to *grant warrants* to confer the Mark Degree. Should such an interpretation be allowed to be put upon the law of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, it would lead to endless confusion, for Craft Lodges both in England and Scotland might put a similar construction upon their laws, and take upon themselves to grant subsidiary charters to brethren, to give the first or second Degree and not the third to candidates—a state of things which we have no hesitation in saying would be met by the immediate withdrawal of the Charter of the Lodge so illegally and improperly acting. It is true that the Supreme Chapter of Scotland has the power of granting charters for the Mark Degree apart from the Arch, and did at one time exercise that power, but experience proved its inexpediency, and the system was abandoned; none but regularly constituted Loyal Arch Chapters having now authority to confer the Degree—an authority which, as is shown by the decree of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, cannot be delegated to others.

Comp. Rettie accuses us of partiality in endeavouring to run down the London Mark Masons Lodge. We have shown no feeling on the subject beyond a conscientious desire, as Masons, to do our duty, and prevent

the introduction amongst us of illegal and unauthorised assemblages, through which some of the brethren may be withdrawn from their allegiance to constituted authority.

We have no objection to the introduction of Mark Masonry in England if it can be naturalised in a legal and constitutional manner, and in our next number we shall devote our attention to the consideration of how this object may be best effected.

In the meantime, we trust that the Aberdeen Chapter, and the London Lodge, will cheerfully acquiesce in the decision of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and no longer persist in the carrying on a Lodge which the highest constituted authority has declared to be illegal, and opposed to the principles upon which the Order is governed.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

WE have not been disappointed in our efforts to make known this admirable Institution. Each number of our "Mirror" has brought a correspondence which we hope, ere long, to publish, and to announce the promised aid to which they refer. This article may be seen by many whose signatures are as yet anonymous. They will perceive that it is our intention of acting up to our former promise, viz. : of giving in each number of the "Mirror," a statement of occurrences connected with the School, and placing before our readers, the facts as they stand. We have been among the many who have been surprised at the apparent ignorance which has prevailed amongst the Brethren, with reference to this establishment. And we believe none have felt the necessity of appealing to the Craft, on behalf of the Charity more than ourselves. It is by such reiterated notices as the present that we hope to place this useful School beyond a dependence on a precarious income; two-thirds of which is sought for at an Annual Festival; and of doing in the spirit of Brotherly Love, relief, and truth, a lasting benefit to the Craft in general. As we have before stated, this school was founded by the Chevalier Ruspini, in 1777, for the education and succour of a number of orphan children of Freemasons. It then admitted to its benefits but a small number. It, however, gradually progressed, until the number amounted to 65. Here it has remained for a period of nearly a quarter of a century; and although Masonry has been yearly increasing, this useful Institution has remained in *statu quo*. Can it be said that we have no applicants beyond this number, and that we have no need for an increase of room; that Masonry, in point of fact, is all *couleur de rose*, and that no need of aid exists in the Craft? We opine not, and from our knowledge, both in the Metropolis and the Provinces, we are aware that there are many who would anxiously apply for the assistance of this Institution, could they be certain of their children being admitted. Now that we are in possession of the present useful and magnificent building, capable of accommodating 100 or more children, why should steps not be taken to allow the number of those receiving its benefits, to be increased beyond 65, should there be candidates? It must therefore

appear obvious, that we are guided in writing these articles, more by a desire to enlarge our sphere of usefulness as Masons, than to allow the Craft to be considered, as it has to a great extent hitherto been, a mere club. Can we close our eyes or shut our ears to the fact, that members of the founder's family, became recipients of the benefits of such an asylum; and do we not know that each year presents us with the painful circumstance of a child or children being admitted, whose parents had at one time been in the enjoyment of the greatest prosperity. At once, then, let us join with heart and hand, to erase this blot on the escutcheon of the Craft. Make room for the largest number, and show that we have advanced with the age, and in our gratitude to the founder, that we have increased the usefulness of the Institution which owes its existence to his benefaction. Having said thus much, let us set about providing additional funds; this has been observed upon before—let every Lodge be appealed to for a subscription; and when they are so provided, let us be careful that every economy has been observed, as to the expenditure. We are sanguine that much may be done, by such a general appeal to every Lodge in the kingdom. How many of the Brethren are there, who have never heard of the school; and how many are there even in the Metropolis, who if they have heard of it, have never taken the trouble to visit the school-house at Wandsworth? They might there see with how much solicitude, their children are provided, their health cared for, and their mind cultivated.

Whilst on the subject of the School, we may be allowed to congratulate the Brethren that our efforts through the "Mirror," and prior to the establishment of that organ of the Craft, through the columns of a weekly newspaper giving notices of the proceedings of the Craft, in endeavouring to obtain a removal from the arms of the children, the disgraceful badge which pointed them out as the recipients of charity, have not been unattended with success;—the House Committee having determined that the use of the badge and the old fashioned "bib-apron," are no longer to be worn. At least, then, our pen has done something towards producing one reform, and it will be hard, indeed, if it does not yet effect much more for the benefit of the Charities and of Masonry generally.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 360.

THE old building of St. Paul's was perhaps an appropriate type of many institutions by which it was surrounded; venerable for the ages they had existed and for their usefulness when society was in a more primitive state, but now rapidly passing away, to make room for others more suited to the general improved intelligence of the times; like them, entirely useless for modern requirements, but, owing to national aversion to change and attachment to old customs, equally difficult to clear away. The closeness with which it was surrounded by inhabitants, some of whom had perhaps been the cause of its previous ruinous condition, rendered it a work of great difficulty and danger. The labourers, after working a

considerable time at the top of the tower, found it at last so dangerous, that they refused to work any longer. Br. Wren had then recourse to the use of gunpowder, which, under his able superintendence, answered every purpose required, with little danger or annoyance to the surrounding inhabitants; but, leaving it to the care of a subordinate, the second explosion had like to have resulted seriously. The charge of powder being too great, a large stone was shot as from a cannon through an open window, into a room where a number of women were at work, causing much consternation amongst them and the surrounding neighbourhood. A petition was in consequence sent to the Council, praying that such dangerous means be no longer adopted. Br. Wren had, therefore, to recur to the ancient contrivance, called the battering ram, namely a huge pole, headed with iron, slung by a long chain and propelled by a large number of men, with ropes. This engine appeared to produce but little effect on the first day, but on the second the tower was observed to shake, and at last fell with a tremendous crash amid clouds of dust. In clearing away the foundation, the north side was found to have been an ancient burying-place, and under the graves of later ages were found, in a row, the graves of the Saxons, who cased their dead in chalk stones, though persons of great eminence were buried in stone coffins. Below these were the graves of the ancient Britons, proved by the great number of ivory and wooden pins found amongst the mouldered dust. It being their custom to pin the corpse in woollen shouds and lay it in the ground, and this covering consuming with the bodies they were intended to protect, the ivory and wooden pins only remained entire.

At a still greater depth were discovered a great number of Roman pots, sherds, urns, and dishes, sound and of a beautiful red, like our sealing-wax. On the bottom of some of these were inscriptions denoting drinking vessels; others, which resembled our modern salad dishes, beautifully made and curiously wrought, bore different inscriptions, such as *DZ. PRIMANI*. On others, *PATRICI QUINTIMANI. VICTOR, LANUS. RECINIO, &c.* The pots and several glass vessels were of a murrey colour; and others, resembling urns, were beautifully embellished on the outside with raised work, representing greyhounds, stags, hares, and rose trees. Others were of a cinnamon colour, in the form of an urn, which appeared to have been gilt, though very much faded. Some resembling jugs, were of an hexagonal form, curiously indented and adorned with a variety of figures in basso relievo.

The red vessels appeared to have been the most honourable, for on them were inscribed the names of their deities, heroes, and judges, and the material was so excellent as to resemble polished metal in beauty. There were also a number of brass coins, very much decayed; some, however, where the soil appeared to be more favourable, were so well preserved as to show in whose reign they were coined. On one of them was Adrian's head, with a galley under oars on the reverse; on the others the heads of Romulus and Remus, Claudius and Constantine.

At a somewhat smaller depth were a number of lapilli or tessellæ of various sorts of marble, Egyptian porphyry, jasper, &c., in the form of

dice, which were used by the Romans in paving the prætorium, or general's tent.

On searching for the natural ground, Br. Wren found that the foundation of the old church stood on a layer of very close and hard pot earth, about six feet deep on the north side, but gradually thinning towards the south side, till on the declivity of the hill it was hardly four feet. This, he concluded, having borne so weighty a building before, might be trusted again. But boring beneath this he found a stratum of loose sand, and lower than this, level with low-water mark, water and sand, mixed with periwinkles and other sea shells; under this a hard beach, and below all a natural bed of clay, which extended far and wide beneath the city, country, and river.

The foundations appeared to have been composed of Kentish rubble stone, well compounded with an exceeding hard cement, after the Roman manner, and much superior to the cement used in the superstructure. He was induced, however, to change the site of the church and raze the foundations, which appeared so secure, from a desire to give the new structure more freedom and elegance; finding himself after all much confined for space and unable to bring the front to lie exactly from Ludgate. In his progress he met with an interruption, which almost made him regret the alteration he had made. He began the foundation from the west to the east, and then extending his line to the north-east, where he expected no interruption, he came upon a pit, where the hard crust of pot earth had been removed and filled up with rubbish. Although he wanted but seven feet to complete his design, he was under the necessity of digging through the sand and building from the solid earth, which was upwards of forty feet deep. He therefore sank a pit, eighteen feet wide, through all the before-mentioned strata, and laid the foundations of a square pier in solid masonry, which was carried up to within fifteen feet of the present surface, and then a short arch was turned underground to the level of the stratum of hard pot earth, upon which arch the north-east corner of the choir now stands.

Having surmounted this difficulty and laid the foundations, the D.G.M., for many reasons, made choice of Portland stone for the superstructure, but chiefly because the largest scantlings were to be procured there; and as these could not be depended upon for columns of more than four feet diameter, he determined on adopting two orders instead of one, and an attic story, as at St. Peter's, at Rome, in order to preserve the just proportions of his cornice, otherwise the edifice must have fallen short of its intended height. Bramante, in building St. Peter's, at Rome, though possessing all the advantages of the quarries at Tivoli at hand, was obliged to curtail the proper proportions of his cornice for want of stones of sufficient size. Against this difficulty the D.G.M. was resolved to guard; and by the aid of his great science and foresight, bestowed upon him by the Great Architect of all good works, erected the present structure, the first stone of which was laid on the 21st of June, 1675.

The general form of St. Paul's Cathedral is a long cross. The walls are wrought in rustic, and strengthened as well as adorned with two rows of

coupled pilasters, one over the other, the lower corinthian and the upper composite. The spaces between the arches of the windows and the architrave of the lower order are filled with a curious variety of enrichments, as are those above.

At the west front is a most magnificent portico, a noble pediment on two stately turrets, and when proceeding towards the church from Ludgate, the elegant construction of this front, the fine turrets over each corner, and the east dome behind, fill the mind with pleasure and astonishment.

At this end is a noble flight of steps of black marble extending the whole length of the portico, which consists of twelve lofty corinthian columns below, and eight composite columns above, these are all coupled and fluted. The upper series supports a noble pediment, crowned with its acroteria. In this pediment is a very elegant representation in bas relief of the conversion of St. Paul, by Br. Bird, who by this work alone, has immortalized his name. The conception and execution are most effective, the irradiation of light is admirably deputed, and the figures excellently executed.

The magnificent figure of St. Paul on the apex of the pediment, with St. Peter on his right, and St. James on his left, have a fine effect. The four Evangelists with their proper emblems on the front of the towers, are well disposed and executed; St. Matthew is distinguished by an angel; St. Mark by a lion; St. Luke by an ox; and St. John by an eagle.

In the north portico is an ascent by twelve steps of black marble, the dome of which is supported by six large corinthian columns, forty-eight inches in diameter. Upon the top of the dome is a large and well proportioned urn ornamented with festoons; over this is a pediment supported by pilasters in the wall, in the face of which is the Royal Arms, with the regalia supported by angels; in addition to which are the statues of the five Apostles, placed on the top at proper distances.

The south portico answers to the north, and is placed directly opposite to it, this resembles that on the other side of the Church, but as the ground is considerably lower on this side, the ascent is by a flight of twenty-five steps. This portico has also a pediment above, in which is a phoenix rising out of the flames, with the motto *RESURGAM* underneath it, is an emblem of the rebuilding the Church after the fire. This device was adopted by the D.G.W. in consequence of a labourer accidentally bringing a stone which was to be placed as a land mark for the masons, which proved to be a grave stone, on which stone only remained the word *Resurgam*, which was considered a favourable omen for the successful termination of the work. On this side of the building are likewise five statues which take their situation from that of St. Andrew, on the apex of the last mentioned pediment.

At the east end of the Church is a circular projection for the altar, finely ornamented with the orders and decorated sculpture.

The dome, which rises in the centre of the whole, is extremely grand. Twenty feet above the roof of the Church is a circular range of thirty-two columns, with niches placed exactly, others within. These are terminated by their entablature supporting a handsome gallery adorned with a

ballustrade. Above these columns is a range of pilasters with windows between, and from the entablature of these, the diameter decreases considerably, and two feet above that it is again contracted. From this part the extreme sweep of the dome begins, and the arches meet at fifty-two feet above. On the summit of the dome is an elegant balcony, and from its centre rises the lantern adorned with Corinthian columns, and the whole is terminated by a ball from which rises a cross, both elegantly gilt.

This noble structure, which is two thousand two hundred and ninety-two feet in circumference, and three hundred and forty-two feet in height to the top of the cross, is surrounded at a proper distance by a dwarf stone wall, on which is placed a magnificent ballustrade of cast iron, about five feet six inches in height, exclusive of the wall. In this inclosure are seven beautiful iron gates, which together with the banisters, in number about two thousand five hundred, weigh two hundred tons and eighty-one pounds. The cost of these gates was 202*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

In the area of the grand west front on a pedestal stands a statue of Queen Anne, formed of white marble. The figures on the base represent Britannia, Gallia, Hibernia, and America. This and the other colossal statues with which the building is adorned, reflect great credit on the skill of Br. Hill, who was chiefly employed in the decorations.

On the summit of the steps at the west end, are three doors ornamented at the top with bas relief; the middle door, which is by far the largest, is cased with white marble, and over it a fine piece of basso relievo, in which St. Paul is represented preaching to the Berenians. On entering this door the mind is struck with the nobleness of the vesta, an arcade supported by lofty and massive pillars on each hand, divide the church into the body and two aisles, and the view is terminated by the altar at the extremity of the choir. The pillars are adorned with columns and pilasters of the corinthian and composite orders, and the arches of the roof are enriched with shields, festoons, chaplets, and other ornaments.

In one aisle is the consistory, and opposite to it in the other is the morning-prayer chapel, each of these has a beautiful screen of carved wainscot, which is adorned with twelve column arched pediments.

Further onward is the large cross aisle, between the north and south porticos, over which is the grand cupola or dome. Here is a fine view of the whispering gallery, and the concave of the dome, which fills the mind with surprise and pleasure. Under its centre is fixed in the floor a brass plate, round which the pavement is beautifully variegated, but the figures into which it is formed, can no where be seen to so much advantage as from the whispering gallery.

From this aisle is a full view of the organ, richly ornamented with carved work, with the entrance to the choir directly under it. The two aisles on the sides of the choir, as well as the choir itself are inclosed by very fine iron rails and gates.

The organ gallery is supported by eight corinthian columns of blue and white marble, and the choir has on each side thirty stalls besides the bishop's throne on the south side, and the lord mayor's on the north. The carving of the stalls as well as the organ, are much admired.

The reader's desk, which is at some distance from the pulpit, is in an enclosure of brass rails, gilt. In this is a gilt brass pillar, supporting an eagle of brass, gilt, which holds the book on his back and expanded wings.

The altar piece is adorned by four noble fluted pilasters, painted and veined with gold in imitation of *lapis lazuli*, and their capitals are double gilt. In the intercolumniations are nine marble pannels. The table is covered with crimson figured velvet, and above are six windows in two series.

The floor of the choir and the whole of the church is paved with marble, except that part within the altar, which is of porphory polished, and laid in several geometrical figures.

And referring to the general geometrical arrangement, we may observe, that as the disposition of the vaultings within is an essential beauty, without which many other ornaments would lose their effect, so our Deputy Grand Master was particularly careful in this respect. "The Romans," says the author of the *Parentalia*, "used hemispherical vaultings; and Sir Christopher chose those as being demonstrably lighter than the diagonal cross vaults, so the whole vault of St. Paul's consists of twenty-four cupolas cut semicircular, with segments to join to the great arches one way, and which are cut across the other with elliptical cylinders to let in the upper lights of the nave; but in the aisles the lesser cupolas are both ways cut in semicircular sections, and altogether make a graceful geometrical form distinguished with circular wreaths, which is the horizontal section of the cupola, for the hemisphere may be cut in all manner of ways into circular sections; and the arches and wreaths being of stone carved, and the spandrels between them of sound brick, invested with stucco of cockle-shell lime, which becomes as hard as Portland stone, and which having large planes between the stone ribs, are capable of the further adornments of painting if required.

"Besides these twenty-four cupolas, there is a half cupola at the east, and the great cupola of one hundred and eight feet in diameter at the middle of the crossing of the great aisles. In this the architect imitated the Pantheon at Rome, excepting that the upper order is there only umbratile, and distinguished by different-coloured marbles; in St. Paul's it is extant out of the wall. The Pantheon is no higher within than its diameter; St. Peter's is two diameters; this shows too high, the other too low. St. Paul's is a mean proportion between both, which shews its concave every way, and is very lightsome by the windows of the upper order, which strike down light through the great colonade that encircles the dome without, and serves for the abutment of the dome, which is brick, of two bricks thick; but as it rises every way five feet high, has a course of excellent brick of eighteen inches long banding through the whole thickness; and moreover to make it still more secure, it is surrounded with a vast chain of iron, strongly linked together at every ten feet. This chain is let into a channel cut into the bandage of Portland stone, and defended from the weather by filling the groove with lead.

"The concave was turned upon a centre, which was judged necessary

to keep the work even and true, though a cupola might be built without a centre; but it is observable that the centre was laid without any standards from below to support it; and as it was both centering and scaffolding, it remained for the use of the painters. Every story of this scaffolding being circular, and the ends of all the ledges uniting at so many rings, truly wrought, supported itself. This machine was an original of its kind, and will be an useful project for the like work to an architect hereafter.

“It was necessary to give a greater height outside than the cupola would gracefully allow within, though it is considerably above the roof of the church; yet the old church having before had a very lofty spire of timber and lead, the world expected that the new work would not in this respect fall short of the old. The architect was therefore obliged to comply with the humour of the age, and to raise another structure over the first cupola; and this was a cone of brick, so built as to support a stone lantern of an elegant figure, and ending in ornaments of copper, gilt.

“As the whole church above the vaulting is covered with a substantial oaken roof and lead, the most durable covering in our climate, so he covered and hid out of sight the brick cone with another cupola of timber and lead; and between this and the cone are easy stairs that ascend to the lantern. Here the spectator may have a view of such amazing contrivances as are indeed astonishing: he forebore to make little luthern windows in the leaden cupola, as are done out of St. Peter’s, because he had otherwise provided for light enough to the stairs from the lantern above, and round the pedestal of the same, which are now seen below, so that he only ribbed the outer cupola, which he thought less gothic than to stick it full of such little lights in three stories one above another as in the cupola of St. Peter’s, which could not without difficulty be mended, and if neglected would soon damage the timbers.”

Such is a brief description of the present structure of St. Paul’s, though, as it has been before stated, Br. Wren much preferred his original design, which was more compact and simple, and suited to the uses of the reformed Church. The alterations were suggested by the Duke of York, afterwards James II., in order to adapt it to the Roman worship, the revival of which he already contemplated, and Br. Wren was compelled to add oratories and long aisles, which James wished to fill with processions, whilst he occupied the recesses with altars. Although our D.G.M. Wren is said to have remonstrated with tears, yet it may be doubted whether he used a sound discretion in his preference for the old design, as the very circumstance of the building departing from the exact laws of symmetry in the adoption of the two orders and other details increases its apparent size and grandeur of effect, whilst it has hardly been disputed that the exterior architecture of St. Paul’s is both better in composition and sounder in style than its more magnificent rival at Rome.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

BY Φωτοφίλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(Continued from p. 365.)

CHAPTER IV.—THE BANQUETTING HALL—A GLANCE AT A FEW OF THE EMINENT BROTHERS PRESENT.

THE labour of love having ended, and the Lodge closed in the usual beautiful form, we shall introduce our readers to the banquetting hall, for even Masons are dinner-eating animals.

We will not trouble our readers with a gastronomic description of all the "delicacies of the season," with which the hospitable board was spread, but shall content ourselves with stating that every thing was sufficiently piquant and *recherche* to gratify the palate of *Nasidenus* or Sir P—r L—ie, and that neither the Roman epicure, nor the respected civic functionary could reasonably have any thing to wish for beyond the good things usually supplied on such occasions under the auspices of the Junior Warden.

The duties of chairman were most ably discharged by the W.M.P.M., Br. Colonel B., an old peninsular officer, the leader of several forlorn hopes, and the most energetic singer of the "British Grenadiers," we ever heard. Near him was another gallant Colonel, brother of the highest official personage then in Ireland, and now holding an important office in the court of her most gracious Majesty the Queen, General W. and several other naval and military officers of distinction, took a deep and active interest in the proceedings, the author of the "Hunchback" the accomplished and successful dramatist Mr. S—n K—s, and several other literary celebrities were present, whilst the *elite* of the musical world in that land of song, shed their sweet and thrilling influence over the scene. But conspicuous amongst all shone out Br. B—ld—n glittering all over "like some bright particular star," with the jewels of well-nigh every Order in the Masonic ladder. One would almost suppose him gifted with the power of ubiquity, he seemed to be everywhere at once, ministering to the wants and comforts of all,

"A man severe he was and stern to view."

but beneath that thoughtful countenance and iron frame there throbbed a true Mason's heart.

Many years ago he found Lodge No. 50, a skeleton, and Masonry on the whole at a low ebb in Dublin. However with the assistance of the then D.G.M., Br. W—e and some members of the Victoria Lodge, No. 4, a Lodge numbering among its members most able, learned, and zealous Masons, the Order in general was advanced, whilst he raised his own Lodge to the highest eminence, and made it the starting point of several new Lodges, provincial and metropolitan, all now rivalling the parent Lodge in numbers, respectability, and efficiency.

The grave dignity of his lessons it would be impossible to forget,

whether in the Lodge when impressively delivering the charge to a newly initiated brother or when with gaze of rapt ecstasy piercing the ceiling of *salon*, seeming in the intensity of his abstraction to be in communion with the brotherhood of other worlds, and concluding a manly and sailor-like address *, with his usual and never failing BENISON.

And from our lofty perch in mighty Babylon (lofty enough mayhap for even the son of an Irish king, and in truth somewhat nearer heaven than we ever supposed our merits could have entitled us at this side of the grave), in answering kindness we, even a child of thine who fondly acknowledges his Masonic father, breathe back unto thee, Br. George, o'er land and sea, that fervid BENISON in which we so often shared when poured forth in thy fraternal aspirations.

And we feel no greater pleasure than indulging the hope that when our probationary pilgrimage and wanderings in other lands shall cease, like "the bird that seeketh its mother's nest," we may be once more gathered under thy wing, and again mid old familiar faces receive that paternal blessing ere our wearied spirit wing its flight to that better land where the "heavy-laden" of this world have hope of rest.

But the lion of the night, and one of the chief pictures in the gallery of our Masonic memory was a newly initiated brother whose adventures and "hair breadth scapes" in foreign lands in connection with Freemasonry were so wild and romantic as to induce in all present the wish to hear from himself his "strange eventful history," a gratification which he promised at the next reunion, excusing himself for that evening on the score of want of preparation, and the novelty of the scene around. So whilst awaiting the convenience of our brother, we shall wile away the time by placing before our readers the promised sufferings of poor Phil Simpson when he fancied he was made a Mason.

CHAPTER V.—PHIL SIMPSON—PRELIMINARY PARTICULARS OF THE SIMPSON FAMILY—COL. B. VISITS THE HALL—DOMESTIC CHITCHAT—ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHIL'S FUTURE—EVIL EFFECTS OF NEGLECTED EDUCATION.

THE Phil Simpson class would seem to be nearly extinct, though not many years since there were few towns or districts in Ireland which could not produce its specimen; but what with steam and electricity (those vigorous agents of onward progress) in short, the general intermeddling of that great reforming busybody, the *schoolmaster*, who seems slyly creeping into the bosom of families, shedding his slow influence over fond, foolish mothers and doting fathers, the *disjecta membra* of the village *innocent*, (the gentle term applied in certain parts of the sister isle to what ruder people call a fool) will at no very distant future be sought for mid the *debris* of ages past, and perhaps ranked among the wonders of the pre-adamite world, to be restored to their proper place in the human family by the learning and ingenuity of some Owen of the time to come.

* Br. B—ld—n was midshipman under Nelson at Trafalgar.

Phil's father was a good easy man with a large unencumbered estate, and a very satisfactory account with his bankers, who solely occupied himself with watching the variations in the money market, and arresting the gout in its progress towards that citadel of his body, the stomach, by the imbibition of unlimited bottles of dry crusted old port, familiarly termed by him black strap.

He saw that the hope of his house (for he had but him) the young Phil, grow apace and flourished, without the aid of the doctors, and beyond this he troubled not his head, but left the sole management of this and all other mundane matters to his wife, in which lady's opinion, learning was not only useless, but a bore, and reading a great preventive of digestion; she further saw how thin and pale the poor curate of the parish was, who she had heard was a very learned person (the good lady in her unsophisticated innocence never dreamed how difficult it is to grow fat and sleek upon seventy pounds a year) and who always threw her into a state of nervous alarm whenever he spoke to Phil about what he was reading, and when he intended to prepare for College.

— Phil was by no means an idiot; there seemed to be no organic want or sensible derangement in the original construction of his mental faculties, indeed the astute people in the neighbourhood attributed his want of sharpness to an over indulgent mother's administering too strong doses of a peculiar species of food termed by them "*Papdoodle*," and which it is supposed has a tendency to counteract the development of the intellectual faculties. The late able and beautiful writer, Mr. Maxwell, defined this food to be what they "feed fools on in Connaught;" but whether it be moral, intellectual or material, that deponent said not, and we must leave the point to be decided by M. Soyer, or the metaphysicians.

Phil had now reached that very interesting period of life in the feminine calendar, his "teens," knowing little of this great world beyond what pertained to ponies, poodles, and plum cake, when Simpson Hall was honored by a visit from his maternal uncle, Col. B—w, an officer on half-pay, who had amassed a considerable fortune in India, and who was looked up to (as it is termed) by the family, and who intended to make Phil his heir, never having had courage to try his own luck in the lottery of wedlock.

Col. B. had not seen his nephew for years and was quite pleased with his stout frame, and florid health, but was thrown into a very paroxysm of amazement when that innocent young gentleman put the interrogatory, "Uncle, do all Colonels travel with priests for servants?"

The Colonel stared first at him, then at his mother, then at the father, and at last sternly asked, "What the d—l does the boy mean?"

Mr. Simpson passively said, "I really don't know, better ask his mother, she understands him, I have something else to think of with this horrid gout."

The uncle appealed to her for an explanation. She confessed her inability, but requested her dearest Phil to explain to his uncle, why he had asked the question, and to beg his pardon, for though she could not at the moment see it, she was sure there must be something wrong in it to

make him look so cross and so much astonished." "Why mother," responded Phil, "don't you know old father Doyle, the parish priest, rides a white horse."

The mother with a look of delighted admiration says, "How clever and shrewd to observe what sort of horse the priest rode, I should never have noticed it, don't you think so, brother?"

"I think, mam," returned the blunt Soldier, "it is d—d silly and absurd to mistake my drunken valet for a priest, because he saw a man ride a white horse." "I tell you what, sister, you have made a common fool of the boy, he should be sent off at once to a public school, and I tell you more, I do not wish my nephew, much less my heir, to be made either an idiot or a milksop."

Incipient hysterical symptoms began to manifest themselves at the mere hint of a public school, "she would never send him to such a place to have his innocence destroyed and his morals corrupted." "Nonsense, my dear sister, his morals stand much more chance of being corrupted by your housemaids, and stablemen."

"I'm quite ashamed of you, brother, he could never see any thing in my establishment but propriety and good example." "Never mind that, Mrs. Simpson, you were never a great witch in the way of knowledge, but perhaps you may be able to make a shadowy guess that there are some things which we can practice with very little instruction, or example."

Some little vague instinctive notions seemed to affect her, she knew not why, and blushing, the little lady swept out of the room with Phil grasped so tightly by the hand, as to make him gape like an unfledged bird on the approach of its parent after a foraging expedition. She was unable to make up her mind whether to laugh or cry, but was fully convinced her brother was a hard-hearted brute, who had no conceptions of nor regard for the feelings of a parent.

When the door closed after her, the Colonel commenced, "Now, brother Simpson, I tell you if that boy be not removed from the tender care of his foolish mother he'll never do a pinworth of good, he'll be a noodle all his life; he is now almost at an age when he might don the *toga virilis* yet you still keep him in a bib and tucker, he is really as ignorant as an oyster, and not a jot wiser than old Jerry, the fool, in yonder town, who will set up a cry of anger if you offer him a shilling, but will dance with joy for a halfpenny, and I feel assured, my respected brother, that in your opinion this reaches the very culminating point of folly," added the Colonel, with a significant smile by no means pleasant to Mr. Simpson, who in the hope of putting an end to the subject observed, "I tell you, Colonel, his mother will never consent to his being placed at a public school, and I really do not think it is worth vexing her about, besides, if as you have suggested, a tutor at home will answer the purpose of preparing him for College and you insist upon his entering, have one by all means.

"I shall have nothing whatever to do with it, I'm sure you must know how distressing the subject is to me; and you will confer a most particular favor on me, if you will kindly see that a suitable place shall be fitted

up for them at the farthest end of the house, so that I can not hear them, for I feel quite sure the sound of half a dozen Greek or Latin words would inevitably bring on a fit of the gout, the very recollection of College even at this distance of time, and after so many intervening years produces the most disagreeable sensations."

The Colonel smiled, and said, "Yes, I remember your collegiate course was not very brilliant; I don't think you were often taken in for honours."

"Taken in, they did nothing but *take me in* the whole time I was there, I had the honour to get credit for every villainy committed in Botany Bay (one of the squares of T. C. D.) and out of it too, I think, while I had the misery to be inured there. If any spiteful rascal happened to blow some ill odoured compound through his tutor's key hole, and caused that unlucky person to rush from his bed half suffocated in a state of primitive nudity into the open air, shouting 'fire!' and whilst he discovered the practical joke on hearing from several quarters, 'all hands to the pumps, there's a *fellow* on fire,' it was sure to be put down to Phil Simpson, of Botany Bay.

"If a set of scamps in a drunken spree sacrificed the lamps at the shrine of the *muses* (certain offices from their number bore this classic name) no body was suspected but Phil Simpson. "It could scarcely be more uncomfortable to have been chained by the legs in its synonyme at the antipodes than suffer all I endured in that horrible square; and, if my poor dear father had not fortunately for me taken it into his merciful consideration to die about that period and enabled me to cut it, I feel quite certain I should myself have died, or at least have gone stark staring mad."

"Well, I hope my nephew will be more fortunate, though it looks like a forlorn hope. I shall, however, do all I can, and shall myself go up to town and consult my old friend Dr. H—e about a competent tutor."

The Colonel proceeded forthwith on his mission, and having secured the services of a gentleman of first rate qualifications, and having duly installed him at Simpson Hall, with the strictest injunctions not to mind what any body said, but to cram Phil as they do geese at Michaelmas, took his departure to the great relief of the family, promising to return for Phil when his tutor should report him ready for entrance.

(To be continued.)

BR. MEYERBEER, the eminent composer, is now in town, being about to superintend the production of his last great work, *L'Etoile du Nord*, at the Royal Italian Opera. Br. Meyerbeer is not only a Craft and Arch Mason, but has taken various degrees, not generally acknowledged in this country, up to No. 30, and we are informed is one of the most enthusiastic followers and admirers of the beautiful principles upon which our Order is founded.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(Continued from p. 322.)

CHAPTER XI. DISCLOSURES—A TRAGEDY.

THE conversation which Simon overheard was well calculated to arrest his attention. Our readers remember that, in his interview with the Maniac, he received from him an address to which he was to apply, as Simon believed, for the purpose of ascertaining some information relative to his parentage.

That address was Monsieur Lefebre, at the Château Madelaine, near a hamlet in Burgundy, and minute directions were given for ascertaining the exact locality.

"It is a strange tale," said one of the speakers, "it is something like romance."

"And yet it is quite true," said the other. "It was related circumstantially to me by Lefebre."

"And where is the Count living?"

"That Lefebre did not feel at liberty to reveal, but I could understand that he had secluded himself from society, and was leading a kind of eremitic life. Indeed, it appears, that since the death of the Countess, his reason has been partially affected—that he is a sort of lunatic."

"And his son, this Simon le Trouve, has no knowledge of his descent, or anything about the noble Château Madelaine, or the estate of which he is to become the future possessor?"

"Not the slightest. It was a part of the eccentricity of the Count to conceal from him his birth, though he took care to provide him with money. The estate is managed by Lefebre, whose extravagance long since impoverished his means, and made the agency desirable. He is also related to the Count, and perhaps feels a family interest in the matter. Some change has taken place in the mind of his eccentric kinsman, who has desired him to institute inquiries after this Simon, who departed suddenly from the neighbourhood where he had been living, without leaving any trace by which to find him. Indeed, it is rumoured, that he partakes of the insanity of his father. But I must retire to rest, after the fatigue of the day."

The speakers here separated, leaving Simon overwhelmed with astonishment at what he had heard. He reflected that at least he was not isolated in the world, for he had a parent living, though that parent had deserted him, and was, to all appearance, a lunatic. Still, there was one living being bound to him by the closest relationship, and he was suffering. Here a new feeling sprang up in his mind, and that was sympathy for his own flesh and blood. The neglect of his father was not produced by want of natural affection, but by mental disease, which rendered him an object of compassion rather than of resentment. Besides, that parent had not entirely deserted him, but had provided means for his support and educa-

tion, proving that, notwithstanding his mental aberration, natural feeling still existed in his breast. Then he thought of the exalted position he was to occupy in the world, surrounded by all the luxuries that wealth could procure, and meeting that deference which is accorded to rank.

Only one thing was wanting to complete his happiness—the love of Ida. Would she be induced to share his prosperity? She might be dazzled by his position and accept him for a husband, but would her heart accompany her hand? The past answered in the negative, and it is withering to know that there are things which cannot be purchased, that the affection which you prize is not a vendible commodity, and that though you may be surrounded by all that the materialist can desire, there is still a void in the craving of your nature, without which, your happiness is incomplete, namely, a pure unsordid love felt for yourself alone.

But the nature of Simon was in a state of transition. He mourned over the blight which his affections had sustained in their tenderest point, but not with the hopelessness of future happiness, with which it had at first fallen on his spirit. Intercourse with his fellow men, and active life, had shown him that there are various sources of felicity open to the human being, and that existence is a chequered scene, in which joy and sorrow are blended together. The chivalrous act of his unknown benefactor, who had rescued him from death, at the cost, probably, of his own life, awakened a dormant sentiment of gratitude to the whole human race, which was perishing from his nature by the want of development, not supplied by the incidents of his antecedent life.

It gave him an insight into human nature which he had not previously and he perceived that there was struggling through much that was possessed, selfish and base, an element in the breast of man that was noble and God-like. Had his feelings been consulted at that time, he would have freely given up his newly acquired wealth, to ascertain the name of the party to whom he was indebted for the preservation of a life, which a short time previously, he had deemed a worthless possession.

He was roused from his reverie by the groans of a man, at a short distance from where he stood. He proceeded in the direction from which the voice proceeded, and he heard the sufferer exclaim in a tone that was familiar to him,

“For the love of God, for the sake of your soul, give me a drink of water, and don't let me perish here.”

“What! André Buffon!” said Simon.

“The same—and you?”

“A friend that will not allow you to die without assistance, undeserving as you are.”

“I think I know your voice, and if ever I wronged you—but I can scarcely speak, nor can I raise myself. Oh, that I was with my poor mother,” and the imbecile creature sobbed like a child.

“Rouse yourself, man,” said Simon, in a stern tone, for disgust was overcoming his feelings of humanity, while he held a flask to André's lips. The wounded man drained the contents, and said, in a whining voice,

“Are you Simon le Trouve?”

"Yes, Yes," replied the latter hurriedly. "This is no time for talking. See if you cannot with my assistance reach the baggage train in the rear, where you will be attended to."

"May all the saints in the calender protect you," exclaimed Andre, who was a Roman Catholic, as Simon helped him to rise, and supported him in the direction named. They soon reached the place where the wounded were temporarily placed, for André had only received a flesh wound, and was more frightened than hurt. Having seen Andre safely into the custody of those to whom the wounded were entrusted, Simon returned to his post, feeling grateful that he had been able to assist a fellow creature, worthless as he was.

Day now broke, and revealed many manly forms stark and mangled, with the morning dew glistening on their rigid and distorted features. It was a sickening sight, and in his present mood of mind Simon turned from it with loathing. He lost no time in seeking out the commanding-officer of his division, to whom he related the conversation he had heard the preceding evening, together with its reference to him, and the latter promised to make inquiries after the speakers. It was ascertained that they were officers of rank, and, on Simon making himself known to them, and expressing a wish to visit Mons. Lefebre, they succeeded in procuring him leave of absence for a few days.

He was ready to depart the next morning, but before leaving he made some inquiries relative to Andre, whom he ascertained was recovering fast, though he was bemoaning his fate, and asserted that his wound was mortal. He learned, also, that amongst the wounded who had been removed the evening previous, was a young assistant-surgeon named Beaufriere, who was generally regretted. He subsequently discovered that it was Alfred, and that he was mortally wounded. This intelligence grieved him, for all traces of animosity to his early friend had been effaced, and he sighed to think of the untimely fate of one so gifted in person and disposition.

A few days brought Simon in sight of the dwelling of his forefathers, and the broad lands which surrounded it, his future inheritance. The mansion was castellated, and was evidently erected at a remote date. The grey battlements gleamed through the vestment of ivy that was mantling the hoary edifice; and a feeling of pride swelled up in Simon's bosom, when he reflected that he was gazing on the abode of his ancestors, some of whom perhaps had been amongst the heroes of Crecy, or Agincourt, or had shed their blood on the burning plains of Palestine. As he approached, a breeze sprang up, waving the drooping flag on the battlement, and, sweeping through the trees, played on his cheek. It seemed as if the spirit of the place floated forth to welcome him to the ancient home of his forefathers.

After a protracted interview with Mons. Lefebre, Simon was introduced to the guests who were remaining at the château, as the son of an old friend and relative of his, and in Madame Lefebre he recognised the early acquaintance of Ida. She treated him with great cordiality, and told him that Ida had not long left the château, adding, that she had made a

serious impression on the heart of a puritanical relative of her husband's, a Lutheran minister in the neighbourhood. This latter was told with an air of levity, but she sighed heavily, and remained silent for some time afterwards. Simon did not notice the alteration, for he appeared buried in thought, and his countenance wore a melancholy expression.

Mons. Lefebre was also unusually grave, and he appeared to be labouring under some heavy depression of spirit, which he vainly endeavoured to conceal by his customary manner.

In the course of the day he requested Simon to accompany him to his study, and informed him he would require his assistance as a relative and friend, the next morning. He stated that a duel was to take place between him and a former friend, and that he felt a presentiment the result would be fatal to him. To Simon's suggestion that the affair might be arranged, he replied it was impossible, for his opponent had received through him a dishonour to his family, which, were he in his place, he would feel bound to take vengeance for. It was the seduction of a sister. Though Simon would have preferred declining to act as a second in the sanguinary scene, he could not refuse the request of his relative, and agreed to meet him at an early hour the following morning.

The remainder of the day was spent by Mons. Lefebre in his study, arranging his affairs and giving a detailed account of his stewardship of the Madelaine estate, which he addressed to Simon. He also wrote a brief but affectionate letter to his wife, and another to Jeune-grace. When these were completed, he flung himself back in his chair, and involuntarily entered into a retrospect of his past life, the incidents of which rose up vividly before him. He remembered distinctly the period when he had been the pride and hope of fond parents, and the rapture with which they watched his mental and physical faculties unfolding, and his grief when he saw them consigned in his boyhood to an early grave. How, for months afterwards, he would wander desolate about the old mansion, where every object reminded him of the vanished looks of love and tenderness, so different to the cold and formal aspect of the guardian to whose care he was entrusted. He was still in the prime of manhood, but a life of dissipation had impaired his constitution, and he felt the curse of the Sybarite, a disgust and weariness at almost everything he felt or saw, and the want of capacity for permanent enjoyment. But he recollected clearly with what ardour and trustfulness in the future he entered in early youth on the path of pleasure, scarcely thinking that decay is an element in the physical genesis, and that all fruition produces only satiety.

How fresh was once each object in existence. What a bloom was on creation; and what dreamy and luxurious feelings sprang up in his mind, as he wandered through the woodland, or by the winding stream, inhaling the pure atmosphere of the country, and surrounded by the beauty of floral and vegetable life. And then, how glorious that golden romance that pervaded his imagination, how far superior to the grossness of reality. This was the period when he had revelled in his day-dream of love, when love is an incense of the young untainted soul, pining for purity and excellence, and unsullied by any gross emanations of sense.

And she to whom he had sworn fidelity, and whom his fancy had etherealised, how vividly her image rose up before him on the morning when they separated, only to meet again on terms of indifference and to laugh over the days of their romance.

How many generous sentiments he had once felt, which had been extinguished by sensual indulgence; and how gradually a callousness to all that did not conduce to his own gratification crept over his nature. And his early sentiments of purity, where were they? All vanished; and in their place a hollow scepticism and a materialist theory. The circumstances connected with the death strife in which he was about to be engaged, next intruded on his mind. The man who would seek his life in a few hours, had once been his most intimate friend, and during absence had entrusted his only sister to his care, as to that of a brother, and how had he discharged that sacred trust. Finally his thoughts turned to his wife, whom he had wooed in a moment of caprice, when sickened with what are called the follies of the fashionable world. Did he fulfil the vow he had made to love and cherish her?—Had he not frozen her once fervid heart by his indifference and neglect?

The thoughts of Lefebre were too painful to be endured, and he sought relief in the wine before him. He drank glass after glass, until his senses were stupefied, and he sank into a deep sleep.

As day was breaking, Simon rose and knocked at Lefebre's door. He found him already dressed, and rather pale and nervous from his solitary debauch the preceding evening. But Lefebre soon recovered himself, and suppressed any indication that could induce a supposition that he shrunk from the result of the rencontre. He was a man of courage and of pride, and resolved that his last act should be in conformity with his reputation. He told Simon that he would follow him to the ground, and when the latter left the house, stole softly to the bedchamber of his wife. She was asleep and he thought she never looked so lovely. Something like a tear gathered in his eye, but he repressed it, and bending down he pressed his lips to her, and retired.

Simon had reached the ground. It was a lovely morning, with all the attributes of beauty of reviving and blossoming flowers, fragrance and stray notes of melody from the boughs, with a purple shade resting on almost every object visible. What a contrast the aspect of that still life to the sanguinary scene that was about to be enacted.

He was soon joined by Lefebre, and after a short time the other parties made their appearance.

The seconds having arranged the preliminaries, the combatants were placed sword in hand, and face to face.

Both were powerful in body, and expert swordsmen, but a contest of some minutes terminated in Lefebre's receiving the sword of his opponent in his side. He fell with a groan, and Simon supported his head. The dying man gave him one look of gratitude, it was his last, for he rolled from his grasp a corpse.

Thus perished a man who might, under other circumstances, have been an ornament to society and a benefit to his fellow beings.

Simon lost no time in having him conveyed to the castle, which he reached just as the last of the revellers had retired from the banquet room, which still smelt strongly of the fumes of wine.

CHAPTER XII.—THE MANIAC'S NARRATIVE.

Though Ida expected to hear little more than the outpourings of remorse, or the incoherencies of a disordered imagination, still she kept her promise with the Maniac, and repaired to the Mount early the next day. She found him seated on the fragment of a rock, with a roll of paper in his hand. He accosted her with more than usual sadness, but he appeared perfectly collected and rational. When she had seated herself by his side he said,

“I have invited you, Ida, to hear my tale, which I have committed to paper in calmer moments. I know that long before it is concluded, I shall have inspired you with horror, and that you will recoil from me with loathing. I intended to have deferred my narrative until my dying hour, for then I would have no necessity for your sympathy, or for your society, which has been the only thing in existence that has afforded me pleasure since my abode here. But something impels me to make my disclosures now, for something tells me I am on the threshold of eternity, that perhaps only a few hours are allotted to me, for this temple of madness has long been crumbling to decay. Look, Ida,” he said, baring his arm, which was worn to a skeleton, “look, and see if this wretched frame can long survive. Weep not, my child, for death will be a release; and can the Infinite doom to eternal torment, one who has known no peace for years, and whose waking and sleeping moments have been haunted by a phantom of horror, that has frequently tempted me to fling myself over this precipice? Ida, I have loved you like my own child. Your kindness has caused to flow the first tear my seared brain could shed for years, and that afforded me a temporary relief. I do not ask you not to loathe me, but before I commence, will you promise that you will not retain resentment to my son, who, though morose and wayward, is guiltless of his father's faults? Will you promise this as though you were speaking to a dying man?”

“Yes,” said Ida, earnestly, “yes, I promise it most solemnly.”

“Then I shall proceed,” he said, and unfolding the manuscript, he read the following, which was frequently interrupted by bursts of anguish, which we have omitted, for, by this time, the reader must have a clear insight into the mental tortures he was enduring.

“Would you have ever thought that the wretched being who now addresses you, was once an object of the world's worship, the possessor of rank and wealth, to whom the incense of adulation was daily offered, by the venal parasites of prosperity? Can you believe that I, whose latter associations have been only the rugged rock, the wild brambles and the mouldering oak, and whose only animated visitants are the snail, or the worm that crawls by my abode, that I have mixed with the noblest and

most refined in the land? But such is the case. I have heard in a lucid moment my common designation here, and yet the Maniac of the Mount is one of the noblest and wealthiest peers of France.

"I was not once so. I was poor, parentless, and had to work at an humble trade for my living, at an early age, in Paris. My toil was ill-remunerated, I was surrounded by squalor, and hunger frequently visited my sordid dwelling. Life had one solace, that of a friend. He was in better circumstances, and was intended for a minister of the Lutheran church. We early formed acquaintance. I was a catholic, but he had no sectarian prejudices and knew no distinctions in his benevolence. He would say that all Christian creeds were like rays flashing from the diamond, that all taught precepts of morality, and all inculcated Brotherly Love.

"We grew into manhood together, and I loved him as my life. I looked up to him as a superior being, but he was all humility. He entered on his ministry, and I continued at my trade, till our intercourse was interrupted. What pure and happy moments we spent together, wandering by the banks of the Seine. But our friendship was destined to terminate. At our then period of life, it was natural that we should fall in love. Men when they advance in years deride the passion, but love is a necessity of youth. We loved, but, unfortunately, it was the same young maiden. I thought she preferred my friend, but I strove to banish the idea, for it drove me almost to frenzy. Every look directed to your father, every word she addressed to him drove me to distraction, and I took deadly hatred towards him.

"Circumstance soon made me a successful rival, for I became possessed of a title and an estate through the death of an uncle who was childless, but who was eccentric, and would never contribute to the support of my parents, or myself, though he knew my father or I must succeed him. I now resolved to gratify my resentment against my former friend, and to obtain possession of the girl whom I still loved, notwithstanding her preference of another. I pleaded my passion, and pointed out the advantages in a worldly point from being the wife of a man of wealth. She declined my offer, but I was not deterred, and applied to her parents. They were limited in means, and persuaded her into a compliance with my wishes.

"I felt an indescribable transport, I thought of the triumph I had achieved, and I pictured the torture I had inflicted on my rival. But I little thought with what strength religion arms its possessor, for he appeared tranquil and resigned, and when we met he saluted me with the deference due to my position, but without any indication of resentment. I saw, however, that his cheek was thinner and paler than usual, and I knew that he must be suffering in mind.

"I could not complain of my wife. She was brought up in a school of piety and obedience, and no murmur, no word, no look of regret ever escaped her, and at the same time she endeavoured to render me as happy as possible. There was only one circumstance in her conduct that occasioned me pain. She refused to comply with my wishes to become a member of

the national faith, but remained a member of the Lutheran faith, and was constant in her attendance at the chapel where my rival officiated, in the environs of the metropolis. This opposition to my will, excited not only anger, but jealousy, and from that hour I vowed to persecute my former friend even to death, should he cross my path. I knew that his sole dependence was on his flock, but still I determined to drive him from Paris. I soon found that I had sufficient influence to effect this, and to dry up his present source of income. Religious intolerance is not peculiar to any form of faith—it is common to all, at least to the unreasoning and bigoted of every denomination, and it has been frequently found an efficient agent in gratifying other desires than that of establishing any peculiar religious dogmas. This chapel was ordered to be closed, and he was interdicted from practising his ministry in Paris under severe penalties. If all forms of the Christian creed are tainted with intolerance, so have all of them members, whose sincerity cannot be denied, and as the one will tempt to persecute, so will the other nerve them to suffer for the faith that is in them. My rival was one of the latter. He did not openly infringe the law, but he did so secretly, by celebrating the simple rites of his religion in the private dwellings of some members of his little congregation. In this he was detected and thrown into prison, where he languished for some months.

“However, through the persuasion of his flock he was induced to promise that he would depart immediately, and on this condition he was liberated.

“I saw my wife was getting into bad health, and I fancied it was from sympathy with the sufferings of her former lover. This incensed me more than ever against him, but I rested satisfied with having accomplished my immediate object. She was ordered change of air, and a new source of affection for her was disclosed—she was about becoming a mother. I had no doubt of her fidelity, she was too pure for such suspicion. It was for that warmth of affection, which I thought she at one time had for my rival that I panted, and which no proofs of my attachment could elicit.

“We left Paris, and went to reside in the country. The change had a beneficial effect on both of us, and I began to feel a serenity that I had never experienced since our marriage. Even some of my resentment to my persecuted friend abated, and I felt grieved at the length to which I had carried my resentment. But my former feelings were soon revived in all their former force. Riding out in the direction of a small town in the neighbourhood, we encountered the object of my aversion. He was clad in the attire of a peasant. He recognised me, and raised his hat deferentially, and I perceived that he had grown quite grey. I looked at my wife, she coloured deeply and sighed. I immediately instituted inquiries, and ascertained that he was officiating in the neighbouring town, and earned a scanty subsistence. I felt I could not rest until I had driven him from the spot, and I again succeeded.

“My wife shortly afterwards became very ill, and died in giving birth prematurely to a child. In her last moments she besought me to be reconciled to my early friend, and desired me to read a letter in her escritoire. It was addressed to her by him a short time previous to our

marriage. He besought her for the sake of her parents to accept my offer, and not to bestow a thought on him, for the knowledge that she was placed in a position of affluence, would console him for the loss of her society, and that happiness which he had looked forward to in being united to her. He dwelt upon the transitory nature of human felicity, and the duty of the Christian to bow with submission to the decrees of an overruling Providence. And then he spoke of me, and with the affection of a brother whose estrangement from him he deeply regretted. The letter concluded by an earnest prayer for our happiness.

“The letter dropped from my hand, and I rushed to my wife’s bed-side. I wept on her pillow, and I promised her solemnly that I would never desist until I had discovered my friend, asked his forgiveness, and atoned to him for my persecution. She was too faint to reply, but a gentle pressure and a look of gratitude convinced me that she understood my meaning. A few days afterwards I followed her to the grave. I could not bear the sight of my child, regarding its birth as the cause of my wife’s death. I removed it to where I knew he would be properly tended, and I supplied ample means for his provision and education.

“From that moment I devoted myself to searching after my friend, but it was vain. I traced him to various places, and perhaps my inquiries reached his ears, and not knowing my motives in pursuing him, he took steps to baffle my discovery.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

GRAND LODGE.

THE Quarterly Communication was held in Freemasons’ Hall, on Wednesday, June 6th, the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. presiding, supported by Br. Stuart, S.W.; Eaton, J.W.; Rev. J. E. Cox, G.Chap.; Rev. Ed. Moore, G. Ch.; W. H. White, G. Sec.; A. Dobie, G. Reg.; H. L. Crohn, G.S.G.C.; R. W. Jennings, G.D. Cers.; J. Chapman, Assist. do.; Bagshaw, P.G.M. for Essex; Bowyer, P.G.M. for Oxfordshire; Rawson, P.G.M. for China; Lord Leigh, P.G.M. for Warwickshire; John Hervey, P.G.D.; Potter, P.G.D.; Goldsworthy, P.G.P.; Havers, P. G. D.; Patten, P.G.S.B.; Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Leech, P.G.S.B.; Spiers, P.G.S.B., &c. &c.

The G. Sec. read the minutes of the last G. Lodge, the Board of Masters, and the Board of General Purposes, all of which were confirmed, although we do not believe that one Brother in ten could make head or tail of what they were about, in consequence of the tone in which they were read.

An election was taken for fourteen Members of the Lodge of Benevolence, when the ballot was declared to have fallen on Brs. Gooch, Hopwood, Morris, Moxon, Roberts, Webb, and Wilkinson, as acting Masters; and Brs. Attwood, Barrett, Bisgood, Filer, Johnson, Palmer, and Young, as P. Masters.

The M.W.G.M. then appointed eleven brethren to the Board: they were, as far as we could understand—but we do not vouch for the accuracy of the list, in consequence of the inaudible tone in which the names were read—Br. Bigg, Crohn, Dobie, L. Evans, Faudell, John Hervey, Jennings, King, Herbert Lloyd, Parkinson, and Tomkins. We applied at the grand Secretary’s office for a list of the names, in order to avoid mistakes, but it was refused us, by order of Br. White, the G. Sec., who has a great horror of seeing anything published relative to Masonry—a horror which

appears even to extend to the publication of the minutes and accounts of the Quarterly Communications, FIVE of which are now over due.

Br. Symonds moved that it be referred to the Board of General Purposes to make inquiry into the circumstances attendant upon the Freemasons' Tavern changing hands, and especially as regarded its being let to the late proprietors.

Br. Barrett seconded the motion. This gave rise to some discussion, which, for obvious reasons, we do not publish; and the resolution, which cannot by possibility lead to any beneficial result, was carried.

Br. Savage moved that, inasmuch as the annual grant from Grand Lodge to the Widows' Fund of the Royal Benevolent Institution had been increased from 100*l.* to 200*l.* an additional vote should be given to the Masters of the various Lodges. He brought forward the resolution on principle, and he believed that the only reason why it was not made part of the original resolution, was a feeling that it followed as a matter of course. For the Male Annuity Fund, 400*l.* per annum was granted, and four votes were allowed to the Lodges for it; it was, therefore, but reasonable, that when the vote to the Widows' Fund was increased from 100*l.* to 200*l.*, the votes should be increased from one to two. Indeed, it ought to be understood that every 100*l.* so voted should carry with it a vote to the Masters of the various Lodges.

Br. Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

Brs. Havers, Dobie, and White (the G. Sec.), opposed the motion, on the ground that it would give too great a preponderance to the votes of the Lodges against those of individual subscribers; and that the motion ought to have been submitted to the subscribers at a General Meeting, prior to coming before Grand Lodge.

Br. Savage replied, and the question, being put, was negatived.

Br. Dobie complained of lists of candidates to become members of the Board of Benevolence having been sent round with a request for support. He thought such canvassing illegal, and ought to be suppressed, as the brethren were supposed to come to Grand Lodge to give their votes free and unfettered.

Br. Savage thought the evil might be put an end to, by the brethren being elected by a show of hands instead of ballot.

After a few further observations, the subject dropped.

A Brother who, some years since, was suspended from the enjoyment of Masonic privileges—he being a defaulter as Treasurer of a Lodge, and in other ways—applied to be re-admitted to those privileges.

The application was refused.

Br. Portal, P.G.W. of Oxfordshire, gave notice, that at the next Quarterly Communication he should move that a programme of the business to be brought forward at each meeting should be printed, for the information of the brethren attending Grand Lodge.

All business being ended, the Lodge was closed in due form.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

THIS Board met for the first time since its reconstruction, on Tuesday last, when Dr. Dobre having been appointed President, Br. George Barrett was elected Vice-President. No other business was transacted. The Board consists of 14 brothers (being Masters or P.M.'s), elected by Grand Lodge, and 11 appointed by the Grand Master in addition to the G.M., the G.D.M., and the two G.W.'s, who are members ex-officio.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the meeting of this Board on Wednesday, the 30th May, 182*l.* was voted in various sums, for the relief of distressed Brethren or their Widows. And at the meeting of the 17th June, 83*l.*

ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

At the request of some country brethren, we print the balance-sheet of this Institution for the past year, in order that it may gain more general currency amongst the Craft than it is otherwise likely to do :—

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
1854.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1854
To Produce of Children's Work		30 14 0	By Balance paid Treasurer
Donation per United Grand Lodge of England	350 0 0		Provisions for Matron, Assistants, Servants, and Children
United Grand Lodge Subscriptions	150 0 0		755 12 0
Amount of Donations and Subscriptions, as per List	1180 13 6		Rates, taxes, and insurance
Ditto per Provincial Grand Lodges ..	15 15 0		54 3 8
Ditto Lodges as per List	280 7 0		Furniture, Matting, &c. ..
Ditto Lodges of Instruction	11 11 0		9 15 4
Supreme Grand Chapter £10 10 0			Linen, Clothing, &c.
Chapters as per List....	8 8 0		213 12 4
Encampments	18 18 0		Coals, Coke, Firewood, Oil, Soap, and Candles
	3 3 0	329 14 0	158 8 0
Six Months' Dividend on Stock 3 per cent. Consolidated Annuities, due Jan. £4200	63 0 0		House Utensils, Oilmen, Turnery, &c. ..
Ditto on Stock 3 per cent. Reduced Annuities, due April. £4000	60 0 0		34 10 11
Ditto ditto 3 per cent. Consols, due July, £4200	63 0 0		Sundry Repairs
Ditto ditto 3 per cent. Reduced, due October, £4000	60 0 0	246 0 0	51 5 3
			Books, Stationery, Printing, Postage, Porterage, Advertisements, including Secretarial Disbursements
			99 11 0
			Presentation Medals, for two years
			2 10 0
			Omnibuses for conveying Children to and from the Festival ..
			5 4 0
			Medicines and Expenses
			19 1 0
			Com. to Collector
			60 11 3
			Garden Charges
			29 2 10
			Writing on Vellum Three Testimonials— one for presentation to the Chairman, one to the Deputy-Chairman, and one to the Members of the Building Committee of the School, &c. ..
			19 19 0
			Gratuity to Brother Crew, for additional Services and Expenses during the Erection of the New Building ..
			126 0 0
			Salaries and Wages to Secretary, Matron, Schoolmistress, &c.
			330 9 6
			Board-room Clock, Winding Turret Clock One Year, and Repairing Dial
			5 2 6
			1974 19 4
			Piper, Messrs., balance of their Account for Building, &c.
			135 17 11
			Funeral Expenses of the late Mrs. Crook, who was upwards of Fifty-four Years Matron of the Institution, Mourning for the Household, Children, and Servants, &c. ..
			74 11 10
			Balance in Banker's hands
			11 19 9
			£2287 1 6

Audited and found Correct, Tuesday, 3rd April, 1855, by

GEORGE BIGGS.
FREDERICK ADLARD.
JOHN BARNES.

LONDON LODGES.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—The last meeting of the brethren of this Lodge for the season, took place on the 13th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Br. Law, the W.M., ably initiated one candidate into the Order.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—The last meeting, for the season, of this Lodge was held on the evening of the 30th of May, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on which occasion the W.M., Br. Hopwood, ably raised one brother and passed another to their respective degrees. Among the visitors were Brs. Bohn, Crohn, Hempden, Honey, Palmer, Stone, &c. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren dined together to the number of 30.

WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 10).—This Lodge which has been recently resuscitated through the exertions of Br. Spiers, D.P.G.M., of Oxfordshire, as a Lodge of reunion for the brethren of that Province, met on the 6th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, when the W.M., the Rev. Br. Lyall, ably initiated two gentlemen into the Order.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—The members of this distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, June 6th, to take into consideration the celebration of the centenary, when it was decided, that as the Lodge had been established for considerably more than a century, it was not expedient to do more than adopt the *distinctive Jewel*, to be allowed to wear which, application has been made to the G.M.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, June 12th, when it was arranged that the summer banquet take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, July 4th. Several initiations are expected, prior to the banquet.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—The brethren of this Lodge held a meeting, on the 30th of May, when the W.M., Br. Artus, raised two, and passed two brothers to their respective degrees. The Lodge in recognition of the services of the late Br. J. Dalton, many years its Tyler, voted £2 2s. as a donation to his widow.

The last meeting of the Lodge for the year was held on the 28th of June, when a Br. was duly raised to the Third Degree. After a slight refection, the brethren adjourned. They will, however, hold a banquet at the Star and Garter, Richmond, on the 10th inst. It is with sincere regret—a regret that we are sure will be felt by every Brother who has the honour of his acquaintance—that we have heard of the serious illness of Br. Orme, the immediate P.M. of the Lodge, and we trust that, ere long, we may be enabled to announce his restoration to health.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—This Lodge met, for the last time this season, on Thursday, 7th June, at Br. Ireland's, Falcon Chambers, Fetter Lane. The candidates for several ceremonies not being in attendance, as expected, Br. Crawley, S.M. (103) Vis., with the assistance of the brethren, worked the first and second sections of the first lecture. The brethren then adjourned to partake of an excellent supper, provided in Br. Ireland's usual liberal style. After the usual Masonic toasts, the W.M., in proposing the healths of Brs. Heywood (23), and Crawley (103), expressed the pleasure felt at all times in receiving those welcome visitors, and more particularly the thanks of the Lodge for the valuable assistance rendered on all occasions by Br. Crawley, in giving instruction to the members. Br. Crawley, in return, stated that during the several years he had been acquainted with the Lodge, he had always felt the greatest pleasure in visiting it, and, perhaps, never more so than on the present occasion, when he saw many brethren around him whom he held in great respect. And with regard to instruction, he believed it was well known that he was always most happy to give it, whenever called upon. Br. Wilkinson, P.M., then proposed the health of the W.M., Br. Turner, and trusted that he would have a successful and happy year of office. He felt certain that if the W.M. succeeded in performing the duties to his own satisfaction, he would not fail of gaining the approbation of the brethren. After drinking the healths of the P.M.'s, coupled with the names of Br. Moss, Treasurer, and Br. Connelly Secretary, and other past and present Officers, the brethren closed a most harmonious evening, which was enlivened by some excellent singing.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The brethren of this excellent and highly respectable Lodge, celebrated the centenary of their Charter, on the 31st May, by a very elegant dinner, at the Brunswick Hotel, Blackwall, the W.M., Br. Lewis Solomon, presiding. A variety of toasts having been drunk, Br. Wm. Johnson, P.M., rose to propose, "Prosperity and perpetuity to the Lodge of Regularity." It gave him sincere pleasure to be able to propose that toast, as the records of the Lodge showed how prosperous it had been during the 100 years it had been in existence, and how steadily it had supported the Charter, there being scarcely an instance, if any, of any festival taking place for a Masonic charity to which that Lodge did not send a Steward. It was most gratifying to see the offices so well filled with rising and enthusiastic Masons as they now were, and whilst they continued to be so filled, there was no fear but the Lodge must continue to prosper. The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. The evenings entertainment was enlivened by the vocal exertions of the W.M., Br. Albertz, Br. Crew, Br. George Genge, and other brethren, and the excellent performances on the piano of Br. Charles Solomon, who also favoured the company with several songs *a la* Parry.

POLISH NATIONAL (No. 778).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge was held, on the 14th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Br. Looinger was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and Mr. W. Murray initiated into the Order. Br. Lemanski, P.M., on the same occasion, installed Br. Detkins as W.M. for the ensuing year, who appointed Br. Johnson, S.W.; Br. Samuel, J.W.; Br. Murray, S.D.; Br. Bonporath, J.D.; and Br. Matta, I.G. At the banquet table, a very handsome jewel was presented to P.M., Br. Ritterbandt, for the ability with which he discharged the duties of his year of office. The health of the visitors was acknowledged by Brs. Dawson and Yoell, of the Adelpi Lodge (No. 23, New York Register). There were also present Brs. Mather, Martin, Shaboe, Gurton, and Ward.

MOIRA LODGE (No. 109).—This old and celebrated Lodge marks with a white stone its entertainment of the 26th, for not only was there a large and influential body of the brethren and visitors present, but after the close of Masonic business the Lodge was honoured on this occasion by the attendance of a great many ladies.

The Lodge was opened in the usual form by Br. C. Hogg, who assisted by Br. R. G. Ledger, S.W., and Br. J. W. Mellish, I.W. After the usual ceremonies, Mr. Sargood and the Rev. R. Roberts were initiated most efficiently. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to the banquet; and here we beheld the most effective *coup d'œil* we ever witnessed. In the centre of the tables, and running down their whole length were innumerable silver gilt vases filled with the choicest flowers. Groups of wax lights dotted about, giving a beautiful effect. In front of the W.M. was a large looking-glass plateau, illustrated with groups of growing flowers, and surrounded by gilt winged figures supporting branches for lights; but, beyond all, the rows of fair ladies was by far the most attractive sight. Such an assemblage of beauty and fashion ever to be remembered by the brethren of the Lodge.

Among the Brs. we observed, Br. Hogg, W.M., Br. White, G.S., Br. Potter, P.G.I.W., Br. Ledger, Br. Mellish, John Mott Thearle, G. W. Bell, R. C. Bell, F. Slight, Straight, Palmer, Austin, Aspall, Lewis, Law, Webster, Smith, O. Law, Sargood, Roberts, and a number of other distinguished brethren.

The dinner was of the most *recherche* description, every delicacy in and out of season; and the whole arrangement of the banquet reflects the highest credit upon Br. Bathe, who on this occasion had devoted the whole of the London Tavern to the accommodation of the brethren of the Moira and their friends. Apropos of the dinner, and in parenthesis (we would remark upon the absurdity of having the bills of fare in French,—many of the visitors do not understand it, and not one of the waiters. We had the hardihood to request a waiter to bring us a plate of the "*Compote de Pigeon à la Financier*," the request evidently much disturbed his mind; but with that ability in meeting exigencies so peculiar to waiters, he departed and returned with lamb chops and cucumber, evidently not the dish with the long name we so desired to have).

The usual Masonic toasts were given by the W.M. with his usual eloquence. Those requiring it were responded to by Brs. White, G.S., Potter, Sargood, Roberts, Smith, &c.

The musical arrangements under the direction of Br. H. R. Allen were most perfect. The vocalists were, Miss St. Vincent, Miss Stage, Br. E. Day, H. Percy, Mr. Ruddock, Mr. Harper and the veteran vocalist, Mr. Jolly. Conductor, Br. W. Aspull, P.W., of No. 76 and P.G.O. presided at the pianoforte with that judicious care and taste which has so distinguished this accomplished musician. Br. H. R. Allen, the celebrated tenor singer, then sung most delightfully Mozart's beautiful song, "O Cara Imagine." Br. Day sang several beautiful songs with great feeling. Miss St. Vincent has one of the sweetest voices we ever heard, and we augur a very high professional future fortune. The festivities were prolonged until a late hour, and with the last carriage, as it rolled away, closed one of the old Moira's happy days.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season on the 7th June, when one Brother was passed and another raised to their respective degrees. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, and, after passing a happy evening, separated well delighted with the results of the season.

ZETLAND LODGE (No. 752).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on the 12th ult., at the Adam and Eve, Kensington, for the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, and also for the election of a Treasurer, when Br. Haywood, S.W., was elected to preside over the Lodge, and Br. Daly to guard its funds. We congratulate the Lodge upon its selection of these brethren, who, we are sure, will ably and faithfully fulfil the duties imposed on them.

BEADON LODGE (No. 902).—On the 20th ult., this Lodge held its first meeting of the season, at Br. Adams' Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, under the able presidency of the W.M., Br. Wm. Watson, who raised Brs. Woodley, Charles, and Search (23), and passed Br. Kingshot. The banquet which followed the Masonic business of the evening, was served in the host's usual liberal and elegant style. The visitors present were, Brs. Kirby, P.M. (169), Banks, S.W. (11), Gurton, S.W. (211), Learch (23), and Beans (25). The W.M., in responding to the toast of his own health, took occasion to observe, that having been instrumental in founding the Lodge, he should ever take a lively interest in its prosperity; and although circumstances might arise which would have the effect of taking him from the neighbourhood, he would pledge himself to them, that if he was within two days' journey of Kew Bridge, he should make it a point of attending, at least, their installation meetings. He had made it a rule, when retiring from the chair of a Lodge, to instal his successor; and he would assure them that he should adhere to it in the case of their Lodge; and begged, in conclusion, to drink the health of all the brethren.

INSTRUCTION.

JOPPA LODGE (No. 223).—The members of the above Lodge of Instruction met at the Crooked Billet, Tower Hill, on Thursday evening, the 17th of May, to celebrate the closing of the Session, Br. H. Lyons, W.M., Lodge of Joppa, presiding, assisted by Br. H. A. Isaacs, S.W., Lodge of Israel, as S.W., and Br. Alexander Levy, P.M., Lodge of Tranquility, as J. W.

After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M., in a very able speech, proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Joppa Lodge of Instruction," coupling with it the health of the Lecture Master, Br. Saqui, to which that Br. responded in a very neat speech, alluding to the great progress the Lodge had made during the Session.

The W.M. then proposed the health of Br. Risch, Hon. Sec., to which Br. Risch responded, expressing his desire at all times to promote the interests of the Order. The W.M. then proposed in very eulogistic terms the Senior and Junior Wardens, as representatives of the Lodges of Israel and Tranquility, which was responded to by Br. H. A. Isaacs and Br. Alexander Levy. Among other toasts came the P.Ms. of the Lodge of Joppa, to which Br. P. M. Lazarus replied. The evening was passed in the most agreeable manner, and its hilarity greatly enhanced by the very excellent singing of Br. Alexander Levy, Br. C. Van Goor, Br. S. Solomon, and Br. Henry Isaacs, Br. Saqui presiding at the pianoforte.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

DEVONSHIRE.

ST. JOHN, EXETER (No. 46).—The W.M. called a lodge of emergency at the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, the 26th inst. The first lodge of instruction for the season, is fixed for Thursday, 5th July inst.

LODGE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—The Brethren assembled on Tuesday, the 19th of June, at a Lodge of Emergency, to initiate Capt. Warre, who had been ballotted for some months previously. The ceremony was most ably and impressively performed by Br. Pollard, P.M., P.P.G.T., well seconded by the various officers. Lodge being closed in form, and with solemn prayer, the brethren retired to refreshment at an early hour. The healths of the Queen, the M.W.G.M., Earl of Zetland, the M.W.P.G.M., Earl Fortescue, the W.D.P.G.M. Br. Huish, were drunk with enthusiasm. "Speedy relief to all distressing brethren around the globe" was drunk with much feeling and in silence. Br. Foulds, S.W., proposed the health of the W.M., in doing so, he alluded to the urbanity, kindness, and gentlemanly feelings of Br. Gambell, which had entitled him to, and won for him the respect and esteem of the Lodge. Br. Gambell, in returning thanks, said that the kindly expressions which had been evinced by the Brethren, would prompt him to further efforts for their comfort and encourage him in the duties of his office. The health of the S.W., Br. Foulds, the J.W., Br. Julian, the Treasurer, Secretary, and Assistant Officers were duly honoured. Br. Marshall, P.M., in a very eloquent speech, proposed the health and happiness of the newly initiated Brother, and expatiated upon the many beauties of our glorious Order, concluding by presenting him with a Masonic glass, that when Br. Warre should plough the trackless deep, to distant climes, he might have wherewith to recall to his mind his parent Lodge. Br. Warre replied that being but newly initiated, he could scarcely express his feelings on that occasion; from the proceedings of the evening, he congratulated himself on having become a Mason, and thanked the brethren for having admitted him, and for the handsome manner in which his name had been received. A very pleasant evening was spent, and the brethren retired early. Some of the Members proposed on St. John's day, presenting Br. Pollard with a mark of esteem.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—The Lodge met at 7 p.m., on the 13th inst., when Br. Phillips most ably raised Br. C. Dyer to the sublime degree of W.M. The Lodge being closed, the brethren retired to refreshment. After the usual toasts had been duly honoured, Br. P. M. Cale rose, and in a very neat speech, proposed the health of the W.M., and congratulated the brethren on having, at last, after six years, got "the right man in the right place." The toast was received most cordially, and when the cheers had subsided, the W.M. said, that having been placed by their kindness in his present position, he had endeavoured to do his duty to the best of his ability, and was happy to think he had succeeded to the satisfaction of the brethren, and that, when he vacated that chair, he should not consider his labour finished, but strive if possible to increase the prosperity of 122, returning most sincerely their kind wishes, he sat down amidst loud plaudits from all parts of the room.

LODGE OF CHARITY, PLYMOUTH (No. 270).—The brethren held their usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 19th, owing probably to the distance at which many of the members reside, the attendance was not so good as is desirable. The business of the evening consisted of passing Br. Dernu to the second degree, and was performed by Br. Pollard, P.M., of 83 and, P.P.G.T. of Devon, in his usual style of excellence and correctness. Br. Pollard, from his constant readiness to assist where his assistance is

required has richly earned the respect and esteem of the Brethren in this neighbourhood, and, it is gratifying to add, that it is generally accorded to him. Lodge was closed (after some other routine business had been disposed of) at a very seasonable hour.

LODGE OF UNION, STARCROSS (No. 650).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting, on Saturday, the 2nd inst.—In announcing the election of the W.M. of the above lodge, the name was accidentally spelt *Wilcockson* instead of *Wilcocks*.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

CEREMONY OF LAYING THE FIRST STONE OF THE NEW CORN EXCHANGE, AT WATFORD.

(From the Special Reporter of the Masonic Mirror.)

On Monday, the 18th of June, the brethren of the Hertfordshire Lodges met in Grand Lodge, at the Freemasons' Hall, Watford, to celebrate the laying of the first stone of the New Corn Exchange. The weather was not very propitious. The brethren assembled at the Hall shortly after 1 o'clock, and proceeded to clothe, and after the usual preliminaries the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by the R.W. Br. Wm. Stuart, Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire, assisted by the Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers of the province, the R.W. Br. White, Grand Secretary of England, several Provincial Grand Officers, Past Masters, and Masters and Brethren of the London Lodges. The Provincial Grand Master stated from the chair, the reason of the goodly assemblage of the brethren of the Mystic Tie being called together, and dilated upon the forthcoming ceremony, &c., &c. Grand Lodge having been closed, a procession was formed, and the various working tools, ashlers, the golden cornucopia and ewers (kindly lent for the occasion by the United Grand Lodge of England), the volume of the Sacred Law, Book of Constitutions, silver trowel, &c., being placed on handsome velvet cushions were given to the proper officers by the Provincial Grand Director of the Ceremonies, Br. Howe, assisted by Br. George Lambert, P.M. and D.C. of the Percy Lodge, No. 234, according to the directions laid down in the Book of Constitution. All being ready, the procession moved from the Hall, through the town in the following order to Watford Old Church:—

Provincial Grand Tyler, bearing the Grand Banner of the Province.
Shareholders in the Watford Corn Exchange Company.

Directors.

Chairman of Committee.

Visiting brethren of Country Lodges.

Visiting brethren of London Lodges.

Rough Ashler, carried on a white velvet cushion, by a Br. Master Mason.

Working tools carried on a blue and white velvet cushion, by Br. M. Dennison, No. 19.

Smooth Ashler, carried on a blue velvet cushion, by a Br. of the Watford Lodge,

Master and Wardens of the Watford Lodge.

Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.

The Architect (Mr. Murray).

Past Provincial Grand Officer, bearing the Ewer of Oil.

Past Provincial Grand Officer, bearing the Cornucopia.

Past Provincial Grand Officer, bearing the Ewer of Wine.

Provincial Grand Secretary, Br. John Sedgwick, bearing the Book of Constitutions, on purple velvet cushion.

Provincial Grand Treasurer.

Two Master Masons, bearing the columns of the Prov. G.S.W., and P.G.I.W.

Volume of the Sacred Law, carried by a past Provincial Grand Officer, on crimson velvet cushion.

The Rev. R.W. Br. Owen, Prov. Grand Chaplain, for Leicestershire and Surrey.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.
 The Rt. W. Prov. Grand Master, Br. Wm. Stuart.
 Prov. Grand Stewards, and Stewards of the day, &c., &c.

On arriving at the Church, the brethren were told off into pairs on the left side of the Church, which were specially for the use of the Grand Lodge, and were each supplied with a printed copy of the Anthems to be sung on the occasion.

Among the company present at the Church, we noticed the new Vicar, who has lately succeeded to the parish (on the demise of the late Hon. and Rev. Wm. Capel), Br. White, Grand Secretary of England; Wm. Stuart, Esq., P.G.M. Herts; his son, Br. Capt. Stuart, M.P., S.G.W. of England; C. W. Moore, Esq.; T. Rogers, Esq., Mr. Alderman Copeland, Br. Bywater, P.M., No. 19; Br. Dr. Kent, the highly respected P.G.M. for South Australia; Br. Wm. Pullen, D.P.G.M. for Hants; — Francis, Esq.; Br. Burchill Herne, P.G.D., Herts; Br. John Mott Thearle P.G.S.B. for Herts; Br. A. L. Bellinger, W.M., No. 82; Br. Dr. Prith, of Calcutta; Br. Byranson, No. 19; Br. Francis Lambert, P.M., No. 234, whom we gladly hail again with the distinguishing badge of a Mason; Br. Barfield, Brs., Tootal, Edgemore, and Johnston, from the Lodge at King's Langley, &c., &c.

Here we may perhaps be permitted to state the extreme gratification we felt at seeing the Sacred Edifice filled by so many of the ladies and gentlemen of the county, and the inhabitants of the town, and at the same time we deeply regret the confusion which took place at the entrance of the Church, by some noisy spectators anxious to be present, and the doors were obliged to be forcibly closed by the police constables in attendance, to whom too much praise cannot be offered for their assistance and great forbearance. Order having been restored, the doors of the Church were thrown wide open, and the more respectable portion gladly availed themselves of this opportunity to hear the impressive service. Evening prayers were admirably read by his Reverence, the Curate of Watford, and an excellent sermon was preached by the R.W. the Prov. Grand Chaplain for Surrey, Br. Owen. The Rev. gentleman, who is an excellent orator, and preached extemporaneously, took his text from the 124th Psalm, verses 1, 2, and 3, Bible version. The discourse was admirable, and was listened to with the greatest attention. The Anthems, "Comfort ye my people," Handel—and "Surely I will build Him an house,"—Boyce—were beautifully sung by Brs. Donald, King, and Lawler, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Dawson. Service being over, the public left the Church, and the procession reformed and proceeded, despite a pelting shower, through the town to the area in which the stone was placed. The Masonic Body were accommodated on a platform, and a temporary gallery was erected for the use of the ladies, gentry and others, who were provided with tickets.

The rain now descended in torrents, and detracted much from the ceremony. The Architect, Mr. Murray, whose design was chosen out of 23 which were sent in to the Building Committee, presented the working drawings and plan to the Rt. W. Provincial Grand Master, who inspected them, and complimented Mr. Murray on his success. The Contractor then presented the silver trowel, and the foreman of the works held a handsome silver dish, on which the cement was ready gauged. The Provincial Grand Master, in a most workmanlike and Masonic style, which showed that he was no novice at his duty, proceeded to cement the edges of the stone. The Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies, then read by the P.G.M.'s desire, a parchment scroll, which was then put into the bottle together with the various coins of the realm, a programme of the proceedings of the day, and a copy of the anthems sung in the Church; the bottle was then hermetically sealed, deposited in the cavity of the stone, imbedded in pitch, and the upper part of the stone placed upon it. The mass was then deposited in the foundation of the building in its proper place, the Prov. Grand Wardens tested its accuracy with the Level, Plumb and Square, and the Prov. Grand Master struck it with his *gavel secundum artem Latomorum*, declaring that it was properly laid. Corn oil and wine were then scattered on the stone, and the Prov. Grand Chaplain, the R.W. Br. Owen, pronounced a most impressive short address. All the proceedings were admirably carried out and witnessed by numerous spectators who thronged the unfinished sides of the buildings adjacent, and every available vacant space where a

view of the ceremony could be obtained. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the procession returned to the Hall, and the brethren, shareholders and visitors sat down to an elegantly prepared cold collation, consisting of every delicacy of the season.

The R.W.P.G.M., Wm. Stuart, Esq., in the chair.

After dinner "Benedictus" (reading) was sung by Mrs. Donald King, Lawler, and Messrs. Montem Smith and Dawson.

The R.W.P.G.M then rose, and proposed the first toast, "The Queen."

"The National Anthem."

Toast, "Prince Albert, Albert, Prince of Wales," &c., &c.

Ode, "Hail to thee, Albert," (J. W. Hobbs).

Toast, "The Allied Armies and Navies." Acknowledged Capt. Kelly.

Song, "The Queen's Letter." (Hobbs).

The R.W.P.G.D. then proposed "The health of the Grand Officers," coupling with the toast, the name of Br. White, G.S.

Br. White briefly returned thanks for the honour. He, and his brother officers, had come down solely because they considered it to be their duty to render all the assistance in their power, in the cause of Freemasonry; especially in promoting so laudable an undertaking as the present. He had the pleasure of looking back through a long term of years, during which he had always had the welfare of Masonry at heart.

Glee, "If to morrow may dawn."

F. Fellowes, Esq., then rose to propose a toast which he considered to be of the greatest importance. They had met that day to perform an important and impressive ceremony. He could well recollect the public celebration of the Battle of Waterloo, and the excitement consequent thereon. Forty years had since rolled on, and he felt it to be not only his own wish, but the wish of all whom he had the pleasure to address, that the New Corn Exchange might be as productive of happiness and prosperity to the district of Watford, as the long peace had been to the nation at large. He had had the pleasure of being connected for thirty years with a family of the neighbourhood, whose sire (now no more), had always endeavoured, through a long life, to do good to the town. He was, therefore, well able to appreciate the labours of those gentlemen whose exertions had so far been attended with success—a success which, he hoped, would continue to the end. Without further preface, he would ask them to be upstanding, to drink to "The health of the Directors of the Watford Corn Exchange, and the Promoters of the Town Improvement Company."

Mr. Escourt, as Chairman of the Directors, felt that they were deeply indebted to the visitors for their kind attendance, more especially to the Freemasons, for the assiduity they had displayed in carrying out their impressive ceremonies, although the weather had, unfortunately, been so unpropitious. It was when he witnessed so much unanimity and good feeling in the brotherhood, that he wished he had been a Mason himself. The importance of a Corn Exchange could not be too highly rated, not only for the advantages it would offer as a place of resort for all the leading men of the county, but also on account of the publicity of its transactions, showing to the poor of their neighbourhood, that there were no combinations between millers and growers to keep up high prices, but that all their transactions were fair and open. Nothing more seriously affected the real interests of the nation at large than the price of corn—(hear). It influenced their tithes, their rent charges, their wages, and everything which they consumed; and he had no hesitation in saying that, the future importance of the town of Watford would, in a great measure, depend upon the success of their New Exchange. On behalf of the Directors he begged to thank them for their good wishes for the future success of their undertaking. The skill of their chairman in placing the stone in its present position must have been admired by all who, perhaps, had a better opportunity of witnessing it than he had; for his own part, unhappily, the umbrellas prevented him seeing much, but what he did see, was certainly most gratifying. However much Mr. Stuart might be admired by his brother Masons as their P.G.M., he could assure those who were visitors on the present occasion, that as a good and kind neighbour he stood second to no one, for no man more truly deserved the admiration of his townsmen. He therefore begged to propose "The health of the Chairman"—(applause).

Song, "I am a roamer bold and gay."

The R.W.P.G.M., in returning thanks, said that without alluding to the circumstances which first brought him into their neighbourhood, he felt bound to state that having resided there for upwards of 34 years, he had always received the greatest kindness from his townsmen. He regretted that the weather had been so unfavourable, as had it been finer, probably the last speaker, having less cause to complain of umbrellas, might have had even a greater inducement to become a Freemason. He could only assure him that he should have very great pleasure to admit him into the Order, and he hoped he would afford him that pleasure very soon.

Glee, "Maying."

Mr. Ward rose to propose the next toast. It seldom fell to his lot to propose a toast in the presence of such a very brilliant assembly, especially of ladies; however, he would not shrink from the pleasing task which the committee had set him. He had great pleasure in proposing "The health of the Clergy of the Province." He felt sure they must all have been not only gratified, but delighted, with the feeling and appropriate discourse delivered by Mr. Owen, Prov. G. Chaplain for Surrey, in their old church. The eloquent manner in which he had treated on the various topics in his sermon, but more particularly his allusions to the miseries of war, and the blessings of peace, were such as could not have failed to reach the hearts of all who were so fortunate as to hear him. The people of Watford had the greatest respect for their Clergy, and a very large proportion of them felt, that so long as a religious feeling actuated them in their business, they were in a sure way to prosper. He concluded by proposing, "The Clergy of the Province," coupling with it the name of "The Rev. Mr. Owen."

Mr. Owen returned thanks for the compliment by observing that, no one could imagine how unfortunate it was to have what was commonly called "the gift of the gab." He was always expected to make a speech, although the subject might be a very meagre one indeed. He had a very great admiration for Freemasonry, for as much as he had seen of the world, and as much as he was acquainted with human nature, and its prejudices, yet he was bound to say that Freemasonry was the only real antidote he had been able to find for selfishness—(applause). That, however men craved after gold and silver, and in proportion as the country increased in wealth, so Masonry kept pace with it, and as one advanced, so did the other. For wealth was not always a sign of success. Suddenly acquired wealth too often led to sudden ruin. When unforeseen misfortunes came upon a Mason, wherever he might be, there was the hand of the Brotherhood ever ready to afford him succour. It was this centralisation of system that rendered Freemasonry so worthy of its professions. Of what use would be fifty of the best fire engines ever made, if they were at *Exeter* when a fire broke out in the Seven Dials? Masonry on the contrary, was *centralisation*, both in theory and in practice; in a word, it was the perfect union of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. In Masonry all might meet who acknowledged the existence of that mysterious and all-powerful Deity, who is the Creator and Governor of all. The more he was acquainted with Freemasonry, the more certainly he could affirm that he never knew a bad Mason who was a good man.

The Rev. Mr. James, Vicar of Watford, briefly expressed his thanks. He confessed he was not a Mason, but he was glad to find, that on these occasions he could mix with Masons, who devoted their first acts, as Christians, to God, and on that alone he must ever hold Freemasonry in the highest respect.

Song, "Annie Laurie."

Mr. Wm. Sedgwick proposed as the next toast, "The Trustees of the Corn Exchange." He assured the Company that it was from no wish to make a profit of the undertaking, but solely for the good of the town and district that they had in the first instance promoted it. He fully agreed with a former speaker, that success would best be attained by carrying religion into the business of every day life; not to cram a Bible-text constantly into the ear of one's customer, but to practise charity to one's neighbour, and to leaven our whole daily affairs of life with the spirit of religion. In asking them to do honour to the toast, he could assure them that, but for the untiring energies of the trustees, but particularly the Messrs. Clutterbuck, they

would never have met as they had done that day to lay the first stone of their new Corn Exchange.

The toast was acknowledged by Mr. Robert Clutterbuck.

Song, "The Flaxen-headed Ploughboy."

Br. Burchell Herne then proposed, "The health of Br. John Sedgwick, P.G.S., and Secretary of the new Corn Exchange," highly eulogising his indefatigable services.

Br. John Sedgwick, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed his conviction that he was utterly undeserving the flattering encomiums, which had been passed upon him. In fact, their kind remarks would have been far more appropriate, had they been applied to those gentlemen who had helped him. When he looked round him in the world, and perceived the many schisms which divided its communities in every direction, he turned to Masonry with delight, for like an oasis in the desert, it was delightful to look upon, and united all who assembled under its banners in one common Brotherhood. He begged again to thank them for all their good wishes, and would endeavour to do his duty—although *very unprofessionally—without charge*.

Fourth part song, "I know a maiden fair to see."

The R. W. P. G. M. gave the next toast, "The Brothers who assisted at the ceremony."

Br. Howe, Dir. of Ceremonies, in acknowledging the toast, said that the Freemasons of London had come down simply to do that which was their bounden duty—to assist their brothers in performing the important ceremony of the day. Perceiving that there were many present who were not members of the Fraternity, he would take the opportunity of briefly explaining to them what in fact the principles of Freemasonry really were. Much had been said of their charity. He could tell them that Freemasons carried out their charity on three great principles—viz., to render assistance in infancy, poverty, and old age. For the children of Masons, they had two most excellent schools. For poverty, they monthly dispensed their bounty with a liberal hand to distressed Masons, without calling their creed or country into question. For old age, they had annuities and asylums for male and female. All these were accessible without difficulty to worthy applicants. As regarded their religious observances, he could assure them, that they transacted no business without the Sacred Volume unfolded, being before them. The first act in Lodge was to open it, the last was to close it. They had sometimes been censured for feasting, but he felt he might appeal with confidence to the people of England on that point, whether they ever met to transact any business of more than usual importance, without having refreshment of some kind suitable to the station and feelings of the company; whether it be the fashionable *dejeuner à la fourchette*, the more substantial dinner, or the sober meal of the beverage which

' Cheers, but not inebriates,'

usually denominated a "tea-meeting." Surely, then, that which was accepted as a salutary custom around, ought not to be denied to the Freemasons, who were accustomed temperately to use, but not abuse, the bounties of Providence.

Ballad, "An honest heart to guide us."

Br. J. Sedgwick proposed as the next toast, "The health of Mr. Murray, the architect."

Mr. Murray very briefly returned thanks.

Mr. Alderman Copeland, who was received with considerable applause, begged to be pardoned for venturing to propose the next toast, for although he was not a Mason, yet having two sons who were Masons—one in India and the other in England—he almost felt himself to be one of them. He was well aware that the Order was established in the most distant lands, but it was not at all surprising, seeing that the object they had in view was that which all must admire—Brotherly Love and Christian Charity—(Hear, hear). It was these sentiments which made him frequently wish he was a Mason. He trusted that the new undertaking, so successfully commenced, might be as successfully brought to completion, and always prosper. They all knew that joint stock companies were one day at a discount, and another day at a premium, but in these matters they could only look for honesty of purpose in those who had come forward to carry out the wishes of the shareholders. But, as

honest directors were useless without shareholders, and as he was sure the surrounding gentry would do all in their power for the lasting prosperity of the town, he had peculiar pleasure in proposing as the next toast, "The Shareholders."

Catch, "Would you know my Celia's charms."

T. W. Blagg, Esq., responded to the toast.

After some other toasts had been proposed, and duly honoured,

The Chairman proposed "The Ladies," and called upon Br. John Sedgwick, who acquitted himself of the task in a truly Masonic manner.

The Rev. Lee James proposed, "The workmen," in a most feeling speech—(cheers.)

The Chairman now vacated his post of honour, and the London brethren returned to town, highly pleased with the ceremonies and festivities of the day, enhanced as they had been by the efficient exertions of the vocalists.

KENT.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

(From the Special Reporter of the Masonic Mirror.)

A Provincial Grand Lodge was summoned to meet at Dover, on the 18th inst., by the Provincial Grand Master, Br. Purton Cooper, Q.C. The meeting was fixed to take place in the Town Hall, which was elegantly decorated for the occasion. The gothic form, and geometric tracery of the windows, combined with the lofty roof and wide proportions of the hall, matched most harmoniously with the traditions and symbols of Freemasonry, to say nothing of the rich clothing and characteristic badges of the Worshipful Master and the brethren. It was a scene which might have suggested to the fanciful spectator a council of some of the religious orders of chivalry, habited in the robes of peace, but exhibiting the valour-won marks of distinction conferred by kings and princes.

The proceedings were commenced by the opening of the Dover Lodge of Peace and Harmony, (No. 235), the W.M., Br. Gardiner, presiding. The M.W.P.G.M. was then introduced, and the G. Lodge duly opened.

The P.G.M. assured the brethren that it gave him great pleasure to meet them in that noble hall. He trusted that the meeting of G. L. in Dover, would tend to the extension of the Craft in the province, in which he was happy to say it was highly flourishing; and he trusted this might not be the last time he should have the honour of presiding over the brethren in that hall.

The minutes of the last G. Lodge having been read and confirmed, Br. W. Saunders, of Lodge No. 20, was unanimously elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

On the application of Br. Boys, P.P.G.S.W., a dispensation was granted to the Chatham Lodge to enable it to initiate a youth of 19, who is about to proceed to the East in the service of his country; the P.G.M. observing that, as a general rule, he objected to such dispensations, but, as the young man might probably not otherwise have the opportunity of being initiated for many years, if ever, he had great pleasure in acceding to the request on the present occasion.

The W.M. next proceeded to appoint and invest the General Officers for the ensuing year as follows:—Br. F.L. Southgate W.M., 91; S.G. Warden, Saul Isaacs, P.M., 20; J.G.W. Rev. David Jones, G. Chap.; William Saunders, P.M., 20; G. Treas., H.A. Clarke, W.M., 34; G. Regis., Chas. Isaacs, P.M., 20; G. Sec., S. L. Townsend, P.M., 184; S.G. Dean, Robert Pearson, P.M., 741; J.G.D. M'Carthy Stephenson, P.M., 216; G.S. of Wks., J. Poussett, P.M., 149; G.D. of Cers., O. G. Phipps, P.M., 149; G. Organst., J. Green, P.M., 376; G. Sword Bearer, Thos. Hardiman, P.M., 184; G. Pursuivants, J. Marrable, G. Tylor. Stewards:—R. Duke, 235; Wm. Prescott, 235; T. Brivean, 709; Jos. Whithall, W.M., 184; H. Sawyer, 621; R. Watson, J.D., 91.

The Brethren were then marshalled into procession to proceed to church in the following order:—

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

Police Officers.

Band of Music.

Two Tylers.

Visiting Brethren—Two and Two.

Sandgate—Banner of the St. John and St. Paul Lodge, No. 898.

Tyler of 898.

Members of the St. John and St. Paul Lodge—Two and Two.

Senior Deacon.		Junior Deacon.
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Treasurer.		Secretary.
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Senior Warden.		Junior Warden.
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Past Masters.

Worshipful Master.

Folkestone—Banner and Brethren of the Temple Lodge, No. 816.

Maidstone—Banner and Brethren of the Belvidere Lodge, No. 741.

Gravesend—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Sympathy, No. 709.

Ramsgate—Banner and Brethren of the Royal Navy Lodge, No. 621.

Dartford—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Emulation, No. 376.

Chatham—Banner and Brethren of the United Chatham Lodge of Benevolence,
No. 216.

Sheerness—Banner and Brethren of Adam's Lodge, No. 184.

Faversham—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 155.

Margate—Banner and Brethren of the Union Lodge, No. 149.

Hythe—Banner and Brethren of the Prince Edwin's Lodge, No. 147.

Gravesend—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Freedom, No. 91.

Canterbury—Banner and Brethren of the United Industrious Lodge, No. 34.

Chatham—Banner and Brethren of the Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity, No. 20.

Dever—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 235

VISITORS.

Provincial Grand Steward.		The Banner of the Provincial Grand Lodge, carried by a Master Mason.		Provincial Grand Steward.
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The Provincial Grand Pursuivant.

The Provincial Grand Organist.

Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearers.

Past Provincial Grand Superintendents of Works.

The Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.

Past Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Past Provincial Grand Deacons.

The Provincial Grand Secretary with Book of Constitutions.

Past Provincial Grand Registrars.

The Provincial Grand Registrar.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer.

The Past Provincial Grand Wardens.

The Corinthian Light, borne by a Master Mason.

The Column of Junior Provincial Grand Warden, borne by a Master Mason.

The Provincial Junior Grand Warden with Plumb Rule.

The Doric Light, borne by a Master Mason.

The Column of the Senior Provincial Grand Warden, borne by a Master Mason.

The Senior Provincial Grand Warden with the Level.

The Junior Provincial Grand Deacon.

Provincial Grand Steward.		The Provincial Grand Chaplain with the Volume of the Sacred Law.		Provincial Grand Steward.
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Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Ionic Light, borne by a Master Mason.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master with the Square.

A Past Master, bearing the Mallet of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master.
 The Senior Provincial Grand Deacon.
 Two Provincial Grand Stewards.
 Provincial Grand Tyler.

The procession having been formed, it was marched through all the principal streets of Dover, to Trinity Church—the band playing the “Entered Apprentice’s Song,”—and the bells of the town ringing merry peals. On arriving at the sacred edifice, the brethren occupied the seats on the floor, while the galleries above were densely crowded by well-dressed ladies. Evening prayer was read by the Rev. J. Smith, incumbent, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. D. Jones (who has for many years held the office of P.G.C.) from Gen. i. 31, “God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good.”

At the conclusion of an eloquent and impressive sermon a collection was made in aid of the local and Masonic Charities.

The brethren, on leaving church, returned again in procession, amidst crowds of curious spectators, to the Town Hall, when the Grand Lodge was again duly formed. After the usual business, votes of thanks were unanimously given to the Mayor for the use of the hall; to the incumbent of Trinity Church, for his kindness in placing his church at their service and reading the prayers; and to the Rev. D. Jones, G.C., for the able and interesting discourse he had delivered.

Br. Hervey Boys, P.G.S.W., then proposed, in an eloquent and eulogistic speech, a vote of thanks to the P.G.M., which was passed with great enthusiasm.

The R.W.G.M., in acknowledging the compliment, said, he little imagined when he was appointed G.M. for Kent that we were on the eve of a war, and that thereby so many important duties would be thrown upon the Freemasons of the province. He had just granted a dispensation for the initiation of a young soldier, 19 years of age, proceeding to the seat of war, the rules of the Order prescribing the age of 21 as a condition for admission into the Order; but it would have been cruel to deprive this gallant young fellow of those benefits which so many members of both professions had received from Freemasonry during the present sanguinary struggle in the Crimea. There were, he rejoiced to see, many Russians who were Freemasons, and who, the moment the sword was sheathed, had exhibited the most praiseworthy zeal to exercise that noblest of all virtues, the gift of charity; and to acknowledge and succour Brother Freemasons, although Englishmen and enemies, when wounded and captured, needing the solace of sympathy and the more material aids of medical and physical assistance. Initiation into Freemasonry gave, as it were, to the recipient, a letter of introduction into every part of the world—(hear). But Freemasonry had other advantages, and amongst these he recollected once hearing Lord Londesborough, a distinguished Freemason, say that it gave him an opportunity of mixing with the classes which were below him as a peer of the realm in the scale of society, without being branded with the stigma of a popularity hunter. Freemasonry was an institution which tended to bring all ranks of Her Majesty’s subjects together, and to make them acquainted with the good qualities of each other, and it ought, therefore, to be fostered by every government. It achieved a degree of equality which the Saturnalia of the Romans, instituted for that purpose, failed to accomplish; for, excepting the higher honours of the Craft, awarded to the most meritorious, all were brethren and all were equal.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in due form.

At 4 o’clock the brethren re-assembled at the Royal Oak Hotel, where a very excellent dinner had been provided for their refectory by Br. S. Philpott. The chair was taken by the P.G.M., who was supported by the various G. Officers already enumerated.

Br. Ashley, P.P.D.G.M.; Br. G. P. de Rhe Philipe, P.G.S.B. of England; Br. Watson, P.G. St. of England; Br. Else, P.G. St. of England; Br. H. G. Warren, G. St. of England, and P.M. 202; Br. Henry Shelton, P.M. 349, and P.P.G.O. of Worcestershire; Br. Col. Cator, of Phoenix Lodge, Portsmouth; Br. Lieut. Malcolw, W.M. 460, and P.G.S.D. of Oxon; Br. H. Boys, P.P.G.S.W.; Br. E. A. Quait, P.P.G.P.; Br. Keddle, P.P.G.S.W.; Br. Campbell, P.P.G.S.W.; Br. Fielder,

P.P.G.R.; Br. Jones, P.P.G.J.W.; Br. Cruttenden, P.P.G.R.; Br. C. Philpott, P.P.G.J.D.; Br. Sargeant, P.P.G.S.D.; Br. Cruttenden, jun., P.P.G.S.B.; Br. Gardner, W.M. 34; Br. Day, W.M. 741; Br. Munn, W.M. 376; and above 150 other brethren.

Grace was said before and after dinner by the Rev. Chaplain of the Order, and the cloth being withdrawn,

The R. W. P. G. M. remarked, in proposing the first toast, that loyalty was the particular characteristic of Freemasonry. To whatever country they belonged, whether it was governed by a despotism, a republic, or a constitutional monarchy, such as that it was their happiness to live under, attachment to that government, and unwillingness to interfere with anything constituted by the laws of the land, would be found to mark the conduct of all true Freemasons—(cheers.) In this country, they had the good fortune, from an early period to find the sovereign friendly to their institution. Without going back to any very remote antiquity, he might mention that Frederick, Prince of Wales, in the reign of Geo. II., the great grandfather of our Queen, was an excellent Freemason, and all his brothers, her great uncles, the Dukes of Cambridge, York, and Gloucester of that day. Coming down to later periods, her Majesty's uncles (with one exception), Geo. IV., Wm. IV., the King of Hanover, and her own royal father, the Duke of Kent, were all distinguished Freemasons—(cheers.) Her Majesty, he knew, was most favourable to the Craft, and nothing but her sex prevented her from being a Mason—(cheers.) They knew quite well that it was by a mere accident that Prince Albert was not a Freemason; the death of another of the Queen's uncles, the late Duke of Sussex, one of the greatest benefactors of Freemasonry the Craft had ever had in this country, having occurred just at the time the Prince was to have been initiated. He thought then that he might venture to affirm that the Prince of Wales and all his royal brothers would become Freemasons in due time—(cheers.) They would, therefore, drink with enthusiasm the health of her Majesty, who was the daughter, the granddaughter, the niece, and the grandniece of so many distinguished Masons—(cheers.)

“The Queen and the Craft” was then drunk with Masonic honours, and “The National Anthem” played by the band.

The R. W. P. G. M., said that he had now to propose a toast which was somewhat unusual at a Masonic Meeting, but he trusted he should not meet with censure upon that account, but, should he do so, he was prepared to take all the responsibility upon himself, although the toast had been suggested to him by his friends. The men of Kent had always been distinguished for their courage, and had always been ready, as from the position of the country they would have been the first in case of invasion to meet those who, until latterly, had been accustomed to look upon them as natural enemies; but he knew no men who rejoiced more at the close and intimate alliance which now existed between this country and France—(loud cheers.) It was because the men of Kent had won for themselves the reputation of bravery and courage, that they could thus rejoice; and feeling himself in the proud position of presiding over the Freemasons of that province which was nearest to the shores of France, and celebrating the festival of that day in the town nearest to the coast of France; and which, therefore, in a state of warfare with France, would be the first to meet and defy her legions, he could not avoid, under the more auspicious circumstances (and, indeed, he did it with the greatest of pleasure) proposing the health of the Emperor of the French—(cheers), and he supposed he might add to that the Empress—(cheers, and cries of Oh, yes—she's the wife of a Mason!) Yes, the Emperor was a member of the Craft, and he would, therefore, give them was “The health of the Emperor and Empress of the French.”—(cheers.)

The toast was drunk with the Kentish fire, the band playing “*Partant pour la Syrie.*”

The R. W. P. G. M. said the next toast he had to propose was, “The health of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M. W., P. G. M. of England.” Without enlarging on the merits of the Earl of Zetland, as a man and a Mason, as he knew they all felt towards him the deepest respect, he would mention as a proof of the success which had attended the Craft during the ten years his lordship had held his present high office, that when

he first became G.M. of England, there were but 720 Lodges, and now they numbered upwards of 1,000. There had also been a corresponding increase in the number of members, who now could be counted by thousands where formerly there were only hundreds—(cheers.)

The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

The P.G.M. said that, having already had the hardihood to depart from the usual routine of toasts, he felt inclined to stray a little farther—(cheers, and laughter.) Freemasonry was a pacific institution, but when they saw a friend in danger from the attack of an unmuzzled bear, it was their duty to protect him if possible. England was now in this position, and the present war had made them all feel how much we were indebted to the bravery of our army and navy abroad for our present unmolested and peaceful enjoyments at home—(cheers). He had near and dear relations in both services. His son-in-law, who usually lived with him, was now in the Sea of Azoff, on board the Hannibal, and his grandson, a French viconte, was serving with the French army before Sebastopol, and he had family traditions too of the last war; for, a first cousin of his, the only son of General Comte de Duhésne, was killed 37 years ago that day, at the battle of Waterloo. He might therefore be excused if he gave "The Army and Navy," even if the presence, on that occasion of two officers of her Majesty's Service, one of whom, at least, was a distinguished Mason, had not suggested the toast—(cheers.) He concluded by coupling with the toast the name of Colonel Cator—(loud cheers.)

The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

Colonel Cator, in responding to the toast, said it was 20 years that day since he had the honour of receiving her Majesty's commission, and he supposed it must be a good augury that on the anniversary of that day, and in such a company, he should now, for the first time, be called on to return thanks for "The Army." Although the army had been called into active service after a forty years' peace, every one knew that it had never distinguished itself more than in the Crimea—(cheers) It was due to the gallantry and devotion of both services, and their sufferings in the arduous campaign they had gone through, that no terms of peace should be accepted but such as fully satisfied the honour of England, and secured the objects of the war—(cheers.)

The P.G.M. has now to propose a truly Masonic toast, and one which would require from him very few words to recommend it to their notice—it being "The health of the R.W.D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough, and the Past and Present G. Officers." He was glad to see that one of the most distinguished members of the Dover Lodge had been honoured by the G.M., with office in the G. Lodge, and he should therefore have great pleasure in coupling the name of Br. Philippe, P.G.S.B., with the toast.

The toast having been drunk with Masonic honours,

Br. G. P. De Rhe Philippe responded to the compliment. Although he acknowledged with gratitude the high honour of having been entrusted with an office in the Grand Lodge of England, he felt considerable pride also at his connection with the Dover Lodge, which he had been instrumental a great many years ago in resuscitating. Its numbers then were very limited indeed, but by a little exertion and the friendly co-operation of the brethren, he was enabled once more to raise its members to something like a respectable muster; and it gave him the greatest satisfaction now to see so magnificent a meeting of Freemasons in Dover as that festival had brought together—(cheers). He had also the very high gratification of saying that his son was also a P.M. of the Dover Lodge—(great cheering). He concluded by some excellent remarks upon the Masonic Charities, and took that opportunity, when there were representatives present from all the Lodges in Kent, to inculcate the policy and duty of all assisting to obtain admissions to those charities for Kentish applicants.

Br. Ashley, P.D.Prov.G.M., having been honoured by the Prov.G.M.'s permission to propose a toast, would ask them to fill a bumper. In proposing "The health of the Prov. G.M.," he was fully aware that he had an easy task, for though that distinguished brother had been but a comparatively short time amongst them, he had won the esteem and regard of all with whom he was brought into connection—(cheers). He was a gentlemen of great legal attainments, of literary and antiquarian research, and

of a kind and benevolent disposition—(cheers). And he believed that no brother took a deeper interest in the prosperity of Masonry, and the more particularly as regarded its prosperity in the province of Kent—(cheers).

The toast having been drunk with Masonic honours, the P.G.M. acknowledged the compliment, and said that he did so with the greater pleasure, from the circumstance that it had been prefaced in such kindly terms by his excellent Br. Ashley—(loud cheers.) The next toast he had to propose was one always received with applause, because it included a class of most meretorious brethren, without whose able assistance the working of the Grand Lodge could not attain any degree of perfection; he meant the newly-appointed Grand Officers—(cheers). They were all favourably known to the brethren and were, indeed, the selection of the brethren themselves—(cheers). Believing they were most worthy of the distinction conferred upon them, and that they were not to be surpassed as good practical Masons by any other province, he had had great pleasure in confirming these appointments; he could never himself have made a better choice—(cheers). He proposed their healths, and coupled with the toast the S.G.W., Br. Southgate—(cheers).

Br. Southgate, P.G.S.W., in acknowledging the toast, mentioned as an encouraging fact that the Gravesend Lodge, to which he belonged, had gone on steadily increasing ever since the Grand Lodge was held in that town, and he earnestly hoped that this meeting would tend to further the cause of Masonry in Dover and generally all over the province, and make it, if it were not so already, the strongest province in the kingdom—(cheers). At Gravesend they would have no difficulty in doubling their members; but they did not choose to open their doors indiscriminately to all comers without reference to their qualifications to be admitted as members of the Order—(hear). They rather sought to make brothers of men who would devote themselves to the study of Masonry, and who did not seek admission to its secrets from an idle curiosity which bore no good fruits—(cheers).

The Prov.G.M. had now to propose a toast which he knew would be received with the utmost favour by every member of the Craft, be he a man of Kent, or a Kentish man—(cheers), as neither of them would ever forget services rendered to them. He begged to propose to them "The P.G. Officers of the province," coupled with the name of their excellent friend, Br. Ashley—(loud and protracted cheers).

Br. Ashley begged to thank the R.W.G.M. for the very flattering manner in which he had proposed the toast, and the brethren for the equally flattering manner in which they had responded to it. He was sure the P.G. officers would highly esteem the compliment paid to them, and for himself the brethren had so recently shown their respect for him by the publication of his portrait (a copy of which hung over the chair of the G.M.), he knew not how adequately to express his feelings. He had always endeavoured to do his duty, and would ever continue to the utmost of his power to promote the interests of the Craft.

The R.W. the P.G.M. having apologised to the Brethren for having to leave the meeting, in consequence of having a long distance to go in returning to his home, the chair was taken by the P.D.G.M., Br. Ashley.

The P.D. Grand Master then gave, "The health of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Dover Lodge (No. 235)," and thanks to them for the handsome manner in which they had entertained the Grand Lodge and visiting brethren that day—(cheers). Everything that could conduce to the convenience and comfort of the brethren had been provided, and he was delighted that all the arrangements had been successful—(cheers). He concluded with good wishes for the success of the Dover Lodge—(cheers).

Br. Gardiner, W.M., returned thanks, and expressed the pleasure he felt at hearing the Grand Lodge and visiting brethren were satisfied with the arrangements made for their entertainment. Freemasonry was now prospering in Dover to a degree quite unknown in past times, and he trusted that its healthful principles would spread with equal luxuriance throughout the province—(cheers).

The P.D. Grand Master then gave, "The health of the Mayor, and success to the town and trade of Dover"—(cheers).

Br. Nazer, one of the deputation which had waited on the Mayor to request the

use of the Town Hall, returned thanks, and mentioned the readiness with which his request had been granted, as a proof that his Worship was well disposed towards Freemasonry—(cheers).

The health of Br. Moses, who had been 51 years a Mason, was drunk, and responded to by the aged veteran. "Br. Philpot, and thanks for his excellent entertainment," acknowledged by Br. Philpot; "The Ladies;" and "To all poor distressed Masons throughout the world," were amongst the other toasts drunk before the conclusion of this interesting festival.

The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the excellent singing of Mrs. Genge and Farquharson.

It would be doing an injustice to our own feelings, as well as to the brethren, were we to omit the opportunity of expressing our acknowledgments—and we are sure we may add, of the other visitors—for the courtesy and attention displayed towards us and them, by Br. Chas. Isaacs, the P.G.S., and Br. Poussett, the P.D. of ceremonies, than whom no Brother could be found better qualified for the office.

UNITED INDUSTRIOUS LODGE, CANTERBURY (No. 34).—The brethren of this Lodge met together on Thursday, June 14th, for the purpose of initiating five gentlemen into the order, and installing their Worshipful Master, Br. H. A. Clarke, manager of the London and County Bank. The ceremonies were most ably performed under the direction of Br. C. Isaacs, of Chatham, P.G.S., to whom the province is very deeply indebted for the exertions he has made to extend a knowledge of the beautiful principles and ceremonies of the Order amongst the brethren. Among the gentlemen initiated, who were all of the leading families, was Mr. Alderman Cooper. This Lodge, which has been in abeyance for many years, now bids fair to be the first Lodge in the Province, and musters nearly thirty members. After the ceremony, the brethren sat down to an elegant supper provided for the occasion. After the usual Masonic toasts, the health of the newly initiated brethren was proposed, and responded to by Brother Alderman Cooper, who stated he was much pleased in being admitted a member of this ancient and honourable society, and regretted he had not become one many years before: he hoped, however, to prove a worthy member of the Craft. The health of Brother Isaacs was proposed by the W.M., thanking him, in the name of the Lodge, for the many services he had rendered them; as a proof of his desire to promote the interest of the Lodge, he had become a subscribing member for the purpose of assisting them. Br. Isaacs returned thanks, and assured them he felt great pleasure in assisting to carry out the principles of the Order. It was with great pleasure he saw the Lodge making such progress, and installing the Worshipful Master, Br. Clarke, whom he had known for many years. Among the visitors, was Br. Hartopp, of the 1st Royal Dragoons, who had lately returned severely wounded, from the Crimea, having been in the charge of cavalry at Balaklava. He returned thanks on behalf of the army and navy. The Brethren did not separate until a late hour, highly pleased with the proceedings of the day.

LANCASHIRE, WEST.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

(From the Special Reporter of the Masonic Mirror.)

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, for the transaction of the usual business of the province, was held at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on Tuesday, June 10th. The brethren assembled at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and, shortly afterwards, the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by Br. the Rev. Gilmore Robinson, R.W.D.P.G.M., in the absence of the P.G.M. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, Esq., of Huntroyd, who was prevented from attending by indisposition. After the usual business of the province had been gone through in the harmony and brotherly feeling which invariably characterises Freemason's Lodges, a Court of Governors of the W.L. Masonic Institution for the education and advancement in life of children of distressed Masons was held. The funds of this truly benevolent charity have increased during the year, and the institution itself bids fair to be one of

the most prosperous connected with the Craft. We were glad to learn from what passed, that there is every prospect of a Masonic Hall being, at no distant day, erected in Liverpool, wherein the various Lodges can hold their meetings, rather than at hotels, as at present, and that a disposition seems to be making progress in the minds of the brethren that it is much more consonant with the principles of the Craft to devote the funds of the Lodges to charitable and benevolent purposes rather than to the gratification of the mere animal appetite.

At four o'clock, the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, provided in the usual sumptuous manner, for which Br. Radley is so highly distinguished.

Br. the Rev. G. Robinson, D.P.G.M., occupied the throne, Br. J. Perrin, P.S.G.W., and Br. J. J. Banning, P.J.G.W.

The R.W.D.P.G.M. was supported on his right by Br. J. Walmsley, P.G.T., Br. A. Henderson, P.G.R., Br. F. J. Kilpin, P.G.D.W., Br. J. Eckersley, P.G.S.B., Br. Moss, P.P.G.J.W. for Gloucestershire, Br. H. C. Jeffrey, P.G.S.B., Br. J. B. Lambert, P.P.G.J.D. for East Lancashire; and on his left by Br. the Rev. W. A. Mocatta, P.G.C., Br. Wylie, P.G.S., Br. J. Billinge, P.G.D. of C., Br. W. Davies, P.G.S.D., Br. J. Troughton, P.G.J.D., Br. H. Gambell, P.G.P., and Brs. Allpats, Hamer, Ireland, and Lucas, P.G. Stewards.

On the removal of the cloth, the R.W.D.P.G.M. rose and said, the first toast on the list was not only of necessary consequence, but of personal gratification—the health of our beloved Sovereign—(applause); and he hoped that the blessing of the Grand Architect of the Universe would preside over all her proceedings for many years to come, because most unquestionably no sovereign was more deservedly or better beloved than our gracious Queen—(loud cheers). Since they last assembled portentous events had occurred. The country was now engaged in a bloody war, during which our brave troops had suffered distresses—distresses such as none but British troops would have endured—(hear, hear). They were opposed to a country which was endeavouring to establish a most undue authority and tyranny in the world. The war was, therefore, a most just one; and he had no doubt of the ultimate results of it—(applause). But in connection with the Queen heretofore, in that room she had been praised as a model of a wife, a mother, and a Queen. All those stations in life she had filled most admirably; and he believed, if they looked at history, it would unquestionably be found that no other sovereign had acted the same part she had taken in personally visiting the sick and wounded—(continued cheers). This she had done, and the love and affection which she had shown towards the sick and wounded was worthy of the commendation of all her subjects. He therefore gave “Her gracious Majesty the Queen, and may she long live to reign over us.” The toast was drunk with the usual loyal demonstrations, and followed by “God Save the Queen.”

The R.W.P.G.M. next gave “The health of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family”—(cheers).

Glee—“Queen of the Valley.”

The Chairman next gave the toast of the M.W., the G.M. of England, and in doing so said, the able manner in which the noble Earl filled the duties of his high office not only endeared him to the G.L., but also to the members of every Lodge in England—(applause). He was a most amiable nobleman, an excellent landlord, and had on all occasions shown himself to be a devoted member of the Craft—(Masonic honours).

Glee—“Hail Happy Meeting.”

The Chairman said if the next toast he was about to give had been the Army and Navy he should have joined with it the name of the Earl of Yarborough, seeing that his lordship was a very celebrated commodore of a yacht club, which he believed was now very useful as forming a nucleus of some of the best seamen in the country—(hear, hear). His lordship, however, was known to them as a very good Mason, one who had rendered essential service to the Craft, and no nobleman has Freemasonry so much at heart as the Earl of Yarborough. He had very great pleasure therefore in proposing his health as D.G.M. of England—(Masonic honours).

Glee—“Hail to the Craft.”

The Chairman said he approached the next toast with very great difficulty, because he

did not actually know how to express his opinions connected therewith. It was the health of the respected and esteemed G.M., of the province—(great applause). He had fondly hoped to have seen him in the G.L. that day, but he was suffering very severely from deafness; and this fact, together with the fact of his own health and that of some members of his family, no doubt, prevented his attendance—(hear). Any one at all acquainted with Br. Starkie could not fail to love him, because a more amiable or more charitable man did not exist; and besides that, he was one of the most perfect good-natured men upon earth—(applause). His urbanity and hospitality had rendered Huntroyd proverbial; and he always appeared delighted to see a Freemason, and to render him all the assistance in his power. The health of the M.W.P.G.M. was drunk with great enthusiasm.

Part Song—"The happiest land."

The Chairman, after having passed a high and deserved eulogy on the two Noblemen, one for his attainments as a warrior, and the other in literature, proposed the healths of Lord Combermere and the Earl of Ellesmere, the P.G.M's. of Cheshire and East Lancashire.

Song by Br. Armstrong.

Br. S. Moss, P.P.J.G.W. of Gloucestershire and Cheshire, responded to the toast, and in the course of his observations said, he considered that the prosperity of Masonry in Cheshire was mainly owing to the exertions of Lord Combermere, and the patronage bestowed on the Craft by his noble lady—(applause).

Br. Eckersley, as the oldest P.G. officer present, in complimentary terms proposed the health of the R.W.D.P.G.M., observing that Masonry had prospered more under his auspices in the province than during the past 20 years—(musical honours).

Glee—"Prosper the Art."

The Chairman responded, and concluded with proposing the health of the P.G. Chaplain.

Song by Br. George.

Br. Mocatta, P.G.C., responded. He could truly say that from his acquaintance with Masonry, which was now about 12 months, he conceived it to be identical with the religion he professed. He thanked the P.G.M. for the honour conferred upon him in the appointment, an honour which he should highly estimate to the last day of his life. As had been already stated, he was the son of a Mason, and though he perhaps ought not to make the assertion, yet he would take the liberty of asserting, that a better man never lived than the man from whom he had the honour to spring—(cheers). In thanking them for the honour conferred upon him, he trusted he should be able to perform his duties to the well being of the Craft and the satisfaction of his brethren—(applause).

The Chairman said, the toasts hitherto had been chiefly of a complimentary description. The next, however, was of a more practical utility, inasmuch as it was "The West Lancashire Masonic Institution for the Education and Advancement in Life of Children of Distressed Masons." The work which they had been engaged in for several years had been of a very arduous description, and if a number of the brethren had not put their shoulders to the wheel it would not have got to the advanced state in which they now found it—(applause). Among those brethren there had been one most prominently useful, and if not irregular, he wished to couple the name of that brother with the toast—the name of Br. Banning—(loud cheers). In framing the bye-laws, and other matters connected with the institution, Br. Banning had brought his great legal knowledge to bear, and had been of very valuable assistance—(cheers). The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

Quintette—"Blessed be the Hour."

Br. Banning, on rising to respond, was received with loud cheers. He felt great hesitation in responding to the toast, inasmuch as he thought there were other brethren whose names were as deserving of being coupled with the toast as his own. Without the aid of Br. Collins and Br. Gamble, they would have been unable to do as much as they had done—(cheers). With respect to the Institution itself, it would, he had no doubt, be found the means of bringing Masonry into better repute out of doors, than it had been for some time past. He was sure all Masons must have felt that there had been a want of exertion in the cause of charity, and he

trusted that Institution had been the means by which it could be extended— (Applause).

The following toasts were then given:—

“Brs. Stephen Blair, and Finchett Maddock, R.W.D.P.G., Masters for East Lancashire and Cheshire.

Glee—“O! Bold Robin Hood.”

“The Provincial Wardens.”

Duet—“Albion.”

“The Provincial Grand Treasurer and Secretary, and the other Grand Officers.”

Glee—“Awake, Æolian Lyre.”

“The Ladies”

Part-Song—“I knew a Maiden.”

“The Grand Stewards of the Province.”

Glee—“Fill the shining goblet.”

“The Musical Brethren,” responded to by Br. Molyneux, P.G.O.

“The Masters and Wardens of Lodges,” responded to by Brs. Atherton, of 101, and Alpass, P.G.S., of 181.

The last toast of the evening was then given, and the Lodge was closed about ten o'clock.

(From the *Special Reporter of the Masonic Mirror*.)

SOUTHPORT.—DEDICATION OF THE LODGE OF UNITY (No. 889).—On Friday, June 15th, the interesting ceremony of dedicating this Lodge took place at the Assembly Room, Scarisbrick Arms, where the brethren and Provincial Grand Officers assembled at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. The Craft Lodge was opened by the officers of 889, after which the Grand Lodge entered, and the solemn rite of dedication was at once proceeded with. In the absence of the D.P.G.M., the Rev. Gilmore Robinson, who was confined to home by indisposition, Br. Perrin, P.S.G.W. occupied the position of G.M.; Br. Bell, S.G.W., of East Lancashire, as S.G.W.; Br. J. Billinge, as J.G.W.; Br. Henry Greenbulgh, P.G., Pursuivant of E.L.; Br. Wylie, P.G. Secretary, &c. After the grand procession had taken their seats, the following anthem was sung by the choir, Br. Molinuex presiding at the organ, assisted by Brs. Armstrong, George, Jones, and Haswell:—

To Heaven's high Architect all praise,
All praise, all gratitude be given,
Who deigned the human soul to raise,
By mystic secrets sprung from Heaven.
Sound aloud the great Jehovah's praise,
To him the dome, the temple raise.

The dedication service then proceeded, in the course of which the Chaplain of the Lodge, Br. the Rev. W. A. Moratta, read 1st Kings viii., from verse 5 to 30, after which he offered up a solemn invocation to the G. A. of the U., and then the following anthem was sung:—

Praise the Lord! ye Heavens adore Him;
Praise Him, angels in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him;
Praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for he hath spoken;
Worlds, his mighty voice obeyed;
Laws, which never can be broken,
For their guidance He hath made.

The Chaplain then delivered a most eloquent, appropriate, and truly Masonic oration, and the service was concluded. The oration was received with such approbation, that the P.G. Secretary, after thanks had been voted to the Chaplain, proposed that the oration should be published, to which Br. Moratta consented, stating, however, that as he was only a young Mason, the oration had not the merit of being strictly original, but was a compilation from works already published. At two

o'clock, the brethren proceeded to church, when a most excellent sermon was preached by Br. Moratta, from Hebrews xiii., 1st and part of 2nd verse, "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers." After the service, a collection was made in behalf of the Strangers' Charity, which amounted to within a few pence of £20.

The brethren afterwards dined together in the Lodge-room, which was elegantly decorated with banners, &c. Br. Lambert, P.M. of 889, presided, and amongst the company we observed Brs. Ridgway Brideson, P.G.M., East Lancashire; Wylie, P.G.S.; Peers, and Allander, P.G. Stewards; Billinge, P.G.; M. C. Wetherall, W.M. 889; the Chaplin of 889: Pitt, P.P.G.M.C., East Lancashire, Bell, P.S.G.W.; Greenbulgh, P.G.P.; Jeffrey, W.M., 368; Shand, W.M., 711; Goss, W.M., 845; Griffith, P.M., 701; Wingfield, J.W., 701; Clark, S.D. 701; Ramsden, J.D., 701; Hornby, I.G., 701; Hiskey, Brattan, Salisbury, and Jones, also of 701; Greene, P.M.; and Marshall, J.D. of 782, &c, &c.

On the removal of the cloth the Chairman proposed "The health of her Majesty the Queen," which was drunk with the usual loyal demonstration, and followed by "God save the Queen." This was followed by "Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal family." Glee, "Hail Albert."

The Chairman next proposed "The health of the M.W., the G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland," eulogising his lordship for the eminent services he had conferred upon Masonry, and including in the toast "The Earl of Yarborough, the R.W.D.G.M. and the Grand Lodge of England." The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Br. Withnall, W.M. of 889, proposed the health of Le Gendre M. Starkie, Esq., R.W.P.G.M. of West Lancashire.

The Chairman next proposed the health of a nobleman who was as highly estimated for his private virtues as his public worth, the Earl of Ellesmere, R.W.P.G.M. of East Lancashire.

Br. Bell, S.G.W. of E. L., responded to the toast.

The chairman next proposed "The health of Lord Viscount Combermere, R.W.P.G.M. of Cheshire," and Br. Stephens of 889, formerly of Chester, being called upon responded to the toast.

The Chairman rose and proposed "The health of the Rev. Gilmore Robinson, R.W.D.P.G.M. of West Lancashire," whose absence he deeply regretted from the cause of it, indisposition, a gentlemen who was beloved and esteemed by all, more especially in his own neighbourhood, where he was not only the pastor of his flock, but also afforded assistance with his advice as a medical man. The toast was drunk with Masonic honours. Br. Wylie, P.G.S., responded to the toast and concluded by proposing "The health of the W.M. and prosperity to Lodge 889." Br. Withnall responded, and said that although the Lodge had only been in existence for twelve months, yet they could now boast of two P.M.'s., a Chaplain, an organist, and 35 members, and although the Lodge, as would be perceived, must have spent a large sum in fittings, furniture, &c., yet he was happy to say they were out of debt, and had funds in hand—(hear, and cheers).

The chairman next proposed "The health of Br. Stephen Blair, R.W.D.P.G.M. of East Lancashire," which was responded to by Br. Bell.

The chairman next proposed "The health of Br. Moratta, the Chaplain of the Lodge," a gentleman, a scholar, and a minister of the Gospel, whose conduct in the performance of the ceremonies of that day could not be excelled.

Br. Moratta responded. He believed the Lodge would really prove an ornament to West Lancashire, and if the respected G.M. had been present that day he would have been delighted with the proceedings—(cheers).

The Chairman next proposed the healths of the P.G. Officers of West Lancashire, which was responded to by Br. Billinge, G.M.C., who expressed the pleasure he felt at the proceedings of that day. The Lodge had been got up in a manner not to be excelled by any Lodge in the province, and he had no doubt it would prove an example to the whole province.

The Chairman next proposed the healths of the visiting brethren, which was responded to by Br. Hamer, P.G.S.

Br. Ridgeway Brideson proposed the next toast, it was that of the N.M. of 889 upon the present occasion. The toast having been responded to, the Chairman next proposed the health of the Stewards, which was responded to by Br. Hunt.

The Chairman next proposed the health of Br. Pitt, who as M.C. of East Lancashire had for many years acted as Instructing Master of several Lodges, and that day, although old in years and in Masonry, they found him present giving the honours in a way which no other Mason in England could give. "May he long" (said the Chairman) "be spared to us, and when this transitory life is over may he rise to the G.L. above, where the World's G.A. lives and reigns for evermore."

Br. Pitt, in responding, earnestly exhorted, as an old Mason who had laboured in the Masonic vineyard for 50 years, all present to follow the excellent advice which had fallen from the Chaplain. In the whole course of his experience he did not think he had ever seen proceedings conducted so quietly and so orderly, nor did he think he ever heard an oration so appropriate to the occasion—(hear, hear). After some other remarks, the veneral speaker urged upon the brethren present to husband their funds so that they might be able to maintain a fund for the use of aged and decayed Masons—(hear, hear).

After one or two other toasts, the last toast was given "To all poor," &c., and the proceedings of the day terminated shortly after 9 o'clock.

We cannot close our Report without expressing our thanks to Br. Stephens for the very excellent arrangements made by him, as manager of the Liverpool and South Port Railway, for the comfort and accommodation of the brethren from a distance.

LANCASHIRE, EASTERN DIVISION.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKBURN (No. 336).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on the evening of Friday, the 1st of June, the W.M., Br. D. Thwaites (West Bank) presiding in his usual able manner. After the transaction of business, Br. J. N. Haworth was passed to the Second Degree, Br. Eaves, P.M. and S., officiating, after which the brethren present worked that Degree and adjourned for refreshment at an early hour. Among the visiting brethren was Br. C. Boardman, W.M., Lodge of Perseverance, 432.

LODGE OF HARMONY, ROCHDALE (375).—On the 24th of May, the members of this Lodge assembled at Tweedale's Hotel (Lodge of Emergency), for the purpose of holding a banquet in honour of the worthy and respected host, Br. A. Tweedale, P.M., and P.P.G.S.D. for East Lancashire, and P.P.Z., retiring from business. About 50 brethren dined, amongst them were several Past Provincial Grand Officers, also Br. Pitt, P.G.D. of C., for East Lancashire. The W.M., Br. P.P. Baker presided, and, in proposing the chief toast of the evening, he particularly alluded to the great length of time Br. P.M. Tweedale had been a subscribing member of this Lodge (38 years), and hoped that the G.A.O.T.U. would be pleased to spare the life of the worthy Br. (A. Tweedale) for many years to come, that the Lodge might be graced by his presence. The toast was received with great enthusiasm, many of the brethren having known him for half a century. In responding to such heartfelt wishes, Br. Tweedale said, he found the greatest difficulty to express his feelings, to convey his gratitude and his brotherly love towards those kind friends who were honouring him that evening; from a long experience he had discovered that nothing tended to raise the morality and good fellowship amongst men, than that of being a true and faithful, free and accepted Mason; and he believed that the beautiful science of Free Masonry, being based on such firm and sublime principles, assisted in carrying out the great work of redemption: he further said that, although he was retiring from business, he he was not retiring from his Lodge, but would, as long as he was able, render every assistance in his power to promote the welfare and prosperity of Free Masons and Free Masonry. Order and good feeling, with appropriate songs, &c., was kept up till a late hour.

LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE, BLACKBURN (No. 432).—The usual meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 4th of June, when Br. C. Boardman, W.M., occupied the chair. The business of the evening was the election of W.M., to which office

Br. Boardman was again elected, and Br. Pilkington to the office of Treasurer. After the discussion of other minor matters, the Lodge was closed with prayer, and the brethren partook of an excellent supper provided by Br. Sansom.

KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 469), FACIT.—The brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 6th inst., at the Bay Horse Inn, under the able presidency of Br. A. Shackleton, the W.M., who passed Br. E. Law to the second degree in a very efficient manner. At the conclusion of the Masonic business the Lodge was closed in due form and with prayer, at half-past 9 o'clock. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and spent a very pleasant evening.

AFFABILITY, LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, MANCHESTER (No. 399).—On Saturday evening, June 16th, several of the members of this flourishing Lodge of Instruction met at the Spread Eagle hotel, to bid a formal adieu to one of their Members, Br. J. B. Hide, Quarter-Master Serjeant, 51st King's Own Light Infantry, now under orders for the Crimea.

Br. Lyons Wright, W.M. of the Lodge of Affability, No. 399, in the chair. After the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, the chairman, in proposing the health of Br. Hide, took occasion to refer to his regular attendance to his Masonic duties, and to the rapid progress he had made in the science; and assured him that, however far he might be removed by the exigencies of the service, he would always be remembered by those amongst whom he had studied Masonry, with feelings of the warmest friendship, in token of which the Brethren present had placed in his hands a ring engraven with the sacred emblems of the Craft, which he now placed upon Br. Hide's finger, wishing that he might wear it through many happy years, and that it might serve hereafter to recall to his memory the few sincere friends who then sat around him.

Br. Hide, who was very much overcome, having returned thanks, said that the short period which he had spent in Manchester, during which he had regularly attended to Freemasonry, since his visit, had been the happiest period of his existence: that the only regret with which he departed to the field of battle was caused by his being obliged to leave such sincere friends as he had obtained through his connection with the Craft; and assured them that, wherever his lot might be cast, he could never forget the happiness of the present moment, and when he returned (for he never contemplated the chance of falling in battle, after the numerous engagements through which he had, by the mercy of the Architect of the Universe, already passed in safety), he should lose no time in making his way to Manchester, to spend another hour amongst them.

The remainder of the evening was spent in hilarity and harmony, to which Brs. Hide, Bold, and Hammond mainly contributed, and the meeting separated in excellent humour shortly before midnight.

The ring is of massive gold, elegantly chased, and bears on a Sardonyx the square and compasses, and on the interior is engraved the following inscription:—"To Br. J. B. Hide, as a mark of the fraternal regards of a few Masonic friends on his departure for the seat of war."

LINCOLNSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—On Thursday, June 1, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire, held the annual meeting in the Old Hall at Gaitsbro'. The Yarborough Lodge was opened at twelve o'clock, and the Provincial Grand Lodge at half-past twelve. Amongst the brethren present from the various parts of the province were the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. of England, and P.G.M. for Lincolnshire; the Rev. Chas. Nairne, D.P.G.M.; the Rev. W. N. Jepson, P.G.C.; the Rev. Edmund R. Larken, P.P.G.C.; E. F. Broadbent, P.G.T.; R. C. Moore, P.G.R.; the Rev. B. J. Wood, P.P.G.S.; J. W. Pashley, P.P.P.J.W.; Joseph Guy, P.P.S.G.W.; T. Wood, P.G.J.D.; E. R. Cousans, P.G.S.; J. Moxon, W.M.; J. F. W. Bowden, J. Laughton, B. Box, R. L. Furley, C. R. Worsley. The ordinary business was then transacted, after which the P.G.M. made the various appointments for the ensuing year. The Lodge being closed, about forty of the brethren partook of a sumptuous banquet prepared at the White Hart Hotel. The

Earl of Yarborough presided, Br. J. Moxon, the W.M. of the Yarborough Lodge, Gainsbro', officiating as vice-chairman. Several loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and ably responded to, the P.G.M. intimating, in the course of his remarks, that in future the Provincial Grand Lodges would be held in Lincoln, as the convenience, of the brethren would thus be more generally consulted, though occasionally circumstances might arise which would induce him to recommend other towns in the province, as Grantham or Boston; but such recommendations would not be made without full consideration. At half-past seven o'clock, the noble chairman, being obliged to depart, deputed Br. the Rev. B. J. Wood, P.G.C., to succeed him. At nine o'clock the brethren from Lincoln, Spilsby, Boston, &c. departed by special train; and the remainder of the evening was spent in a manner so much appreciated by the Masonic brethren, and in that good fellowship and harmony so peculiarly characteristic of the Order.

YARBOROUGH LODGE, GAINSBRO' (No. 611).—The brethren of this Lodge held an emergency meeting on the 30th May, and initiated, passed, and raised several members, Br. Guy officiating *pro. tem.* as W.M. In the evening a supper was provided at the White Hart Hotel, in Mr. and Mrs. Parker's usual good style, and which was specially given as a compliment to Br. Guy, who is highly esteemed among Masons, and by all who know him. He was for many years a resident of Gainsbro'; but having some since received the appointment of Solicitor to the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, he now resides at Manchester. The evening was spent in a truly Masonic and brotherly manner, and afforded great pleasure to all present.

We understand that the Earl of Yarborough P.G.M., is about to inaugurate a new Lodge for the "Hundred of Eloe."

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTHERN COUNTIES LODGE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 586).—Since the installation of Br. W. Dalziel as W. M. of this Lodge, a Lodge of Instruction has been commenced in connection with the Lodge, which it is expected will prove of great service, by making many of the younger brethren capable of filling the various offices. Much is due to Br. Dalziel in thus giving his time and attention for the benefit of those young in the Craft.

OXFORDSHIRE.

The Apollo Masonic Ball, which followed the meeting at the Radcliffe Library, at Oxford, on June 19th, proved, as was anticipated, one of the most brilliant events of the year, nor could it well be otherwise, considering that no expense had been spared to render it worthy of the ancient and honourable fraternity who gave it. There was a vast amount of taste and elegance displayed in every thing connected with it, and there was evidently a determination on the part of the Stewards, that those who participated in the enjoyments of the night should have reason to revert to it with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. The Town Hall itself was most tastefully decorated, by covering a portion of the walls to the floor with a pannelling of pink and white drapery in stripes, and placing above, the armorial bearings of the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Heads of Colleges, Civic Authorities, and Stewards, and introducing at each end of the Hall some Turkish tents, imparted an elegant and pleasing aspect to the room. Weipper's band was stationed in an orchestra erected in the corridor, and the platforms at each end of the Hall were fitted up with great taste for the accommodation of the company who desired a little relaxation after the fatigues of the dance. A collection of choice plants and flowers in front of these platforms, diffused their fragrance around, and heightened the general effect. The Council Chamber was converted into a refreshment room, and in the Town Hall Yard a spacious saloon was erected capable of accommodating upwards of 300 persons. This was used as the supper room, and was laid out in exquisite taste, the city grace cups, the plate presented to the late Mayor (Ald. Spiers), and the candelabra and epergne presented

to Mr. W. Thompson, forming very prominent features on the tables, and imparting an additional degree of elegance to the scene. Banners and flags were placed in various parts of the saloon, which, when lighted up, had a most brilliant and effective appearance.

The following brethren acted as Stewards on the occasion:—Br. W. W. B. Beach, P.M., P.Prov.S.G.W., President; Br. the Earl of Lincoln, Prov.G.Sec., Vice-President; Br. J. H. Arkwright, Christ Church; Br. G. D. Atkinson, University; Br. C. S. Bigge, Christ Church; Br. J. T. Du Boulay, Exeter; Br. A. Coleridge, Magdalen; Br. F. Cox, Christ Church; Br. V. C. Cave, Exeter; Br. J. E. Codrington, S.D., Brasenose; Br. Clement Cottrell Dormer, S D. Rousham; Br. G. Drummond, Christ Church; Br. C. Dalison, Merton; Br. Hon. C. H. Ellis, Balliol; Br. F. W. Elers, Trinity; Br. Viscount Fordwich, Christ Church; Br. J. C. Farnborough, I.G. Magdalen Hall; Br. A. Faber, New College; Br. F. J. Hayward, Magdalen; Br. W. W. Harrison, P.Prov.G.Sec., Brasenose; Br. C. S. Glyn, University; Br. Lord Garlies, Christ Church; Br. the Mayor of Oxford; Br. J. Morrell, junr., Saint Giles's; Br. J. W. Malcolm, W.M. 460, Dover Castle; Br. Hon. W. H. North, Christ Church; Br. Sir H. Peyton, Bart., Swift's House; Br. H. Pottinger, Merton; Br. W. S. Portal, Malshanger House; Br. H. A. Pickard, P.Prov.D.C. Christ Church; Br. J. Stratton, Farthinghoe; Br. Hon. H. Wodehouse, Balliol; Br. M. S. Walrond, Balliol; Br. W. H. Welby, Corpus Christi. The Stewards were distinguished by a badge, from the design of Mr. Dalison, of Merton College: it was most chaste and elegant, consisting of a Maltese Cross in blue and gold, with a red centre, with the points of fellowship worked therein in gold. The brethren of the Order appeared in full Masonic costume.

The company, in number about 600, consisted of the *élite* of the County, University, and City, with a large proportion of visitors. There was a numerous attendance of the Members of the Masonic fraternity in full Masonic costume, and in many instances their clothing, jewels, decorations, &c., were of a very superb character, especially those worn by the Prov. G.M. (Br. Captain Bowyer), and his deputy (Br. R. J. Spiers). Many of the visitors from London appeared to hold high position in the Craft, judging from the number and beauty of their decorations, and nothing could surpass the brilliancy of the scene as the jewels and orders glistened and sparkled in the mazes of the dance. Weippert's band was engaged for the occasion, and the festivities were kept up with great spirit until a late hour. The complete success of this ball, the hopes and anticipations which it gave rise to, and which were so fully realized, will, we doubt not, cause it to become a staple feature in future commemorations, and serve as a practical illustration that one of the chief characteristics of those bound together by the mystic tie is to diffuse pleasure and happiness among all within their reach.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST RIDINGS.)

A Special Grand Lodge of the province of these Ridings was held at Foley, on the 1st ult., to dedicate the Royal Lodge, No. 926, in the Register of the United Grand Lodge. After the conclusion of the ceremony, the new Lodge commenced its working, when several gentlemen were initiated into the Order.

YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING.)

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—A Provincial Grand Lodge was holden in the Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield, on Wednesday, the 11th of April, when there were present—R.W., the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough, D.G.M., W. Charles Lee, D.P.G.M., and a large number of the brethren.

The officers of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 342 (in whose hall this Provincial Grand Lodge was holden), having opened in the Three Degrees, the Provincial Grand Officers entered in due form.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then opened in form and with solemn prayer, and a portion of Holy Scripture was read.

The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge holden at Halifax, on the third of January last was read and confirmed.

The D.P.G.M. informed the Brethren that, as several applications had been made for the Provincial Grand Lodge bye-laws, a number of copies had been placed in the hands of Br. Wm. Smith, P.G.D.C., and might be obtained from him at his establishment in Westgate, Huddersfield, at each; and turning to the second page of the Provincial Grand Lodge, bye-laws, he read as follows:—"The county of York, being wide in extent and large populated, was divided into two Masonic provinces, the north and east riding forming one, and the west riding forming the other province, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of the West Riding of the County of York was constituted at Wakefield, April 23rd, 1823, when the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough (then Viscount Pollington) was installed the First Provincial Grand Master;" and pointing to a splendid portrait recently executed with great artistic talent, by Br. Samuel Howell, of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 342, and which was suspended on the wall of the Lodge Room, he said, "Behold the portrait of your First Provincial Grand Master, who has presided over you for the space of thirty-two years."

Br. J. T. Armitage, P.P.J.G.W., immediately rose, and said that he wished to call the attention of the brethren to the subject of that portrait, for he had been in communication with Br. Howell in reference thereto, and he should now propose that every subscriber of one guinea for the portrait should be entitled to a lithograph copy thereof.

Br. Dr. Fearnley, P.P.S.G.W., stated that the original design ought to be carried out, for at the outset it was understood that the portraits of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy should severally be taken and become the property of the Provincial Lodge of West Yorkshire.

The D.P.G.M. begged the brethren not to take any note of him, but to confine their attention exclusively to the portrait of their R.W. Provincial Grand Master.

Br. C. S. Floyd, P.P.S.G.W., supported Br. Dr. Fearnley's proposition, and said that he thought the D.P.G.M. manifested an unkind feeling in not complying with the wishes of his brethren.

The D.P.G.M. exclaimed, "I am honoured beyond measure, and I must bow to your will!"

Br. C. S. Floyd said he should propose that, after the subscribers to the portraits had been severally supplied with lithographic copies thereof, the lithograph on the stones should be effaced, so that the lithographs should be rendered rare.

A Committee was then formed for carrying out the resolutions relative to the portrait.

Br. J. Batley, W.M., No. 342, withdrew his proposition for the suspension of our Provincial Grand Lodge bye-law 17, of which he had given notice the last Provincial Grand Lodge.

Br. Richard Carter, P.P.S.G.W., proposed, Br. Thomas Dewhurst, P.S.G.D., seconded, and it was carried:—

"That the Ritual Committee be known by the title of the West Yorkshire Lodge of Instruction and Reference; and that its first meeting be held this day month at the Harmony Lodge, No. 342, at four o'clock in the afternoon, circulars in the meantime being sent to each member by Provincial Grand Secretary."

Returns were then read from the various Lodges in the Province, amounting to 30, showing that they possess 1150 contributing members, and 273 P.M.'s. They also have 1814 votes for the R.M.B. Institution; 22 for the girl's school, and 21 for the boys'. The sum subscribed towards liquidating the asylum debts by the lodge of this division of Yorkshire, was 14*l.* 11*s.*

The P.G.T. produced his cash account with the vouchers, and the cheque book of Messrs. Beckett & Co., and the D.P.G.M. announced to the brethren that, in addition to 500*l.* invested on mortgage, there remains in the bank a handsome sum—which sum, as will be shown by the Treasurer's account hereto annexed, now reaches the amount of 241*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, making with the mortgage, 741*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*

Br. Wm. Dixon was again unanimously re-elected Provincial Grand Treasurer.

It was proposed by Br. T. Dewhurst, P.S.G.D., seconded by Br. John Sykes, P.J.G.D., and carried unanimously, "That the thanks of this Provincial Grand Lodge are due to Br. Wm. Dixon for his faithful and valuable services."

Other business having been disposed of, the meeting separated. The next G. Lodge will be held at Leeds on the 4th inst.

THEATRICALS AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Tuesday evening, May 1st, Br. John T. M. Harrison, musical composer to this theatre, took his first benefit. The play was *Henry VIII*, after which a Grand Concert took place. The orchestra was conducted by Br. Harrison, with his superior tact and ability. A beautiful operatic selection was given with much effect. M. Rolfe sang a very effective song with considerable ability. A charming little song, in manuscript—"Sweet Summer Flowers"—composed by Br. Harrison, was most delightfully sung by Miss Watson, a young lady of considerable promise. We hope this beautiful melody will be published, as it cannot fail to become a universal favourite. The concert terminated with a Local Quadrille, by Br. Harrison, in which many old melodies of the Tyne-side were most effectively introduced. They were much admired, and deserved a most unanimous *encore*. The theatre was well and most respectably attended, many of the Craft being present. On Monday evening, May 7th, being the last of the season, Br. E. D. Davis, the spirited lessee of the theatre, had his benefit, on which occasion the elegant and favourite drama "Victorine" was performed, to the delight of a large and highly respectable audience, amongst which were many of the Craft. Br. Davis, in the course of the evening, delivered a highly talented and beautiful poetical address. The entertainments concluded with the "Midnight Watch."

ROYAL ARCH.

LONDON CHAPTERS.

JOPPA CHAPTER (No. 223).—A convocation of the members of this Chapter was holden at the Masonic Hall, Mansell Street, Goodman's Fields, on Monday the 11th, when Comp. J. Somers, of the Oak Lodge, was installed into the first Principal's chair, —and Comp. Jones as I.,—the Companion elected to the second chair not being present, the ceremonies were ably performed by Comp. Goring, assisted by the immediate P.Z., Comp. Ellis. Comp. Alexander, J.W., of the Joppa Lodge, is the P.S. The Comps. afterwards supped together, and spent a very pleasant evening.

MOIRA CHAPTER (No. 109).—A meeting of this Chapter was held at the London Tavern, on Friday the 15th of June, when Comp. Francis Edgington, of London Bridge, was duly exalted. Comp. Palmer was then installed for the second time as Z.; Comp. Law as H., and Gale, I. Amongst the visitors were the following G. Officers, Comps. Potter, John Hervey and Fanfield.

DEVONSHIRE.

CHAPTER OF SINCERITY STONEHOUSE (No. 224).—The Companions of this Chapter met on Thursday at St. George's Hall, 21st June, to exalt the following duly qualified Brethren:—Brs. Rodd, Hunt, Gilbard, Hancock, and Mann. A large muster of Comps. were present, including Comps. Triscott, Tripe, Pollard, Damant, Killingly, Gambell, and several others, whose names escaped us. Some considerable detention was caused from the want of suitable paraphernalia, but this obstacle was happily overcome by Comp. Gambell kindly offering to proceed to Plymouth and procure the loan of that belonging to Chapter 83 (St. John), which, being done, the Brethren were exalted by Comp. Pollard, P.Z., of 83, in the most impressive manner, giving to this beautiful ceremony its full effect. Labour being over, the Comps. retired to

refreshment, and due justice was done to the elegant repast provided. Owing to the length of the ceremony, and the lateness of the hour at which it commenced, there was barely time to give the usual toasts. The healths of the usual members of 83 being drunk and they having been thanked for their kind assistance, towards the small hours the companions wended their way home, having spent a very pleasant evening. We anticipate, when next we have the pleasure of visiting this rising Chapter, they will have procured suitable paraphernalia of their own, as from their increased numbers they can now accomplish this desideratum, and make themselves equal to the other Chapters in the neighbourhood.

LANCASHIRE.

CHAPTER OF HOPE, ROCHDALE (No. 62).—This flourishing Chapter held a convocation on the 3rd inst., at the Spread Eagle Inn, at 6 o'clock. The Chapter was opened in due form. The Principal Comps. I. Lord, Z., W. Roberts, H. and P.L. Holland, P.P.Z. as I. presiding. The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the bye-laws were duly signed by the Officers and Comps. present. Comp. J. Lord, P.Z., gave a lecture on the R. A. Jewel, which was highly instructive, and received by the Comps. with applause. At the conclusion of the business, the Chapter was closed and adjourned. The Comps. partook of refreshments and separated at 9 o'clock in the greatest harmony.

THE COLONIES.

AUSTRALIA.

AUSTRALASIAN MASONIC HOTEL, SYDNEY.—According to arrangement previously announced, the formal opening of this important hotel was commemorated on Dec. 14, by a grand dinner given by the lessee, Mr. R. Swete, to the members of the Masonic Order, and such other friends or patrons of the Society as chose to attend. The premises occupied are those lately known as the Town Hall. They have been fitted up, carpeted, and decorated in such a style as to combine considerable artistic beauty with the utmost amount of personal convenience and general house accommodation: thus providing a capacious and tastefully-ornamented Hall, in which all the Lodges of the Masonic Order may, and will, meet from time to time, for the transaction of business, whether of a festive or an ordinary character. The room was brilliantly lighted up, and the tables were set off with bouquets of choice flowers, all of which harmonised exquisitely with the gay and enthusiastic feeling expressed by the company in approval of the object of the entertainment. The chair was occupied by the Grand Master, Captain Innes, who was supported by Mr. Parkes, M.L.C., and several other gentlemen of note. The gallant Chairman, in proposing the first toast, "The Queen," paid a graceful and eloquent compliment to the soldiers and sailors engaged in the present war. He said that, although there were others besides Masons present, and although they were forbidden by their laws from discussing political or party questions, yet he was happy to say that there was one green spot on which they could all meet, whatever were the religious or political feelings entertained, and that was loyalty to the Sovereign (loud cheers)—a sentiment dear to every British heart (renewed cheers). The toast was received with the usual honours, as was also that of Prince Albert and the Royal Family. Several other toasts were drunk, and responded to with great enthusiasm; amongst which were, "Success to the combined forces of England and France;" "Prosperity to the Hotel, combining as it did the Masonic Hall of all the Lodges;" the health of Mr. Parkes, one of the Members for the City; and the health of Her Majesty's Ministers, to whom in a great measure the success of the present war was attributable.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MARK MASONRY.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Edinburgh, June 21st, 1855.

SIR.—I beg to send you a copy of the deliverance of the Supreme Chapter, regarding the spurious Mark Lodge in London, and am,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. GAYLOR.

Grand Scribe N. for Scotland.

[Copy referred to.]

June 20th, 1855.

THE Grand Scribe N. brought under the notice of the Supreme Chapter the allegation that the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen (No. 70) had granted a warrant to some Masons in London, to practise Mark Masonry; as also a letter to the Grand Scribe N., from Companion Rettie, Principal Z. of that Chapter, referring to a letter from himself, which he had published in the "Freemasons' Magazine" for the present month, wherein he had acknowledged the Chapter had done so, and given the reasons for its so doing. And this letter in the "Freemasons' Magazine" having been read and considered, the Supreme Chapter is unanimously of opinion that Companion Rettie, while quoting correctly from the Laws of the Supreme Chapter, has applied to them a meaning they are quite incapable of sustaining. The Supreme Chapter further declares, that a Supreme Chapter of Royal Arch Masons alone has power, in this country, to grant legal warrants for the Mark, Past, Excellent, and Royal Arch degrees, or such of these degrees as are acknowledged by it: That on 21st December, 1842, the Supreme Chapter of Scotland resolved to grant separate warrants for practising the two degrees of Mark and Past Master, and no others, reserving, however, to R. A. Chapters their privilege to confer these also, as formerly: That this law continued only in operation for a few years, after which the right to confer (or initiate in) these two degrees was restricted to those only who took out R. A. Charters: That the Aberdeen Bon Accord Chapter can only confer these degrees under the Charter granted to it on 18th December, 1850, and which was after the repeal of the Law of 1842, and cannot grant warrants to any other body of Masons to confer the said degrees, or depute its own powers in any way whatever: That the Chapter of Bon Accord, Aberdeen, has thus assumed to itself powers which can be exercised by the Supreme Chapter alone, and are not conferred on any Daughter Chapter, either by its Charter, or by the Laws of the Supreme Chapter. The Supreme Chapter, therefore, directs that intimation be made to Companion Rettie to withdraw the warrant immediately, and to report at next Quarterly Communication that the same has been so done, in order to avoid the necessity of ulterior measures.

We reprint the following, in order that the whole of the correspondence may be laid before our readers:—

To the Editor of the Freemasons' Monthly Magazine.

SIR AND BROTHER.—Observing amongst the Notices to Correspondents in your last number that you have had a correspondence with "W. Gaylor," I presume G.S.N. of the Sup. Chapter of Scotland, in reference to the "London Bon-accord Mark Lodge," as first Principal of Chapter No. 70, I would beg shortly to state the facts connected with the origin and history of that Lodge.

Upon the 11th September, 1851, a petition from six members (all residing in London), of the Bon-accord M.M. Lodge, holding of the Chapter No. 70, was presented to that Chapter, praying for a warrant to enable them to establish a Mark M. Lodge in London, under the title of the "London Bon-accord Mark Master Lodge;" as they were anxious "to promote and diffuse the genuine principle of Mark Masonry." The Chapter granted a Warrant to those Brethren, in consequence of the Sup. G.R.A. Chapter of Scotland having, on March 12th, 1848, denuded themselves of the right of granting Mark Lodge Warrants, and as the resolution bears, "that

the power of granting these degrees" (Mark and *Past Master*) "shall be vested in chapters only, as formerly declared by a resolution of the Supreme Chapter, dated 16th September, 1846." Also because the granting of the Warrant did not interfere with any of those degrees which flourish under the guardianship of the G. L. or the Sup. G. Chapter of England. Had either of the two last bodies taken cognizance of the Mark Degree, most assuredly the members of Chapter No. 70 would never have granted such a Warrant. It was solely for the extension and promotion of a knowledge of one of the most beautiful and perfect of the Masonic Degrees. How it has succeeded in effecting that object, may be judged from the Mark Roll of the Bon-accord Chapter, on which are recorded the names of some of the most accomplished Masous that England can boast of.

I will copy the different regulations of the Supreme Chapter, to show that the Bon-accord Chapter has acted in accordance with the spirit of their obligations, in order to promote and advance a knowledge of Masonry. The members would not have granted the Warrant, had it been contrary to the laws, or spirit of the laws, of the Supreme Chapter, and I for one would never have sanctioned such a step, as I never have countenanced, either in my private or public capacity in the Craft, a departure from the rules or regulations of any Order to which I belong.

In the laws of the Supreme G.R.A of Scotland, published 1845, chap. iv. par 35, will be found:—

"As the G.L. of Scotland does not at present permit its daughter Lodges to confer the degrees of Mark and P.M., and as therefore these degrees cannot be legally obtained in a Lodge of St. John's Masonry in Scotland, the Supreme Chapter issues Warrants constituting Lodges for these degrees only." This was the law in 1845. In the year 1848 the above law was abrogated by the Supreme Chapter. Upon March 12th, *inter alia*, it was resolved to abrogate the law, chapter iv. par. 35, by which the Supreme Chapter agrees to issue Warrants constituting Lodges to confer the degree of Mark and P.M., and to enact and declare "that the power of these decrees shall be vested in Chapters only, as formerly declared by a resolution of the Supreme Chapter, dated 16th September, 1846."

This is shortly the history of the London Bon-accord Mark Master Lodge.—I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

JAMES RETTIE,

Aberdeen, May 4 1855.

First Principal, Bon-accord Chapter, No. 70.

LONDON BON ACCORD MARK MASTER LODGE.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Aberdeen, June 18th, 1855.

SIR.—The above Lodge, and the Chapter to whom it owes obedience, is likely to get "scrimp justice," at the hands of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, if we may judge from the correspondence which appeared in your last number. In that correspondence we find that, not only does one of the Grand Scribes, but also the Depute P.Z. for Scotland condemn the above Lodge, and the conduct of Chapter No. 70, as illegal, without a hearing. Against such un-Masonic conduct I most emphatically protest; as it is contrary to the Rules, and the spirit of the Rules of Craft or Arch Masonry. The Rule is, so far as I have been able to make out—that any Brother or Lodge, any Companion or Chapter, against whom a charge is brought, ought to be informed what that charge is by the superior body. Up to the present moment, there is no charge made against Chapter No. 70, by the Supreme Chapter. It is quite possible that Chapter No. 70 may be wrong—it is equally so that it may be right; and it would be very foolish to give the line of defence, until we know what charge is laid against us. And I have to regret that any Englishman should have so far forgotten that manly national characteristic, fair-play, as to have joined in the cry against the London Bon Accord Mark Master Lodge, of "illegal," "spurious," before hearing both sides of the question.

I remain, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RETTIE,

P.Z. Chapter No. 70, Scotland.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR JUNE.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Both houses of parliament resumed their sittings after the Whitsuntide recess on the 4th June. In the House of Lords on that day the principal business transacted was the passing of the Newspaper Stamp Bill through committee. On the following day the bill was read a third time and passed;—and Lord Clarendon announced that the negotiations at Vienna had come to a close, a similar announcement being also made in the House of Commons. On the 7th, the Cambridge University Bill, after a good deal of discussion, passed through committee. On the 11th, a question of privileges arose relative to the creation of the barony of Fermoy, which was referred to a committee. On the 12th, a motion of the Bishop of Oxford for postponing the Religious Worship Bill for six months was lost by a majority of one—the numbers voting being 31 against 30. On the 14th, a motion of Earl Shaftesbury to refer a bill introduced by himself to limit the hours of work of needle-women was referred to a committee, and the Cambridge University Bill passed. On the 15th, the Religious Worship Bill was referred to a select committee. On the 18th, Lord Brougham brought forward the subject of the excessive fees in the County Courts—and several bills were advanced a stage. Similar business was transacted on the following day—on the 22nd—25th. On the 27th, a discussion took place relative to the conduct of Austria, which the government contended showed a leaning in favour of the allies.

In the House of Commons on the 4th, the debate was resumed on the various motions relative to the prosecution of the war, which was continued on the 5th, 7th, and 8th, when Mr. Baring's motion assuring her Majesty of the continued support of the House of Commons in the prosecution of the war was unanimously carried. On the 6th, the adjourned debate on Mr. Spooner's anti-Maynooth motion was resumed, and adjourned to the 27th. On the 11th, the Metropolis Local Management Bill went into committee, and the adjourned debate on Sir John Pakington's Education Bill was resumed, and further adjourned. On the 12th, the Metropolis Local Management Bill was further considered, and a motion in favour of decimal coinage carried by a majority of 135 to 36. On the 13th, the Sunday Trading (metropolis) Bill went through committee, and was ordered to be recommitted on the 4th July. On the 14th, the Education Scotland Bill was considered in committee; and the Victoria Government Bill and the Waste Lands (Australian) Repeal Bill read a second time. On the 15th, Mr. Layard brought forward a motion upon Administrative Reform, which was met with a milder motion of Sir E. L. Bulwer. The debate was adjourned until the 17th, when Mr. Layard's motion was defeated by a majority of 359 to 46. The debate on the amendment of Sir E. L. Bulwer was adjourned to the 21st, when it was agreed to unanimously. On the 20th, the Marriage Law Amendment Bill, having been under consideration in committee, was adjourned to 20th July. On the 21st, the Metropolis Local Management Bill and the Tenants' Improvements (Ireland) Bill was further considered in committee. After a variety of personal explanations, the Education Scotland Bill was further advanced a stage on the 22nd. On the 25th, Lord Palmerston having made a statement relative to the bills to be proceeded with this session, the most important of which are the Limited Liability in Partnership Bill, the Victoria Government Bill, and the Australian Waste Lands Repeal Bill passed through committee. On the 27th, the Metropolis Improvement Bill passed through committee. A committee was appointed to consider whether Baron Rothschild in accepting the contract for the Government loan had not forfeited his seat in parliament. A committee was also appointed to consider the effect of the bill for closing public-houses;—and a resolution agreed to in favour of the revision or reduction of duty on stage coaches, &c. Leave was given to bring in a bill extending the parliamentary suffrage to all parties paying income-tax. On the 27th, the Maynooth question was once more considered and adjourned.

THE WAR.

The proceedings since our last have been of a somewhat chequered character, successes and checks, but the latter have not been of a nature to lead to any fear that there need be any doubt as to the ultimate fate of Sebastopol, and the wresting of the

Crimea from the Russians. The successes in the Sea of Azoff have been completely uninterrupted—Genitchi, Berdiansk, Tagaurog, Marionople, and other places have fallen into the hands of the allies, and considerable quantities of ammunition and supplies destroyed. On the 6th, the bombardment of Sebastopol was reopened, and on the 7th, the French carried the Mamelon, and the English the quarries, in front of the redan. On the 18th, a combined attack was made on the Malakoff tower, and the Redan, and though they obtained temporary possession of them, and did considerable damage, they were obliged to retire, the losses of the English being about 1200 in killed and wounded, and the French 4000; the losses of the Russians are supposed to have been much larger. The French have occupied the Tchernaya.

In the Baltic on the 7th, a boat of the "Cossack" was landing some prisoners at Hango under a flag of truce, when they were attacked by the Russians; when six men were killed, and three officers and the majority of the crew taken prisoners, the majority being wounded. Only one man escaped. Several vessels have come into contact with infernal machines sunk in the sea near Constradt, but without receiving any material damage.

COMMERCIAL.

Great consternation has been excited by the stoppage of the eminent bankers, Messrs. Strahan & Co., they having been long held in the highest estimation at the west end of the town, and holding some of the longest accounts of the nobility. The assets it is supposed will not realise more than about four shillings in the pound. The three partners are in custody for having feloniously disposed of securities entrusted to their care.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Mexican and South American Company on the 12th, a dividend of 7s. 6d. per share, free of income tax was declared. The net profits of the working, amounted to £29,438 1s. 3d.

The Bank of Australia held its annual meeting on the 16th, and declared a dividend and bonus at the rate of 20 per cent on the paid up capital.

The South Australian Banking Company met, on the following day, and declared a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum.

At the third half-yearly meeting of the London Chartered Bank of Australia on the 22nd, a dividend of 2 per cent. free of income tax, was declared for the half-year.

The British Sperm Candle Company are about to issue the unallotted shares at par, with a guaranteed interest of 5 per cent. per annum.

The preliminary prospectus of a company, provisionally registered, under the title of the Australian General Investment Association, has just been issued. The principal object of the company is to develop the agricultural resources of the colony, by the purchase of lands and establishment of sheep-runs, it being notorious that the largest fortunes have been made in Australia from these runs, in the production of tallow and wool. The most valuable testimonials in favour of the principles upon which the company is to be founded, have been received from persons of authority in Australia, who think that, with adequate capital and careful management, very large profits—too large for us to mention until the principles of the company are more fully developed—cannot fail to be made. The capital of the company is at present fixed at £50,000, with power to increase to £500,000 in as many shares of £1 each, of which 5s. is to be paid upon complete registration, and a call of 5s. six months afterwards.

BENEVOLENT.

The annual sermon on behalf of the Society of Patrons, was preached on the 6th ult., in St. Paul's Cathedral, by the Bishop of Llandaff, from the 6th verse of the 33rd chapter of Isaiah. The children of the several parish and ward schools were, as usual, present. The collection was not a large one.

The annual meeting of the supporters of the Mesmeric Infirmary was held on the 10th, with Lord Dunraven in the chair. The several speakers spoke of wonderful cures effected by mesmeric treatment. Dr. Elliotson read the report, which, after congratulating the friends of mesmerism on the advance which it was making in public estimation, proceeded to mention that, during the course of the past year, 247 patients had been attended to at the infirmary, of whom 43 had been on the books at the commencement of the year, and the other 204 had been since

admitted. Of these, 69 had been cured, 9 nearly cured, 49 improved, 71 had discontinued attendance, and 41 were still under treatment.

The anniversary festival of the United Land Clerks' Society was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 12th ult. Lord Justice Turner presided. The report said—The number of members who, in the past year, claimed relief on account of sickness, has been 25; £121 7s. 6d. has been expended in meeting these claims—considerably less than was required in the two preceding years. Each applicant receives one guinea weekly so long as his illness disables him from following his employment, but not exceeding one year. Should it extend over that period, the member is entitled to half the amount during a second year; and if his affliction assume a permanent character, then he is entitled to relief for life out of the Superannuation Fund. Two of these cases of sickness terminated in the members being placed on that fund, and three others ended in death. The total relief afforded to the members on account of sickness alone amounts to the sum of £3,349 16s. 6d. The claims on the Superannuation Fund are increasing. Last year there were five; there are now seven, requiring a yearly expenditure of £239 4s. In three of these cases the members receive yearly £31 4s. each, and the remaining four £36 8s. The Committee were able to announce at the last anniversary that in the year preceding not one case of death had occurred amongst 524 members. On this occasion they have to report the death, since the last festival, of six members. The family of each received the sum of £50. The Committee have also to report the death of the wives of five members; to each of these members the sum of £25 has been paid. The total expenditure on account of death has reached the sum of £4,927 10s.

On the 26th, Prince Albert inaugurated the R.C. Medical Benevolent College at Epsom as an asylum for decayed members of the Profession and their widows, and as a school for the education of their children. The arrangements were of the worst possible character.

PROVIDENT.

The Times Life Insurance Company held its annual meeting on the 7th ult. During the year the company completed and issued 1612 policies, covering 393,515*l.*, and yielding in premiums 7012*l.* 8s. 10*d.* A bonus of one per cent. per annum, was declared on the life policies entitled to a division of profits, and a bonus of 2s. 6*d.* per share on the capital stock of the Company.

On the 21st ult., the proprietors of the Royal Exchange declared a dividend, equivalent to 11 per cent. per annum.

The Achilles Insurance Company held its annual meeting on the 6th ult., when it was stated, that during the past year the Company completed 225 policies, assuring 101,230*l.*, and producing a new income of 3,128,134*l.* The average amount of each policy was 450*l.*

A special meeting of the Law Life Assurance Company was held on the 8th ult., for the declaration of the surplus profits of the 4th septennial period of the Company's career, when it appeared that they amounted to 793,147*l.* 9s. 4*d.*, one-fifth of which belonged to the proprietors, and the remaining four-fifths to the assured. The Guarantee Fund on the 31st December, was 615,858*l.* 16s. 4*d.* The interest accruing from this sum of 615,858*l.* 16s. 4*d.*, as at present invested, will enable the directors to pay to the proprietors an annual dividend of 2*l.* 10s. per share, clear of income tax; being an increase of dividend of 14s. per share; the entire dividend being after the rate of 25 per cent. per annum on the amount paid up on each share. The sum of 634,517*l.* 19s. 6*d.* falling to the share of the assured, has been allotted among them in proportion to their respective interests, a reserve being made for those policies which are not yet entitled to participate, by reason of their not being of three full years' standing.

During the month, the Waterloo Life Assurance Company held meetings at Liverpool and Kendal. The Company, although established only 3½ years, has now a premium income of upwards of 14,000*l.* per annum, and has invested 30,000*l.* The claims which have as yet fallen in, amount to only 1500*l.*

On the 16th ult., Lord Torrington presided at the annual meeting of the Indisputable Insurance Company, when a report was read, which stated that there was a con-

tinuous yearly increase in the Company's business, which at present amounted to 20,000*l.* per annum.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Conservative Land Society was held at Exeter Hall, on Wednesday, Lord Ranelagh presiding, when Br. Guireisren read a report, from which it appears the amount of land sold during the past quarter has been 6,427*l.* 10*s.*; the total amount of land sold since the commencement of the society is 109,111*l.* 10*s.*; the gross cash receipts up to Lady-day, 1855, are 165,613*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; ditto, from Lady-day to Midsummer, 1855, 12,377*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*; total receipts 177,991*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*; whilst the total amount of withdrawals unto Midsummer, 1855, have only amounted to 16,728*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; the total shares in progress, or uncompleted, taken up to Midsummer, 1855, were 9,453*l.*; shares completed to the same date 1,584*l.*; total number of shares issued on the 24th June, 1855, 11,042*l.* The returns up to Midsummer, of the register of order of rights are as follows:—completed, 1,584; drawn, 1,886; seniority, 953; total, 4,423; deduct rights exercised on estates, 2,128; unexercised rights, 2,295. A most favourable account of the prospects of the Society was given, and an announcement made, that the Hounslow estate would be allotted on the 19th inst. The quarterly drawing for choice of allotment was then proceeded with—the result of which will be found in our advertising columns.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sir Joseph Paxton has submitted a plan to the city authorities for a proposed arcade covered with glass, and railway round London, at an estimated cost of £34,000,000.

On the 13th, the New Metropolitan Cattle Market, in Copenhagen Fields, was opened by H.R.H. Prince Albert, assisted by the Corporation of the City of London.

An Irish labourer, named Jeremiah Foley, has been committed for the murder of a woman, named Hannah Bell, at Limehouse.

There was an out-door demonstration in Hyde Park on Sunday the 24th, against the Sunday Suppression Bill.

An order in Council was issued on the 28th, doubling the pay of the British Army whenever engaged in the field.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

At the Haymarket Theatre, a new Opera, entitled, "Berta, or the Gnome of Hartzberg" was produced on the 2nd of June. As the name bespeaks, the opera is founded on a German story,—the *libretto* being by Fitzball, and of that the less that is said the better. The music by Henry Smart is light, graceful and spirited, and owing to that and the excellence with which Br. Buckstone put it upon the stage it met with a complete success.

A new play by Mr. Saunders, entitled, "Love's Martyrdom," was produced with a fair success; the principal characters being sustained by Miss Helen Faucitt and Mr. Barry Sullivan.

A new play by Tom Taylor, entitled, "Helping Hands," has been produced at the Adelphi, with complete success.

The Crystal Palace Company have opened the nine upper fountains, which now play daily, and add considerably to the beauty of the Gardens which, at this season of the year form, irrespective of the Palace, a most attractive exhibition. The lower fountains are expected to be opened towards the close of August.

The season at Cremorne is now at its height, and the excellent performances in the *Cirque National* nightly attracts crowded audiences.

OBITUARY.

BR. CHARLES FOX.—This brother, who has been long well known in the Craft, expired on the 11th June, at the Stafford Arms, Pimlico—of which he had been the landlord for some years past—at the age of 60. Br. Fox was initiated by Br. Hardy at Sunderland, about the year 1825, and continued a subscribing member whilst remaining in that portion of the country. Br. Fox subsequently went abroad, and on

his return to England, having become steward of the Junior United Service Club, he became a joining member of the Robert Burns Lodge, in Nov., 1829; at the time when great efforts were making to secure it from destruction, which at one time threatened it from the falling off of its members. In the following January, Br. Fox was appointed J.D., and attained the chair in the year 1843, by which time the Lodge had, through the exertions of Br. Watson, arrived at the highest pinnacle of prosperity. Br. Fox was exalted in the Robert Burns Chapter on the day of its consecration, in February, 1845, and having passed through the various offices, filled the chair of Z. in the year 1852. Br. Fox having left the United Service Club, became steward of the Wyndham, which situation he resigned in 1842, to become landlord of the Red Lion, in Jermyn-street. Having sold the lease of this house to advantage, he removed to the Stafford Arms, Pimlico, and it is supposed that the falling off of the business, owing to the pulling down of the houses around him for the Pimlico improvements, preyed upon his spirits and hastened his death. The Robert Burns Chapter has lost three of its past principals within the last twelve months—viz., Comp. Moore, who was murdered a short time since, Comp. Charker, and Comp. Fox.

BR. ANSLOW.—We have to announce, with sincere regret, the death of Br. Thomas Anslow, Jun., the immediate P.M. of the Lodge of Faith, which took place at his residence, Webber-street, Lambeth, on the 11th June. Br. Anslow, who was about 33 years of age, was initiated in the Lodge of Faith on the 25th of October 1849, and installed W.M. in October 1853. The deceased Br. was highly respected by the brethren, and his loss will be much felt in the Lodge.

BR. ROBY.—On the 9th of this month died Br. John Henry Roby, R. A., Knight Templar, Member of the 30th Degree, &c., aged 29. This announcement will be read with deep regret by all who knew this estimable Brother; who possessed all those noble qualities that constitute the true Mason amongst his brethren, the kind and fast friend, the loving husband and excellent parent in private, and the thorough English gentleman in public life.

BR. MOORE.—It is our painful duty to record the sudden death of Br. Dr. Joseph Moore, which took place at his residence, Rosherville, Kent. By the death of Dr. Moore the Masonic body have lost an active and zealous brother; he was for many years a member of the Lodge of Antiquity, and was made a Grand Officer by the late M. W. G. M., His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex. Brother Dr. Moore held the office of Physician for many years to the girls' school, and took a lively interest in all the proceedings and arrangements. His death will cause a vacancy, and we trust the appointment may be filled up by a brother as much respected and beloved.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TO OUR READERS.—Our country friends will continue to receive their copies of the "Masonic Mirror," through the post, for 7*d.* as heretofore, though we have ceased to stamp any portion of our impression—the new law requiring us to make such alterations in our appearance, if we avail ourselves of the power of stamping, which we deem to be inexpedient. The number will, however, pass freely through the post by the affixing of a penny stamp, and the alteration of the law will, when deemed expedient, enable us materially to enlarge our size without additional cost to our readers. Indeed we this day so far avail ourselves of the privilege as to give 60 pages of matter instead of the 48 to which we are pledged. This has been rendered necessary by an unexpected pressure of interesting matter, and a desire not again to disappoint our readers by the adjournment of the publication of a portion of our continuous articles, notwithstanding the High Degrees at Bristol, and several valuable letters, are again postponed. In presenting this mass of matter to our readers we may fairly claim that it exceeds, in extent, any publication ever offered to the Masonic body, even at double the price. We are aware that we shall, by the new arrangement, be placed in some little difficulty with our Colonial Readers, inasmuch as the new tariff of book postage does not apply to places beyond the seas. For the present, however, we shall continue to supply those friends whose subscriptions we have received in the usual manner, we bearing the loss that the extra postage will inflict upon us; and for the future we shall, for the accommodation of the colonies, also issue our "Mirror" in quarterly parts, by which three numbers will pass through the colonial book post for one postage.

A MEMBER OF No. 122 is quite at liberty to decline taking in the "Masonic Mirror," if he thinks fit. We are not personally present at every meeting of the Stonehouse Lodge, but we have every reason to believe that our notices are correct.

The W.M. of No. 224 is thanked for the kind notice he has been pleased to take of our labours. We deem his having a portion of the contents of the "Mirror" read in open Lodge as a high compliment—even though he did so for the purposes of abuse. The W.M. of 224 may rest assured that no threats of the withdrawal of patronage from the "Mirror" will deter us from expressing our opinions honestly and fearlessly. We shall be much pleased if a few more W.M.'s will do us the honour of bringing the "Mirror" under the notice of the members of their respective Lodges.

R. D., MADRAS.—The paper alluded to never came to hand.

J. C., WANDSWORTH.—Communicate with the editor of the "Masonic Mirror," giving your name and address, that he may write to you on the subject privately.

T. S., OPENSHAW.—The "Masonic Mirrors" are so packed as to be impossible to come undone in the Post Office, excepting by gross negligence.

We agree with *Ethée* that it would be very desirable that a copy of every summons to a Lodge meeting should be forwarded to the G. Sec. in London, or the G.S. of the Province in which the Lodge meets, as thereby many irregularities would be checked, whilst the expense (merely the postage) would be too trivial to be worth notice.

B. L.—The letter shall be published in full in the next number of the "Mirror"; the Lodge never had a better W.M. The time will come when every officer must be examined before he is duly appointed by the W.M.

NORWICH.—The Grand Chaplain may be asked, but we doubt his authority.

SCOTLAND.—The Lodge meets on a Tuesday. See our observations and the correspondence relative to the Mark Masons in the present number of the "Mirror."

General Cooke was introduced formally to the Grand Lodge, but we believe there was a sad misunderstanding with reference to the transaction. We shall give the information more fully in our next "Mirror." Our American letter did not arrive in time for the investigation.

Br. Adlard is employed to clothe the children in the Boys' School—we believe, by contract. The present Lord Mayor is a Mason. He has not yet invited the Grand Lodge to any entertainment.

The Deputy Grand Master, Lord Yarborough, offered to preside at a special festival in aid of the Building Fund for the Boys' School, which he said reflected much on the Craft, as having been delayed so long. We refer our correspondent to the account we gave in the "Mirror," of the festival; where he will find the information he asks for.

IPSWICH.—The inquirers of the Companion should be referred to the Grand Secretary's office; address the letter to Br. W. White or Br. William Farnfield, but such information, like that from the star-chambers of yore, will, we fear, not be obtained.

T. C., NIL DESPERANDUM.—All will be right; the auditors are responsible, and their excellent brethren are beyond the reach of such observation.

P. M., DURHAM, will see that we have alluded to the circumstance in another page. It is no use asking the G. Sec. when the minutes of quarterly communications will be published, they being now only five quarters behind-hand. Ask some London brother to put the question in G. Lodge.

AN ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMER.—We do not wonder at the delays in obtaining answers from the Grand Secretary's office. What can be expected from an office where the principal—the G. Sec. of England—rarely appears before four o'clock in the afternoon, and sometimes not at all.

Br. Crawley, who is well known for the kind assistance he affords at Lodges of Instruction, will take a benefit at the Soho Theatre, on the 16th.

The so-called *Bon Accord* Lodge of Mark Masons held a meeting on Wednesday last, when Lord Leigh was installed into the chair, and eight companions initiated. We have received a report of the proceedings, but the Lodge having been proved to be illegal, we must decline to publish it.

We do not approve of booksellers becoming chapmen for badges and jewels. Every "cobbler should stick to his own last," and let others enjoy their fair share of business.

Freemason's Hall, adjoining the Queen's Hotel, Liverpool, has been converted into a Casino. How is this?

ERRATA.—In *Br. Gaylor's* letter, printed in last month's "Mirror," in line 12, 1845 ought to be 1841. In line 14 from the bottom of page 402, the word *expired* should be "expeded." At page 403, line 14, for *protected*, read "practised," and at line 22, for *firmly*, read "formerly." At line 14 from the bottom, in page 370, the name of *Br. Purton Cooper* is printed *Preston Cooper*. Luckily, *Br. Cooper* is too well known to make this error of any material consequence.