

THE
MASONIC MIRROR:

OCTOBER, 1855.

UNIFORMITY OF RITUAL.

ONE would think, that nothing need be said, with respect to the advantages necessarily resulting from uniformity, in the ritual used in Masonic Lodges. The benefits perfect uniformity would confer upon the Order, are so numerous, and so obvious, that we really have to apologize for attempting to argue the point in the pages of this periodical. We do so, however, for two especial reasons: first, because, absurd though it may appear, there are actually worthy and accomplished brethren amongst us, who think and speak lightly of that uniformity which others are labouring so hard to establish and sustain; and secondly, because there are very many Lodges—vastly more than is generally imagined—in which the brethren not only *do not*, but absolutely *cannot* work, according to the ritual and ceremonial, now sanctioned by the United Grand Lodge of England. A ritual or ceremonial, accepted by the Craft with cheerfulness and cordiality, and authorized by the Grand Lodge, ought thenceforth to be rigidly adhered to, and guarded even against verbal deviations. The Craft would do well, in this regard, to imitate that jealousy of innovation or alteration, by means of which our ancient brethren, the Israelites, so long and so wondrously preserved the integrity of the text of the Volume of the Sacred Law. Success in all those matters depends upon individual exertion. Every Brother should not only do his duty, but he should do it just as if the success of the whole affair depended entirely upon him. This is the spirit which we should like to see infused into the Craft generally, not in this matter alone, but in everything which is done, or can be done, to promote the extension and solidification of the Order.

It is easy for the experienced and observant brother, to see the thousands of modes by which words and phrases, creep into and corrupt our exquisitely chaste and beautiful ceremonial. We might give many illustrations of this, which it is not expedient to print. They will suggest themselves, in multitudes, to the experienced reader's mind. It is advisable, however; to indicate one or two of them, if only for the purpose of showing the evil, and pointing out a remedy.

First and foremost, then, amongst the causes of diversity, is the appointment of brethren to offices, who are not duly qualified for the positions to which they are elevated, by being minutely familiar with the rites, and ceremonies, in use amongst us. It is of no use concealing the fact; "sharp ordinances," as they used to say in Queen Elizabeth's time, ought to be speedily and sharply applied to this evil, in order at least to mitigate

its pernicious tendencies, if it cannot be entirely removed. When an excellent brother has regularly passed through the various offices—done his duty, as well as we are happy to say, very many of them do it—attended with tolerable regularity—become familiar with the principles and practices of the Order, and conversant with the duties of, and belonging to the I.G., J.D., S.D., J.W., and S.W.—served these offices with satisfaction, and is esteemed by the brethren—it becomes a delicate and difficult task to reject him when a candidate for the W.M.'s chair, because he does not know the part he will have to perform in that office, even though it should also be probable; that he will not even learn it when elected. Personal regard often sways the minds of the brethren, and this leads—as every experienced Mason must be aware—to the election of Masters, some of whom could not initiate, pass, and properly raise a candidate, let the consequences be what they might. Consequently, the Past Master, or some one else, either performs or dictates the part the chair should take; and thus the beauty of the ritual is marred, if not destroyed; and the sublime teachings and hallowed influences of the ceremonial are nullified, if not stultified.

Another fertile source of errors and discrepancies is the use, which it is to be feared some brethren make, in spite of the O.B., of the printed productions of pretenders, who profess to reveal the signs and ceremonies of the Order.

The weaker brethren may think, that the works of those “fellows of the baser sort,” though they do not expect them to contain any very accurate accounts of the proceedings within the sacred precincts of the Lodge, may yet serve as an aid to the memory; whereas, in the nature of things, the result is otherwise; for, for one correct sentence which may thus be committed to memory, half-a-dozen inaccuracies must be taken along with it; so that when the Brother who has thus surreptitiously attempted what he was deluded enough to think a royal road to Masonic lore, gets hold of one paragraph correctly, he imbibes with it a mass of mistakes and a host of absurdities, which more than counterbalance any advantage which by possibility could be derived from such a process. There is another reason to be urged against this plan, which ought to weigh somewhat, even with those, whom solemn engagements would not deter from the practice; and that is, the shame and confusion of face, which invariably attends the discovery of the source of such a brother's Masonic instruction, either in open Lodge, or in the company of Masons without the Lodge.

Another reason why this desiderated uniformity does not prevail to the extent, which we could wish, is the comparative infrequency with which a large majority of the brethren visit other Lodges. We know, and rejoice in the fact; that there are numerous and splendid exceptions to this; there are brethren who devote a considerable amount both of time and money to such visitations; they are, unfortunately, however, but as the dust of the balance as compared with those who do otherwise. Perhaps, if the bye-laws regulating the admission of visitors into Lodges, and the fees to be paid by those who introduce them, were remodelled, much good might be done in this direction. In Jersey, the fees are so low, and the reci-

procal invitations so general, that the brethren go round and round. You meet a certain number of them at almost every Lodge and Chapter, which cements the fraternal feeling, promotes conviviality, secures a good attendance, uniformity of working, and a general efficiency in the Lodges, which could hardly be expected without something of the kind. The only objection which could possibly be raised to this is, that in one case out of ten thousand, perhaps, a man who is *in* Masonry, but not *of* it, may abuse the privilege, and, for the payment of an insignificant annual subscription, consider himself entitled to go the round of the Lodges, and so actually live, at an expense to his brethren, three or four times the value of the sum he pays annually into the funds of the Order. This is an abuse which is possible, but we do trust for the honour of the Craft, that there is little danger, of such a shameful practice, becoming so prevalent as to constitute any valid objection to that reciprocity, which is shown to be attended with so many advantages. A more general visitation of other Lodges than those you belong to, is therefore one of the modes, by which, amongst other benefits, we would seek to secure that accuracy and uniformity of working to which we allude.

Lodges of Instruction are another means by which to bring about an end so desirable as that we have indicated. Lodges of Instruction confer many benefits, but they are not attended with that regularity, or supported with that vigour which ought to be manifested, and in many parts of the country there is no such Lodge in existence.

We cannot enlarge here, but we would suggest to any one who knows the position of Masonry, in London for instance, to consider calmly for a few moments, what would be the effect of a vigorously supported Chapter of Instruction, for Royal Arch Masons, upon that portion of the Order? The Royal Arch, in a very little time, would become like one risen from the dead.

One more suggestion, and for the present we have done. A good means of promoting and perpetuating uniformity and accuracy, would be the appointment by the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Grand Chapter, of skilled Craft and R.A. brethren, to visit the Lodges and Chapters, to report officially upon their condition, to instruct where needful, to correct mistakes, suggest improvements, and to encourage, advise, or remonstrate, as the case might be. This has been lately tried in Scotland, with the prospect of the happiest results. We do not wish to take a desponding view of the state of the Craft in this country; but we feel fully convinced, that if this were tried in England, it would reveal a state of things with regard to the style of working for which the Grand Lodge is by no means prepared—a state of things which would surprise, grieve, and mortify all those who have the best interests of the Craft at heart; but, at the same time, we are perfectly assured, that such a plan would bring about a degree of efficiency, and otherwise effect an amount of good to the Order, which at the first blush might appear impossible, for the more efficiently it is worked, the more highly honoured and respected will Freemasonry be.

We leave these brief and imperfect hints in the hands of those, whom they concern, in the hope that they will reflect, and act accordingly.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

(Continued from p. 530.)

THE laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge as now constituted (A.D. 1717), meeting with the entire concurrence of the brethren of the four old Lodges, they considered their personal attendance at the future quarterly communications as unnecessary, and like the newly constituted Lodges, considered themselves sufficiently represented by their Master and Wardens, feeling assured that no measure of importance would be adopted without their concurrence. But those officers in their attendance on Grand Lodge found that the other Lodges being equally represented with the four original, would, as they increased in number, have the power of gaining an immense majority of votes, and thereby be enabled to encroach on, or even subvert, the privileges of the original Masons of England, which had been vested in the four old Lodges. They, therefore, with the assistance of the brethren, formed a code of laws for the future government of the Society, to which was annexed a conditional clause, which runs thus: "Every annual Grand Lodge has an *inherent* power and authority to make new regulations or to alter *these*, for the *real* benefit of this *Ancient Fraternity*; provided always, THAT THE OLD LAND-MARKS BE CAREFULLY PRESERVED; and that such alterations and new regulations be proposed and agreed to at the third quarterly communication preceding the annual grand feast; and that they be offered also to the perusal of *all* the brethren before dinner, in writing, *even of the youngest apprentice*; the approbation and the consent of the *majority of all* the brethren present, being absolutely necessary to make the same binding and obligatory." This remarkable clause, and thirty-eight regulations preceding it, all of which are printed in the first edition of the Book of Constitutions, were approved, and confirmed by one hundred and fifty brethren, at an annual assembly and feast, held at Stationers' Hall, on St. John the Baptist's day, 1721, and in their presence subscribed by the Masters and Wardens of the four old Lodges on the one part; and by Philip, Duke of Wharton, then Grand Master; Theophilus Desaguliers, M.D., and F.R.S., Deputy Grand Master; Joshua Timson, and William Hawkins, Grand Wardens; and the Masters and Wardens of sixteen Lodges which had been constituted between 1717 and 1721, on the other part. And the Grand Master for the time being, his successors, and the Master of every Lodge to be hereafter constituted, were thereby bound to preserve those laws inviolate for all time coming. In commemoration of this, it has been an established custom since that time for the Master of the oldest Lodge to attend the installation of Grand Master, and taking precedence of every other brother present, the Grand Master only excepted, to deliver the Book of the Original Constitutions to him on his engaging to support and abide by the ancient charges and regulations.

By these wise precautions, the Constitutions of our ancient brethren were established as a basis on which the future Masonic jurisdiction of England was to be founded, and the ancient regulations and landmarks

of the Order, as they are emphatically termed, preserved inviolable from future innovations. The four old Lodges, in consequence of this compact in which they considered themselves as a distinct party, continued to act by their original authority; and so far from surrendering any of their rights, had them frequently ratified and confirmed by the whole Fraternity in Grand Lodge assembled, and by whom their immemorial power to practise the rites of Masonry are always acknowledged. No future regulations of the Society could therefore operate with respect to those Lodges if such regulations were contrary to, or subversive of the original Constitutions, by which only they were governed; and while they act in conformity with those constitutions, no Masonic power can legally deprive them of any right or privilege which they have ever enjoyed.

The necessity of adhering to the ancient landmarks and thereby preserving the universality of Masonry was so clearly understood and defined by the Fraternity, that it was established as an unerring rule at every installation, public and private, for the Master and Wardens to pledge themselves to submit to and abide by those charges and regulations as Masons have done in all ages. And the brethren at their initiation were and still are equally bound to act in accordance.

Of these Lodges it will be seen that two are entirely defunct and two have assumed new names.

1. The old Lodge of St. Paul, now named the Lodge of Antiquity, formerly held at the Goose and Gridiron, St. Paul's Churchyard, is still extant, and regularly meets at the Freemasons' Tavern, in Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields on the fourth Wednesday in January, February, March, May, June, October, and November, in every year. This Lodge is principally composed of Grand Officers, and possesses many valuable ancient relics and records of Masonry.

2. The old Lodge, No. 2, formerly held at the Crown, Parkers Lane, Drury Lane, has been extinct sixty-five years, by the death of its members.

3. The old Lodge No. 3, formerly held at the Apple Tree Tavern in Charles Street, Covent Garden, has been dissolved many years. By the list of Lodges inserted in the Book of Constitutions printed 1738, it appears that, in February, 1722-23, this Lodge was removed to the Queen's Head, Knave's Acre, on account of some difference among its members, and the members who met there came under a *new* constitution: though says the Book of Constitutions *they wanted it not*, and ranked as No. 10 in the list. Thus they inconsiderately renounced their former rank under an immemorial constitution.

4.—The Lodge No. 4, formerly held at the Rammer and Grapes Tavern, in Channel Row, Westminster, was thence removed to the Horn Tavern, in New Palace Yard, where it continued to meet regularly, till the members, finding it in a declining state, agreed to incorporate with a new and flourishing Lodge, under the constitution of the Grand Lodge, entitled *The Somerset House Lodge*, which immediately assumed their rank.

It may be questioned if any of the old Lodges while existing as Lodges have the power of surrendering their rights which were granted to them by the old Masons of the Metropolis in trust, and any individual member of

those Lodges might object to the surrender, in which case they could never be legally given up. The four old Lodges always preserved their power of *making, passing, and raising* Masons, being termed Master's Lodges, while the other Lodges, for many years afterwards, had no such power; it having been the custom *to pass and raise* the Masons made by them at the Grand Lodge only.

The Society appears to have progressed but slowly during the year 1717. Several brethren joined the old Lodges, but no new Lodges were constituted.

The assembly and feast were held at the Goose and Gridiron, Saint Paul's Church-yard, June 24th, 1718, when Br. Sayer, having gathered the votes, proclaimed aloud, Br. George Payne, Grand Master of Masons. He, being duly invested, installed, congratulated, and honored, recommended the strict observance of the quarterly communication; and desired the brethren to bring to the Grand Lodge any old writings and records concerning Masons and Masonry or containing the usages of ancient times; and in consequence, many old copies of the gothic constitutions were produced and collated. The Grand Master appointed Br. John Cordwell, carpenter, G.S.W., and Br. Thomas Morris, stone-cutter, G.J.W., and to their activity and zeal the society is much indebted for introducing many brethren of noble rank, who by their distinguished virtues and abilities reflected honour on the Fraternity, which now began to gather strength, and the collection of old manuscripts seems to have prepared the way for compiling and publishing a body of Masonic Constitutions, though such an intention is not mentioned till three years afterwards.

At the assembly and feast held at the above named place, 24th June, 1719, the reverend Brother John Theophilus Desaguliers, LL.D. and F.R.S., was elected Grand Master of Masons. On this occasion, the old, regular and peculiar toasts or healths of the Freemasons were introduced, and from this time may be dated the rise of Freemasonry on its present plan in the south of England. The Lodges were considerably increased in number and visited by many old Masons, who had long neglected to attend, whilst several noblemen were initiated. Br. Anthony Sayer and Br. Thomas Morrice were appointed Grand Wardens.

At the assembly and feast held at the Goose and Gridiron, 24th July, 1720, Br. George Payne was re-elected Grand Master, and duly proclaimed and installed with every demonstration of love and harmony. He appointed Br. Thomas Hoby, stone cutter, and Br. Richard Ware, mathematician, Grand Wardens. This year, at some private Lodge, several valuable manuscripts (for nothing then existed in print) concerning the Fraternity, their Lodges, charges, secrets, and usages, particularly one written by Br. Nicholas Stone, the Warden under Inigo Jones, were burnt by some scrupulous brethren, that they might not fall into improper hands.

At the Grand Lodge or quarterly communication, opened in ample form on St. John the Evangelist's day, at the above named place, it was agreed, that in order to avoid disputes, the new Grand Master for the future, should be proposed at a Grand Lodge some time before the annual feast, by the old Grand Master, and if approved, saluted; or if absent,

his health be toasted as Grand Master elect. Also, that the new Grand Master, as soon as installed, have the sole power of appointing his Deputy Grand Master and Wardens according to ancient custom, when a noble brother was Grand Master.

At a Grand Lodge opened in ample form on Lady-day, 1721, at the same place, the Grand Master proposed for his successor the Noble Br. John Duke of Montague; who being present, was saluted as Grand Master elect, with every demonstration of joy. The G.M. Payne finding from the great increase in the number of Lodges there would be a want of room, at the next feast proposed that the coming assembly be held at the Stationers' Hall, near Ludgate-street, which was agreed to. The Grand Wardens were then ordered, as usual, to prepare the feast, and to appoint some brothers of ability to assist them as stewards, and other brethren as waiters to attend the tables, as no strangers must be present. Br. Josiah Villineau, upholder in the Borough of Southwark, however, generously undertook the whole management, and received the thanks of the society for his attention.

The assembly and feast being held at Stationers' Hall, June 24th, 1721, the Grand Master, with his Wardens, the former Grand Officers, and the Masters and Wardens of twelve Lodges, met the Grand Master elect, at the Queen's Arms Tavern, in St. Paul's Church Yard, in the morning, and having confirmed the election of Br. Montague, they made several new brothers, particularly, Philip Lord Stanhope, afterwards Earl of Chesterfield, and walked on foot from thence to the Hall (in proper clothing and in due form); where they were joyfully received by about one hundred and fifty brethren, all clothed. They then sat down to a very elegant feast after the ancient manner of Masons. After dinner, the Past Grand Master made the first procession round the Hall, and when returned, he proclaimed aloud, the most noble Brother John Montague, Duke of Montague, Grand Master of Masons; and the Past Grand Master, Br. Payne, having invested him with the ensigns and badges of his office, installed him in the chair of King Solomon, and sat down on his right hand, while the whole assembly owned the Duke's authority with due homage and joyful congratulations. The Grand Master then appointed Br. John Beale, M.D., his Deputy Grand Master, whom Br. Payne invested and installed in the chair of H. A., on the Grand Master's left hand. Br. Josiah Villeneau and Br. Thomas Morrice were appointed Grand Wardens and were invested by the late Grand Wardens. The Grand Master having made his second procession round the hall, Br. Desaguliers delivered an eloquent oration on Masonry. The Grand Master, after expressing his thanks to Br. Villeneau for his care of the feast, desired him, as Senior Grand Warden, to close the Lodge.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form 29th September, 1721, at the King's Arms Tavern. The old Gothic Constitutions not meeting with the approbation of the members of the Grand Lodge, Br. James Anderson, A.M., was ordered to digest them in a new and better method.

The Grand Lodge met in due form at the King's Arms Tavern, on St.

John's day, 27th December, when the Grand Master by the desire of the members of the Grand Lodge, appointed fourteen learned brothers to examine and report on Br. Anderson's manuscript of the Book of Constitutions. This communication was made very entertaining by the interesting lectures of several old Masons.

The Grand Lodge assembled at the Fountain Tavern, Strand, March 25th, 1722, and was opened in ample form, with the former Grand Officers, and the representatives of twenty-four Lodges. The before-mentioned committee reported that they had perused the manuscript prepared by Br. Anderson, namely, the *History, Charges, Regulations and Master's Songs*; and after some amendments, had approved of the same. Upon which the Grand Master was requested by the Grand Lodge to order it to be printed. At this time very many ingenious men of all stations and professions, conceiving that the Order was cemented by brotherly love and friendship, became desirous of being made Freemasons, and enter that sacred retreat, where the busy world with all its cares and perplexities is shut out, and every discussion avoided which might tend to cause dissension, and destroy the unanimity of the brethren.

The excellent government of the Grand Master, inclined a number of the brethren to re-elect him for the ensuing year, the annual feast was therefore delayed. But the Duke of Montague resigned the office in favour of Br. Philip, Duke of Wharton, who was very ambitious to attain the appointment. His resignation proceeded from a desire to reconcile the brethren to that nobleman, who had incurred their disapprobation by having convened an irregular meeting of Masons in opposition to the resolutions of Grand Lodge, on March 25th, at Stationer's Hall, on the Festival of St. John the Baptist, in order to become elected Grand Master. The Duke of Wharton having become sensible of his error, publicly acknowledged the impropriety of his conduct, and promising a future strict conformity and obedience to the resolutions of the Society, was elected Grand Master for the ensuing year, and regularly invested and installed on the 17th January, 1723, by the Duke of Montague, and congratulated by twenty-five Lodges which were present on that occasion. The Grand Master then appointed Brs. Desaguliers, Deputy Grand Master; Joshua Timson and James Anderson, A.M., Grand Wardens. Br. Andersen, G.W. produced the new Book of Constitutions in print, which was again approved, with the addition of the ancient manner of constituting a Lodge. The ability and diligence displayed by the Grand Master in the discharge of the duties of his office, established his reputation among the brethren, and under his government Masonry made considerable progress. The office of Grand Secretary was also first established, and Br. William Cowper appointed, who performed the duties for a number of years.

At a Grand Lodge opened in ample form, April 25th, 1723, at the White Lion, on Cornhill, composed of former Grand Officers, and those of thirty Lodges, the Grand Master proposed for his successor, the Earl of Dalkeith, afterwards Duke of Buccleugh, Master of a Lodge, who was unanimously approved and saluted as Grand Master elect.

At the assembly and feast, held June 24th, at Merchant Tailors' Hall, some brethren observing that Br. Dalkeith was in Scotland, proposed that another Grand Master be named; but on the declaration of his Grand Warden, that he would soon return, Br. Wharton, after the usual procession, proclaimed the noble Brother Francis Scott, Earl of Dalkeith, Grand Master of Masons. Br. Desaguliers, was appointed Deputy Grand Master, Br. Francis Sorrel and Br. John Senex, Grand Wardens.

At a Grand Lodge opened in ample form at the Crown, Threadneedle-street, April 28th, 1724, composed of former Grand Officers and those of thirty-one Lodges, the Grand Master proposed as his successor, the most noble Brother Charles Duke of Richmond, Lennox, and Aubigny, who was saluted as Grand Master elect, with every demonstration of satisfaction.

The assembly and feast held at Merchant Tailors' Hall, June 24th, the Grand Master duly installed Br. Richmond into the chair of King Solomon. He appointed Br. Martin Folkes, Deputy Grand Master; George Payne and Francis Sorrel, Grand Wardens; Br. William Cowper was re-appointed Grand Secretary. During the administration of this Grand Master the Committee of Charity was first instituted. The former Grand Master (afterwards Duke of Buccleugh) first proposed raising a general fund for decayed Freemasons. Lord Paisley, Dr. Desaguliers, Colonel Houghton, and a few brethren supported the Duke's proposition, and the Grand Lodge appointed a committee to take into consideration the best means of carrying out the scheme. The report of the committee was transmitted to the Lodges and afterwards to the Grand Lodge. The disposal of the charity was first vested in seven brethren; but this number being found too small, nine more were added. It was afterwards resolved that twelve Masters of contributing Lodges, in rotation, with the Grand Officers, should form the committee, and by another regulation since made, it was determined that all Past and Present Grand Officers, with the Masters of all regular Lodges, which shall have contributed within twelve months to the charity, should be members of the committee.

The committee met four times in the year (now on the last Tuesday in every month) by virtue of a summons from the Grand Master or his Deputy. The petitions of the brethren who applied for charity were considered at those meetings, and if the petitioner was found a deserving object, he was immediately relieved with five pounds; if the circumstances of his case were of a peculiar nature, his petition was referred to the next communication when he was relieved with any sum the committee specified, not exceeding twenty guineas at one time.

All complaints and informations were considered at the Committee of Charity; from which a report was made to the next Grand Lodge, which appears to have performed the duties of the Board of General Purposes. Lord Paisley, afterwards Earl of Abercorn, an active promoter of this establishment, was elected Grand Master and the Duke of Richmond installed as his proxy on St. John's Day, December 27th, 1725.

He appointed his desire, Br. Desaguliers Deputy Grand Master, Br. Colonel Daniel Houghton, and Sir Thomas Prendergast, Grand Wardens. The Grand Secretary, Br. Cowper, was re-appointed.

On the return of the Grand Master, the Earl of Inchiquin was proposed as his successor, and was elected February 28th, 1726, and installed at an assembly and feast held at Mercers' Hall, 27th February 1727, when he appointed Br. William Cowper, Deputy Grand Master, Brs. Alexander, Choke, and William Burden, Grand Wardens; Br. Edward Wilson was appointed Grand Secretary. Under the administration of this noble Brother the Society flourished exceedingly in town and country, and this is rendered remarkable by the brethren of Wales uniting under the banner of the Grand Lodge in London. In Wales are many venerable remains of ancient Masonry, many stately ruins of castles, executed in the Gothic style, which prove that in ancient times the Fraternity must have met with considerable encouragement in that part of the island. Soon after this union, the office of Provincial Grand Master was instituted, and the Earl of Inchiquin granted the first deputation to Br. Hugh Warburton, for North Wales, 10th May, 1727, and to Br. Sir Edward Mansel, Bart., for South Wales, on the 24th June, following. These Grand Officers were intended to represent the Grand Master in the province over which they were appointed to preside, and being each invested with the power and honour of a Deputy Grand Master in their district, could constitute Lodges with the consent of the Grand Lodge in London. The office of Provincial Grand Master was also conferred on several other distinguished brethren for different parts of England, and several places abroad. This Grand Master granted a warrant for holding a Lodge at Gibraltar.

Among the noble edifices completed during the presidency of this nobleman, was the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the foundation of which, it being a royal parish church, was laid in the King's name, on the 29th of March, 1721, by Br. Gibbs, the architect, in the presence of the Lord Almoner, the Surveyor General, and a large company of the brethren.

Thus Freemasonry, by the beautiful harmony of its constitution, which became evident to the outward world, greatly increased in numbers and reputation; many noblemen, gentlemen, clergymen, men of learning and others were induced to enter the Order as a retreat from the troubles and perplexities of the world, and to become members of an institution wherein their only care would be for the welfare of their brethren, and the peace, harmony, and unity of mankind in general.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

By Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(Continued from p. 484.)

CHAPTER VIII.—THE DIPLOMACY OF THE JOHNSONS—PHIL'S COURTSHIP—MISS JOHNSON DISCOVERS A RIVAL—A LOVE SCENE—A CONTRE-TEMPS.

PHIL vegetated into manhood, stout, stalworth, and well-featured, but without one beam of that intellectual light which gives grace, and character to beauty; his father grew every day more helpless, and his mother more feeble: while the politic fathers, and managing mothers of the neighbourhood, threw many an anxious glance at the *green* heir, and the green acres of Simpson Hall.

Deep and various were the plans, and speculations of the several manœuvring parents, who happened to have a sweet Mary, a gentle Jane, or a gifted Rosa to be disposed of, as to the best mode of winning the good opinion and confidence of the old people at the Hall, and securing its future proprietor for one of their rival beauties.

Amongst them was a hale old gentleman of polished manners, and imperturbable temperament (whom we shall call Mr. Johnson, though generally addressed as captain, but his most intimate acquaintance could never discover to which branch of her Majesty's service he belonged), who rented a handsome residence within a few miles of the Hall, and who contrived to keep up, at least, the outward appearance of wealth. He was a crack shot (and a *knowing* one as the sequel will prove, for he managed to *bag* Phil, hall, acres, and all), as well as a scientific fisherman, and having discovered Mr. Simpson's weakness for trout, and wild fowl, he allowed scarcely a day to elapse during the season that he did not send a welcome present of either, to his respected friend, Mr. Simpson, of Simpson Hall.

Mr. Johnson was blest with one fair daughter, now, according to the neighbouring gossips, in dangerous proximity to the dreadful epoch of old maidenhood; she was looked upon by the young (perhaps a little spice of envy adding somewhat of piquancy to their feelings) as a waning coquette who had flirted in vain, through each successive regiment of a garrisoned town, for nearly a dozen years, having previously jilted, or been jilted by, half the squires of the county.

The proprietor of Simpson Hall, having but a very fitting, and shadowy recollection of his grandfather's "local habitation, and name," was most anxious that Phil should form an aristocratic connection, and Mr. Johnson took care to put prominently forth his own claims to high pedigree, and continually boasted of his close relationship with several branches of extinct peerages; in fact, he exulted so much in the antiquity of his family, one became impressed with the notion, that he laboured under the delusion of being descended from Adam's eldest brother, and by

right of primogeniture, was entitled to look down with supercilious pride, upon all the younger branches of the family.

It will not surprize that Mr. Johnson and his accomplished daughter were frequent guests at the Hall, indeed an invitation was almost unnecessary, as they generally had some little matter of business to make a short call necessary, he, to enquire if the last dish of trout reached in time for yesterday's dinner, and she to exhibit to Mrs. Simpson the last "duck of a bonnet" sent to her direct from Paris, by her cousin, the Hon. Mrs. Outis. This identical bonnet had been manufactured by her own nimble fingers, in the peaceful shades of "Elysium," the classic name of her father's residence.

Mr. Johnson dwelt upon the rare and eminent virtues of Miss Johnson, and her affectionate tenderness for Mrs. Simpson, while Miss Johnson dilated upon the devoted friendship of her father, for the whole family of the Simpsons.

The independent and unsophisticated hosts of Simpson Hall, had but little chance with such able diplomatists as Mr. and Miss Johnson; indeed so much were they now in the ascendant, that Mr. and Mrs. Simpson were firmly impressed with the conviction, that Miss Lavinia Johnson was the only being in the world capable of making their Phil happy, while that young gentleman himself, never thought at all upon the matter.

It was now, however, considered time to urge him on the point, and impress him with the necessity of taking unto himself a wife. His father told him of his own increasing infirmities, and his mother's strong wishes to see her son settled in life, by the choice of an amiable partner, who should be unto her as a daughter, and who would relieve her from a portion of those domestic duties, which now pressed heavily on her in her advancing years; he pointed out Miss Lavinia Johnson, as the object of their choice, in whom was centred all the cardinal virtues; he ran over the names of all the honourables, and some right honourables, she had refused, and begged of Phil to look on her as his "ladye love," to be attentive to her, and to speak seriously to her on the first opportunity.

Phil promised to do as he was told, but added, that if it would not make so great a difference to his parents, and as he did not care about a wife, he should much prefer their allowing him to purchase an additional hunter, and he had seen a great beauty, if the price was not too high. Phil was a forward horseman and devoted to the chase, it was, in reality, the only thing he thought of, or cared about. The father promised if he managed matters satisfactorily with Miss Lavinia, he should have the hunter.

The young people were now left as much as possible together, Mr. Johnson having instructed his daughter in all the little delicate tactics calculated to draw Phil into a declaration. A few evenings after the paternal lectures, they happened to be seated in a lovely arbour, and unimpassioned must be that heart, which could not be stirred into feelings of tender emotion, by the surrounding scene: the music of flowing water, which always impresses us with sensations of sweet sadness, and sounds as if the gentle spirit of the stream poured forth in melancholy murmurs,

its sorrow at a separation from scenes so fair, and seems to mourn in low accents of rippling querulousness the harsh necessity which urges it on, from sunny hills, and green vallies, to the far off, and insatiable ocean; the sweet song of birds, the varied and ever beauteous flowers, the atmosphere loaded with perfume, the soft cadence of the distant waterfall, the bright blue sky above, all these sweet influences seemed to steal over Lavinia's heart, and pointing to an alcove, at the entrance of which stood two beautiful statuettes of Cupid and Psyche, she asked, with a look of the most bewitching languishment, "Phil, have you ever loved? Is it possible that as yet, you have found no object worthy of your affection?"

"Oh! dear, yes, said Phil, and if you knew how much I have set my heart upon her, I never ceased thinking of her since I first saw her, such an eye, such a head, such limbs, such symmetry, she is the most perfectly shaped creature in the world, and I shall never rest till she is mine."

Lavinia looked puzzled, and said to herself, can he mean me, though she thought to speak of a lady's limbs, and shapes, did not bespeak the highest respect for the object, nor much refinement in the lover, however, she in the most good natured manner possible, made due allowance for Phil's inexperience, and ventured, while blushing deeply, in expectation of the delicious *denouement*, to ask "the name of this most perfect creature."

"Oh! said Phil, her name is, *Madame Vestris*, but he added in excitement, "You should see her movements. If you were to see her bounding along, taking the ugliest *yawners* at a stride, with Captain Thompson of the 74th, on her back, you'd swear she had wings; I myself heard the Lord Lieutenant ask, Who is he that jockeys Vestris to-day? He handled her beautifully, never saw anything finer than the finish. How I envied Thompson at that instant."

Lavinia for the last few moments was moving as far from Phil as she could, believing that he had become dangerously demented. But when in his ecstasy he jumped up, like one possessed, and commenced roaring, and belabouring the skirts of his coat with his whip, she screamed in an agony of terror, and went off into strong hysterics.

Phil having seen cold water applied in such cases, took her by the arms, and carried her towards a well in the far end of the garden, in which he most certainly would have immersed her, if her father had not fortunately come to the rescue, having been attracted by her screams. Phil was asked for an explanation of the cause of her terror, but was unable to give any clue whatever.

Miss Lavinia, by the application of a gentle stimulant, and her father's tender care, was soon restored to consciousness, and self-possession, and entreated that she should not again be left alone with Phil, that all notion of the matrimonial alliance, upon which Mr. Johnson had set his heart, should be abandoned, that she thought her intended lover's general *gaucherie*, was merely the result of defective education, but that she was now convinced he was downright raving mad; that he told her he was in love with Madame Vestris, and saw her flying through the air, with a captain of dragoons spurred, and booted on her back, and several other

wild absurdities, till he worked himself into such a paroxysm of insanity, as completely frightened her senses, and very nearly her life away.

Mr. Johnson, though somewhat angry with his daughter, was unable to restrain his laughter at the *contre temps*, and said, "After all my instruction, I am really astonished at your stupidity, your vanity must have led you astray, my dear girl, *The Madame Vestris of Phil's adoration, is a celebrated steeple chase horse*, to which he has taken a fancy, and which he is anxious to purchase. Your rival is, therefore, not a very dangerous one, nor is your lover quite as mad as you suppose." "Lover, indeed, papa, how can you? The hideous muff," she muttered, in affected disgust, but still innately resolved not to give up the heir of Simpson Hall, without another vigorous effort.

There was still one little drawback to their sanguine hopes, they dreaded the opposition of the Colonel, who was a shrewd man of the world, and who, to their great consternation, was daily expected, and with whom of course there must be an *eclaircissement* on the important step contemplated for the happiness of his nephew. Mr. and Miss Johnson had a faint notion, that on the few occasions they had met him, they had not impressed him with the most favourable opinion, and feeling that it was a pretty matter as it stood, they feared, like Sir Lucius O' Trigger, that an explanation might spoil it.

Thus matters stood on the arrival of the old soldier, who, having been duly informed of the wishes and plans of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, pooh, poohed the whole scheme, and threw out such interjectional phrases of disapproval, as "broken down black leg, faded flirt, &c.," he, however, made up his mind to pay a visit to Elysium, a disagreeable ceremonial, which he went through in due time.

CHAPTER IX.—THE COLONEL'S VISIT—HIS RECEPTION—HIS DESCRIPTION OF ELYSIUM, &c.

THE usual tranquility of Elysium was considerably disturbed by the expectation of the Colonel's meditated visit. The furniture was furnished up, the pictures cleaned, the varied articles of *vertu* were unpacked, and set out for display,—Mr. Johnson had travelled a good deal, and affected somewhat of the *virtuoso*—there were stuffed birds of the most dazzling plumage, from the "gorgeous Indian land," preserved butterflies from Brazil, mottled skins of wild beasts from Africa, with which were associated many tales of wondrous adventure; and to astonish the natives, *a la Barnum*, there was a real mermaid from Japan, with a variety of other nondescript curiosities; but the great puzzle which brought into play the nicest diplomatic tact of Mr. Johnson was, how to evade any discussion on the main object of the visitor.

This gentleman's quick observation made him acquainted with the Colonel's horror of barking dogs, and particularly, if they manifested any disposition to go beyond the harmless exhibition of their teeth, and having in his *menage*, two of the most cross-grained little mongrels that

malignity itself could propagate, set to work to add as much acerbity as possible to their natural infirmity of temper, by encouraging and urging them to bark at all strangers, and at the slightest noise, so that when the Colonel arrived, they were in a state of perfect training for any contemplated purpose of wickedness.

The Colonel approached Elysium as he would a fortress in an enemy's country, looking out for ambuscades, and guarding against surprises.

On reaching his destination, the door was opened by an ill-visaged, and sinister-looking janitor, who answered the Colonel's enquiries by informing him that his master had just gone on a fishing excursion with Lord B——, who had unexpectedly arrived that morning, and that he thought it might be late before he returned, but if he would walk up to the drawing-room, he would announce his arrival to Miss Lavinia, who was in the music-room.

The invitation to the drawing-room was much more easily made than complied with; the Colonel, however, thinking it a good opportunity for a *tête-a-tête* with that young lady, most carefully, and adroitly managed to wind his cautious way through spreading evergreens, and plaister of Paris busts, his head now and again receiving a stronger hint than was pleasant, of the very close proximity of the huge antlers of a stag, or the long bill of a pelican, while the red glassy eyes of lions and tigers glared hideously upon him, from every nook and corner where one could possibly be placed or mis-placed. After some difficulty, he gained the grand entrance, the door of which was pompously thrown open by the nimble janitor, who found some more facile and speedy mode of approach than the grand staircase afforded the Colonel.

On looking in, he hesitated to enter the apartment, which seemed in the darkness, (produced by all the blinds being close drawn), to be fifty per cent. more crowded and complicated than the hall and staircase he had just laboured through. He remained for some time viewing and reviewing, in the "dim obscure," the strange and motley objects around, as they slowly broke upon his perplexed vision; the sombre stillness of the scene, being only broken by the rancous sounds of the crazy piano, which Miss Lavinia was excruciating with such torture in a contiguous apartment as to draw forth tones of agony so natural, that one might, without any great stretch of fancy, believe it imbued with animal sensibility, and, calculated as the Colonel said, to produce responsive sensations of pain in any doomed listener, as it did in him.

He attempted to steer his body through, in the hope of finding some corner of refuge, but after a few efforts, and displacing, if not damaging, several of the curiosities, he gave up the task in despair, and espying a chair, he drew it forth, determined to await the appearance of Miss Johnson, who might, he hoped, extricate him from the disagreeable fix in which he found himself involved.

Weary and vexed, he allowed himself to drop rather heavily upon the chair, but in his descent, his head diverged a little too much from the centre of gravity, and he merely came in contact with the front of it,

which sent it like a shot, against a small table of curious marquetry just behind, upon which was placed an antique vase, which fell to the ground with a fearful crash, while his own person came tilt upon some hard, smooth, substance, by no means conducive to his comfort.

The noise brought to the scene the two before-mentioned yelping curs, in full cry, who attacked him, front and rear, with the utmost fury and ferocity, he standing, or rather sitting, on the defensive with his cane. In the midst of the fray, he found, to his intense horror, the hard, smooth substance he had fallen upon, in motion, and himself involuntarily moved along, he rolled away from it in an agony of fear and frenzy, shouting fire, murder, robbery, anything that came into his head, leaving a large land tortoise free to crawl along, after its own lazy fashion. In his excited fancy, he believed himself in the den of a sorcerer, and shouted loudly for help, but no help came, while the curs continued their attack without intermission, biting any part, they saw for a moment, unguarded.

The Colonel was one of the heroes of Waterloo, but the roar of the enemy's cannon upon that gory and well-fought field, had less effect upon his nervous system, than these two curs, and the harmless tortoise. In the recklessness of rage and despair, he made a rush for the door, and down the grand staircase, cutting right and left, as if at the head of a troop of cavalry in full charge, demolishing all impediments, and in his sacrilegious onslaught, leaving the battle field bespread with the mutilated remains of a whole regiment of gods and goddesses.

Miss Lavinia now made her appearance with a face of well feigned alarm, though a close observer could see under her affected amazement, an expression of malicious archness. Approaching the Colonel, she poured forth a thousand apologies, and chastised with her parasol her precious pets—Sappho and Tasso. The Colonel on his part paid little attention to her apologies, but was pouring forth all sorts of execrations on her infernal curs, and regretting the want of his pistols, most unceremoniously entered the carriage, and ordered the coachman to drive home as rapidly as he could.

No sooner had the sound of the wheels died away in the distance, than the household of the amiable Mr. Johnson was convulsed with laughter, and no laugh rang louder than that of the gentleman himself, who of course had never left the house. Lavinia was afraid things had gone too far, but her father assured her it was managed to a nicety; that the rage of the Colonel, would he had no doubt, bring on a fit of the gout, which would banish him at once from Simpson Hall, and it would go hard if, before his recovery, Phil and his fair daughter were not bound in the rosy bonds of Hymen. He had, he said, a little plan in his head, which, he was sure would more quickly win her lover's affections than all her shining attractions, and which he should put into operation that day, so he requested she should have ready some of her choicest pastry and best wine, as he intended to bring Phil home to luncheon.

The Colonel after having his wounds examined and attended to, reached the Hall with his rage still unabated, rushed into his brother's room in a state

of high excitement, and when asked by that gentleman "if he had been at *Elysium*? shouted No, sir, I've been at *pandemonium*, and have been suffering the tortures of the ———."

Mr. Simpson said he had heard a great deal about all the fine things which ornamented Mr. Johnson's chief rooms.

"I tell you what, sir," said the Colonel, "the whole house is the most outrageous heterogeneous jumble I ever saw in my life—a small museum in a state of insurrection, nothing in its right place, here you try to steer between and Indian Pagoda and a Chinese Mandarin, and stumble over something like an Egyptian mummy, knocking over the model of a three decker in glass, fully rigged, or getting all at once immersed in the depths of Entomology, by tumbling into a case of preserved spiders, or some other abomination of the sort, lucky if you escape with a few flesh wounds, I'm sure the fellow is an infernal conjuror or wizard of some kind, for the whole carpet seemed crawling with what seemed to me, in the comparative darkness, to be young crocodiles. Fancy two malignant curs all the time I was there kept piercing my ears with the most sharp and discordant yells, and my body with their teeth wherever they could reach it. Altogether, the place looked for all the world like what you might fancy to be a sort of hospital for sick and wounded upholstery.

The sofa looked in a state of *Anascurca*, portions of its tumid figure peeping out here and there through a sort of white reticulated covering, the easy chairs looked like obese nurses, holding within their arms two fat babies in a state of repose, covered over with the same eternal white veil, the piano (not the screamer) had its legs bandaged up like a broken kneed hunter, the pier and chimney glasses seemed all afflicted with the jaundice, closely enveloped in a vile gauze covering of gaudy yellow, stirring up unpleasant memories of bile, and burning suns.

"I feel so ill, and such strong symptoms of an attack of gout, that I must leave this evening, I shall return as soon as possible, and, somewhat better prepared, pay another visit to your friends, when I hope to save gentle Sappho the trouble of ending her days in a 'lover's leap,' unless my hand shake more than usual."

(To be continued.)

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONS OF THE FRENCH MASONS.

THE relation between England and France at the present moment are such as should foster sentiments of the sincerest fraternity between us. The two countries are linked together by every tie which can unite nations to each other; they have common dangers, common difficulties, common losses, and common aspirations in the present; and, we do trust, that a common triumph and a common glory awaits them in a not far distant future. There is happily, however, not the slightest need for such ad-

ventitious aids to promote fraternity and good feeling which now exists between the Craft in England, and their brethren in France. Masonry is far above, and vastly beyond the necessity of such a stimulus to duty; and we shall endeavour to extend and strengthen that fraternal feeling, in the existence of which we rejoice, by publishing, as often as circumstances permit, any intelligence which may come to hand affecting the welfare of the Lodges holding under the Grand Orient of France. If in most cases, it is the demand which creates the supply; we trust that in this instance the supply will increase the demand; and that from month to month the interest felt by our readers, in the progress made by the brethren in France, will gradually deepen and extend.

A convention, or species of constituent assembly was held in Paris a short time since, which revised the constitutions, investigated the finances of the Order, and discussed various propositions affecting the welfare of the Craft. This convention has changed materially in some points the aspect of French Masonry, altering the constitutions regulating the administrations of Lodge funds, assessment of the Lodges, and the placing the general government of the Order, including the high grades, under the Grand Master, a council of 21, and a Legislative Assembly of delegates from the Lodges, meeting yearly to form the States General of the Order in France.

Knowing the interest taken by the brethren in every thing affecting the good of the Order we make no apology for translating the official version of the Revised Constitutions agreed to by the convention, and sanctioned and signed by the M.W. Prince Lucien Murat, the G.M. Although it occupies considerable space, its intrinsic excellencies and importance are such that it amply deserves the space devoted to it. The following is a translation of that document:—

OF MASONRY AND MASONS.

The Order of Freemasons has for its object benevolence, the study of universal morality, and the practice of every virtue. It has for its basis: the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the love of the human family. It is composed of free men, who, submissive to the laws, unite with each other in a Society regulated by statutes, general and particular. Freemasonry does not occupy itself either with the diversity of religions which are scattered throughout the world, or with the various constitutions of the States. It nevertheless respects the religious creed of the political sympathies of each of its members. Moreover, in its *réunions*, all discussion on these subjects is expressly interdicted. Masonry ever conserves its ancient motto, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity; but it reminds its members, working as they do with moral, and not with material implements, that one of their primary duties, as Masons and as citizens, is to respect and observe the laws of the countries which they inhabit. Masonry considers the obligation to labour as one of the most imperious laws of humanity; it imposes duties on each of its members, and consequently proscribes voluntary inaction. The number of Masons is illimitable; they congregate in assemblies which are designated by the generic term *Ateliers*. The number of *Ateliers* is proportioned to the population of the localities in which they are established. The Masonic Lodge of France, and of the French possessions, are united to each other by a central authority, the composition and prerogatives of which are defined in the present constitution. No one can be admitted to participate in the labours of Masonry, who cannot justify his claims to be a Mason conformably to the regulations hereinafter stated. Masonic Lodges and assemblies shall be held in accordance with those ancient mysteries, and emblematical forms, the description and meaning of

which can only be imparted through the medium of initiation. Initiation has several degrees, and no one shall pass through those several degrees without the graduated tests prescribed by the ritual of Masonry. No man can be admitted to the rights and privileges of Masonry if (1) he is not of the full age of 21 years; (2) if his reputation and manners are not irreproachable; (3) if he has not a free and honourable profession or occupation, or some visible and honest source of sufficient means of support; (4) if he has not resided a year in the department in which the Lodge is situated, or within a circle of 20 kilometres therefrom, (exceptions may be made where he inhabits a department which has not a Lodge); and (5) if he do not possess a sufficient amount of intelligence to comprehend and to appreciate the Masonic virtues. The rule with respect to the age of a candidate is relaxed in the case of a Mason's son, who may be initiated at 18, with the consent of his father and tutor. The conditions of domicile are dispensed with in the case of soldiers and sailors, provided they prove six months' service. In the bosom of the Lodge, every man is placed on a level of perfect equality; there exist no distinctions save those of virtue, and of official position. All offices are elective and temporary: the election takes place at certain fixed periodical intervals. A Mason is expected at all times to aid, protect, and save a brother. Every Mason has the right to publish his opinions on Masonry, subject to the general statutes. A man may forfeit his rights and privileges as Mason: (1) by an action of a dishonourable nature, proved Masonically or before a civil tribunal; (2) by the exercise of a disreputable calling; (3) by the violation of the Oath of Fidelity to the engagements contracted at his initiation; (4) and in certain other cases as may be determined. Ordinary honesty is not sufficient to entitle a man to be made a Mason. It is particularly requested of the Venerable [*i. e.* the W.M.], that he will exercise the greatest care and strictness relative to the morality of candidates who aspire to the honor of being initiated into Masonry, and enquire narrowly whether the parties so offering themselves have ever been refused by any other Lodge, for the Masonic Order cannot extend its beneficent influence upon society except by the respect and consideration attached to its individual members.

ON MASONIC SOCIETIES.

The aim of Masonic labours is the same, however different may be the ceremonies of the respective *Ateliers*. Masonry comprises *Ateliers* of different degrees sufficiently distinguished from one another, under the denomination of Lodges, Chapters, Councils, Tribunals, and Consistories. There exists, moreover, at the central seat of power, a higher *Atelier*, under the name of "*The Grand College of Rites, Supreme Council for France and French Possessions*," who possesses the exclusive right of initiating into the higher degrees of Freemasonry. The constitution and prerogatives of this *Atelier* are determined by ten General Statutes. Any rite, whatever may be the number of its degrees, cannot be considered as *superior* to any other rite. Any *Atelier*, whatever the number or elevation of the degrees which it confers, can exercise no supremacy over any other *Atelier*. The *Lodge* is the fundamental *Atelier*; it is the *Lodge* which initiates the Mason into his new life; on the *Lodge* all other *Ateliers* are founded. A *Chapter* cannot exist without the consent of a *Lodge*, which serves as its basis, and even an *Atelier* of Perfection cannot exist except by supporting itself upon those which precede it. These *Ateliers* cannot bear any other title than that of the *Lodge* on which they are founded. The organization, the rights, and the duties of each *Lodge*; and the conditions of admission to the superior degrees, are determined by the Statutes General. If a *Lodge* ceases to labour, it may be suppressed, and with it all the *Ateliers* of which it is the basis; but the high grades may, if applying within a certain period, be permitted to select another *Lodge* as their basis, if they gain its sanction; they must at once take the name of the *Lodge* to which they thus unite themselves. The high grades shall not be conferred except upon Masons who have made themselves conspicuous by their zeal and ability, or who have rendered services to the Order, so that these grades may be henceforth regarded as a reward of merit. To preserve intact Masonic uniformity in operation, the *Ateliers* cannot deliberate collectively, nor in a delegated assembly. Nevertheless,

the central power may authorize these re-unions under the name of *Congrès* or *Convent Maçonnique*. The *Ateliers* are to indulge in no correspondence which is not of a fraternal character.

MASONIC ORGANIZATION.

The central Masonic authority is the *Grand Orient de France*, Supreme Council for France and the possessions of France, under the direction of the G.M. The seat of power is at Paris. The expenses of the Administration of the Order are supported by the *Ateliers* under the jurisdiction of the G.O., by means of subscriptions, and stated fees, fixed by the Statutes General, or by the special decisions of the G.O. The G.O. is composed of the G.M.; the G.M.'s Council of 21; and all the President's of the *Ateliers* under the jurisdiction of the G.O. Upon entering office, the G.M. and the members of the G.O. take the following oath:—

“I swear to obey the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations of the Order—to remain inviolably attached to the G.O., the Supreme Council for France and dependencies, sole legislator and regulator of the Masonic Order in France.”

The G.M. is elected for seven years, and is always re-eligible. He is nominated at first by the *Convent Maçonnique*, and subsequently by the General Assembly of the G.O. convoked for that purpose. The G.M. is the Chief Superintendent of the Order, and its representative with foreign Masonic bodies, and its official organ with the Government; he is the executive, administrative, and directing power. He presides at all Masonic re-unions, whatever they may be; he promulgates the decrees and decisions of the G.O., and convokes its assemblies ordinary and extraordinary. The G.M. has a right to suspend, provisionally, any *Atelier* or Mason, who breaks the laws of the country, or disregards the principles and statutes of the Order. He has the power to remit all penalties incurred by Masons, or by *Ateliers*. He may delegate his powers to a member of his Council, or to any member of the G.O., for special occasions. He nominates during his pleasure two Deputy Grand Masters, who take his place when necessary, in the Council. He has also the right of creating three Grand Dignitaries of the Order, and of naming seven Grand Officers of Honor. The three Grand Dignitaries may take part in the Council with the *voix deliberative*; but the seven Officers of Honor will only have the *voix consultative*.

THE GRAND MASTERS' COUNCIL.

The C. of the G.M. is confined to the two Deputy G.M.'s and twenty-one members, elected by the *Convention*. They are elected for three years, by a majority of the suffrages, removable yearly in rotation, but are eligible for re-election. The G.M. and Council nominate the *steps of the G.O.* with foreign Masonic bodies. The G.M. and Council do not constitute Lodges in foreign countries, where a supreme Masonic Body has already jurisdiction; nor do they recognize Lodges in France or French possessions, holding under a foreign G.L., except such as were so recognized previous to the promulgation of this Constitution. The G.M. and Council have the right to create new Lodges in any degree. The G.M. and Council have the custody of the properties moveable and immovable of the Order, and power to name Inspectors to visit the Lodges under the jurisdiction of the G.O. every two or three years. An account of the annual proceedings of the G.O. is sent to every Lodge. The Council cannot act without its proceedings and decisions being confirmed by the G.M.

THE G.O. AND GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

The Masonic legislative assembly is the G.O., composed of all W.M.'s (or delegates in their behalf), to be chosen from amongst the active members of the Lodges, possessing the highest degree it is in the power of his Lodge to confer, and having their expenses paid by the Lodge. The G.O. assembles annually but may be convoked in case of emergency by the G.M. Its duty is to receive the report of the G.M. and his Council, and the financial statement; as well as to take cognizance of all that affects the welfare of the Craft generally.

LODGES AND THEIR DISCIPLINE.

Lodges, at stated periods, determined by the Statutes General, proceed to elect their officers by ballot, to be decided by the majority of actual voters. The S.G. also fixes the number of officers, their functions, and prerogatives. Officers are always re-eligible. No members whose subscriptions are in arrear can take part in elections. Candidates for the Chair should be active, as well as subscribing members, in possession, for at least a year, of the highest degree the Lodge confers. The W.M. should always be selected from amongst the most capable and the most worthy. He ought to possess the following qualifications:—He should be a born or naturalized Frenchman—actually or civilly domiciled within a circle of twenty kilom. of the Lodge—and should have belonged to the Lodge for at least a year. One man cannot hold two offices in the same Lodge, nor can he be President of more than one Lodge in the same degree at the same time. The Lodges have re-unions, the duties of which are fixed by the Council. They may call Lodges of Emergency in certain contingencies specified in the Statutes General. In populous centres of Masonry, the Lodges should, where possible, be held in the same place to save expense, and to bring the brethren together so that they may learn to know and love each other. No bye-law is valid without the sanction of the G.M. and Council. Each Lodge has an absolute right of discipline over all its members, and over all Masons who participate in its proceedings. *In case of balloting for initiation, all regular Masons present may vote.*

FEES GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Fees for initiations and collations to divers grades are abolished, but they are still required for charters of constitution and certificates of membership. Henceforth the Lodges will make to the G.O. two annual payments, the one permanent and the other temporary. The permanent contribution will be the same for all the Lodges; but the temporary contribution will be proportioned to the number of members in each Lodge. The permanent annual fee to the G.O. is fixed at 100 francs (4l. 3s. 4d.), for each Lodge, whatever the degree may be. The temporary fee to which the Lodges are subject is thus regulated:—under 40 members 75 francs, under 70 members 120 francs, under 100 members 150 francs, and above 100 members 200 francs per ann. These fees are called temporary, because they will cease to be enforced when the debts of the G.O. are paid. When this is done, the entire buildings and other property of the G.O. will be vested in the Lodges, under its jurisdiction. These transitory fees came into operation March 1, 1855, and all Lodges not complying with the regulations will be suspended. All previous constitutions, so far as they are not in harmony with the above, are hereby abrogated. Copies of this document have been sent to the Lodges. It was considered, approved, and unanimously adopted in the general assembly of the *Convent Constituent*, Oct 28, 1854, and is signed by the "President of Constitution Commission," G. E. Gout des Martres, Rapporteur; and it was declared in force by Prince Lucien Murat, the G.M., stamped and registered by the Chief Secretary, P. Claude.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

THE regular quarterly communication was held in Freemasons' Hall, on the 5th of September, there being an unusually small attendance of G. Officers. Amongst those present, we noticed Br. John Fawcett, P.G.M. for Durham, who officiated as G.M.; Br. H. R. Willett, P.G.M. for Dorsetshire, as D.G.M.; Chev. Heber, as S.W.; Br. H. Lloyd, as J.W.; Br. Tomkins, S.G.D.; Br. J. B. King, as J.G.D.; Brs. J. E. Cox, and Ed. Moore, G. Chaplains; Br. G. Elkington, G.P.; Br. Rawson, P.I.G.M. for China; Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.W.; Br. John Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. Potter, P.G.D.;

Br. Parkinson, P.G.D.; Br. Goldsworthy, P.G.D.; Br. Norris, P.G.D.; Br. T. R. White, P.G.D.; Br. Patten, P.G.S.B.; Br. Biggs, P.G.S.B., &c., &c.

The minutes of the last Lodge having been confirmed, Br. White, the G.S. read an account of the sums disbursed by the Board of Benevolence during the past three months, viz., in June, 60*l.* to four recipients, July, 48*l.* to five recipients, August, 75*l.* to six recipients.

The report of the Board of General Purposes, to whom it had been remitted to inquire into the causes of the failure of the late tenants for the Freemasons' Tavern was brought up. The Board attributed the event, principally to the want of capital, and the rent being too high. The lease had been assigned to most respectable tenants, Messrs. Shrewsbury & Co., who were desirous of holding the Tavern. The surveyor had reported, that the Tavern required about £760 being laid out upon it, to put it in repair—some portion of which ought to be defrayed by Grand Lodge, and the rest by tenants. Inquiry had been made relative to the means and character of the new tenants, which was in every way satisfactory. They therefore recommended, that the Tavern should be let to Messrs. Shrewsbury & Co., at £800 per annum, and £1 *ls.* per night for the Hall, when used—and that £600 be allowed them out of the first year's rent, for the repair and decoration of the Tavern.

The balance sheet showed the balance in favour of the Fund of Benevolence, to be £1222 13*s.*, and of the Fund for General Purposes, after deducting £1000 paid to the Patriotic Fund, £1942 *Ss.*, out of which, £500 had been invested in the funds, making the investments £7500.

Br. John Hervey, P.G.D. moved the adoption of the report of the Board of General Purposes. They had given the subject remitted to them by Grand Lodge, relative to the rent of the Tavern, the utmost consideration—and looking at the fact, that the Tavern business of London had of late years been much depreciated by the establishment of clubs, and comparing the rent of the Freemasons, with that of other first rate taverns, so far as the information could be obtained, they had come to the conclusion, that the rent of £1100 a year was too high, and that it ought to be reduced to £800. It was not now necessary to go into bye-gones, but he was happy to state, that from the strictest inquiry, the Board were satisfied that they had secured respectable and responsible tenants, and he should therefore move that the report be adopted; Messrs. Shrewsbury & Co. accepted as tenants, and the trustees be instructed to grant the necessary lease.

Br. Tomkins, G.D. seconded the motion.

Br. Dr. Rowe, did not wish in any way to oppose the resolution, but he hoped he might be allowed to express his regret that success had not attended the efforts of the worthy brothers who lately held the tavern. Seeing that, according to the report of the Board of General Purposes, they had paid £300 a year too much for the Tavern during the three years they had held it, and £480 for repairs, he did trust that at some future time, a brother might be found to move that £500 or £600 be returned to them, to assist them in their future career in life. (Hear, hear).

After some conversation, the resolution was adopted—the subject broached by Br. Dr. Rowe being left in abeyance for a future meeting.

Br. John Savage rose to bring forward a resolution, of which he had given notice at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, to the effect, that it was the opinion of Grand Lodge, that the present mode of electing members of the Board of Benevolence, and Board of General Purposes, had been found to be objectionable, and that therefore, in future, such elections should take place by show of hands. He did not think it was necessary to detain them at any length, because it was he believed admitted by a large portion, if not the whole of the members of Grand Lodge, that it was desirable to make some alteration in the mode of election, so as to prevent one or two brothers marking the lists of a large number of the brethren, and thereby virtually putting the election into their hands. He remembered, that when he originally became a member of Grand Lodge, the election used to take place by show of hands, and he could not now recollect what was the reason for altering it. The ballot, though no doubt in many respects the best mode of election, had given rise to the preparation of lists of candidates. He did not condemn that, but he did condemn the practice of one or two of the brethren marking lists and

putting them into the hands of the brothers as they entered the room, thereby preventing their exercising a free choice in the election. He considered that a great evil, and he did not see how they were to get rid of it, except by adopting his resolution, and taking the votes in future by show of hands.

Br. the Rev. Dr. Carver seconded the motion, considering that the list system ought to be put an end to.

Br. John Hervey agreed with the previous speakers, that it was quite time some better mode of election of the two boards was devised—but he did not consider that the proposal of taking the election by a show of hands would effect the object they had in view. The number of candidates put in nomination for the Board of General Purposes each election, on an average of 8 years, had been 27, and the number had on one occasion, reached as high as 32. Now he would put it to the meeting, whether they could take thirty-two divisions in one night, and at the same time transact their other business. He thought not—and therefore he must vote against the resolution. It appeared to be thought by some persons, that a benefit was to be obtained by sitting at the Boards (Cries of No, no). He had been a member for 8 years, and with the exception of a great deal of labour, he had never received from his connection with them, more than a glass of water. As he had said, if any better scheme than that now in existence for conducting the elections could be devised, he should be happy to support it—but he could not support a change which he did not think would effect an improvement. (Hear, hear).

Br. Joseph Smith said it appeared to be the opinion of all, that some change should take place, and the only difficulty was how to make it. He held that it was not fair that half the brethren should be placed in the position of receiving lists already marked, and being called upon to vote in accordance with the views of one or two brothers, without knowing why or wherefore. He complained of Grand Officers interfering with the elections as he had seen done, and he should therefore support the motion of Br. Savage.

Br. Tomkins saw the evils attending the list system, and called on Grand Lodge not to throw out the proposition now before them.

Br. Geo. Barrett trusted Grand Lodge would not carry the motion. He admitted that it would be better if they could do without the lists—but some men traded in Masonry—and canvassed for votes because they had assisted others to get a warrant for a Chapter, or some thing of that sort. Open voting would give those brothers an undue power over others, and he must therefore oppose the motion.

Br. Herbert Lloyd thought, that if a system was a corrupt one, they ought to endeavour to amend it—but he could not well support the proposition then before them, feeling that it would take up the whole time of Grand Lodge in elections, and prevent their proceeding with other business.

Br. Henry George Warren rose to propose an amendment upon the motion of Br. Savage. He admitted that the present mode of election was not what it ought to be—but at the same time he felt they could not prevent the brethren preparing lists of candidates for election to the boards, nor did he wish to do so. He thought that they ought, if they saw fit, be allowed to prepare such lists—but what he complained of was, the system of one brother standing at the door, intercepting the entrance of the brethren, and putting prepared balloting papers into their hands, and calling upon them to support the list, the whole list, and nothing but the list. By this practice, brethren frequently never saw who were candidates until they entered Lodge, and then they found the name of one or more of their friends scratched out, and as a second balloting paper was never issued, they were constrained either to vote in opposition to their friends, or not to vote at all. (Hear, hear). His plan he thought both simple and fair. It would be, to prevent the marking of lists as at present in practice, and this he felt could be easily effected. He proposed to take the first part of Br. Savage's resolution, denouncing the present practice—and in lieu of those words, providing for taking the election by show of hands, to substitute, "it is therefore resolved, that in future no balloting papers shall be issued until after the opening of Grand Lodge—and that during

the time of election, no brother be allowed to quit his place." This would put an end to the evil of which all complained. Each brother would have to mark his own balloting paper. If in doing so, he chose to adopt any particular list, he would do it of his own free will, and no brother could then feel, as he now often did, that he lost his election unfairly, and because he was not a thick and thin supporter of the views of one particular brother.

Br. Rawson, Pl. G.M. for China, thought the proposition of the last speaker both fair and reasonable, and he had therefore great pleasure in seconding it.

Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox, had risen with the same view. He felt that the system complained of, and with justice too, was a great evil, and believing that the resolution of Br. Warren would have the effect of checking it, he should support it, and he trusted it would be unanimously adopted.

Br. Savage candidly admitted that the amendment of Br. Warren was an improvement on the present system, and would to some extent meet the evil, still, however, feeling his own resolution to be the best, he must adhere to it.

The M.W.G.M. in putting the question, explained that the brethren had not only a choice between the resolution and the amendment, but they might negative both if they thought fit.

The amendment was then put and carried with three dissentients. Upon being put a second time as an original motion, it was carried with one dissentient.

Grand Lodge then separated.

LONDON LODGES.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 38).—An emergency meeting of the brethren of this Lodge was held on the evening of Wednesday, the 12th ult., at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James' Street, when the W.M., Br. Gooch, with his usual ability, raised Brs. Mc Connell and Watkin to the sublime degree of Master Masons, and conferred the fellow craft upon Brs. Underwood, Foster, and Massie.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—On the evening of the 3rd of August, the brethren of this Lodge met at the Bridge House Hotel, on an emergency summons, when Br. Varden, acting for the Worshipful Master, ably passed Brs. Leman and Simms, and initiated M. A. Huffell.

St. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, August 17. The W.M., Br. George Kelly presided, and most ably initiated Lieut. John Archibald Cumming, of the 1st Royals, in the ancient Order of Freemasons. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. passed Br. H. F. Emly to the second degree. In consequence of Br. Lieut. Cumming being under Orders to proceed abroad in discharge of his military duties, he was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Lodge.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—The first meeting of this Lodge, for the present season, was held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the evening of Tuesday last. The business consisted of the passing of a brother to the fellow craft degree, and the election of the Worshipful Master, which fell unanimously upon Br. Mc Manus. The brethren afterwards partook of an elegant and sumptuous banquet, provided for them by the worthy host, Br. Rackstraw.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 805).—On the evening of the 11th ult., an emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at its usual place of rendezvous, Lewisham, when the W.M., Br. Charles Ireland, with his usual ability, conferred the sublime degree of a Master Mason upon Brs. Gooch, Moore, and Flight; passed Br. Welsford to the degree of a fellow craft, and initiated Mr. Dudlam, into the mysteries of the Order.

BEADON LODGE (No. 902).—The brethren of this Lodge held their last meeting for the season, on the evening of Wednesday, the 19th ult., at the Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, when the newly installed Master, Br. Tiley, by his able conduct in the chair, fully justified the choice of the brethren in his election to that high office. All Masonic business being ended, the brethren partook of a banquet, liberally supplied by Br. Adams.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

CORNWALL.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the brethren of the Province of Cornwall, was held at St. Austell, on Tuesday, the 28th of August. The weather was delightful, and a large concourse of people early assembled in the town to witness the procession; so many thousands have not been congregated in St. Austell on any public occasion for a long period. Soon after ten o'clock the brethren assembled in the lodge room of the "Peace and Harmony" Lodge, and at about half-past ten the Lodge was "close tyled," the D.P.G.M. Brother Ellis occupying the chair, who worked the Lodge in the usual manner, to relieve Sir Charles Lemon, the Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall, of some of the duties. Every Lodge in the county was represented, except the Lodge at Helston. Soon afterwards, the P.G. Director of Ceremonies marshalled the procession, which, accompanied by two bands, marched to Charlestown district church, the use of which was promptly granted by the Incumbent, the Rev. C. S. Woolcock, the Vicar of St. Austell having refused the use of the parish church. The line of procession, on the road from St. Austell to Charlestown, was crowded with dense masses of people. The number of brethren in the procession was about eighty; they appeared in full Masonic costume, wearing white gloves; and the P.G. officers, past and present, wore the full dress, insignia, and clothing appertaining to their degrees and respective offices. The following was the order of the procession,

Two Tylers with drawn swords.

Banner.

Band.

P.G. Stewards with wands.

Visiting Brethren.

Rough Ashlar borne by an E.A.

Tyler with drawn sword.

Tracing Board of Deg. 1 borne by two E.A.'s.

Working Tools of Deg. 1 borne by an E.A.

Brethren of Lodges in the Province in the following order,

junior Brethren first:

Druids, Love and Liberality, Redruth, No. 859.

Loyal Victoria, Callington, No. 815.

St. Martin's, Liskeard, No. 750.

Peace and Harmony, St. Austell, No. 728.

Cornubian, Hayle, No. 659.

Phoenix, Honour and Prudence, Truro, No. 415.

One and All, Bodmin, No. 413.

Fortitude, Truro, No. 153.

Mount Sinai, Penzance, No. 142.

Love and Honor, Falmouth, No. 89.

Tracing Board of Deg. 2 borne by two F.C.'s.

Perfect Ashlar borne by a M.M.

Tracing Board of Deg. 3 borne by two M.M.'s.

P.G. Inner Guard with drawn sword.

P. G. Deacons with the Warden's columns.

P.G. Pursuivant.

P.G. Organist.

P.G. Sup. of Works.

Book of Constitutions borne by a W.M.

P. G. Secretary.

P. G. Registrar.

P. G. Treasurer.

Bible, Square, and Compasses borne by a P.M.

P.G. Chaplain.

P. P. G. Officers.

The Corinthian Light,

The Doric Light, The Ionic Light,
borne by M. M's.

The Plumb Line borne by a M.M.

The P. G. Junior Warden with Gavel.

The Level borne by a M. M.

The P. G. Senior Warden with gavel.

The Banner of the P. D. P. G. M.

P. D. P. G. Master.

The Banner of the D. P. G. Master.

The Square borne by a P.M.

The V. W. D. P. G. Master.

P. G. Sword Bearer.

The R. W. P. G. M., Sir Charles Lemon.

P. P. G. Stewards.

P. G. Tyler.

At the church there was a numerous congregation, independently of the brethren. The prayers were read by the incumbent, Rev. C. S. Woolcock, and an able and appropriate sermon was preached by Brother the Rev. Cuthbert Edgcumbe Hosken, in the absence of the P.G. Chaplain, Brother the Rev. Henry Grylls, whose absence, to the regret of all the brethren, was occasioned by illness. After the service the brethren returned in the same order of procession as before. The Provincial Grand Lodge was then constituted, and the P. G. Officers for the ensuing year were installed, and invested with their respective jewels of office; and the annual ceremonies were performed according to ancient custom. The following are the Provincial Officers for the ensuing year:—

P. G. M., Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, M.P., &c., &c., of Carclew.

D. P. G. M. and Secretary, Br. John Ellis, of Falmouth.

P. D. P. G. M. and Treasurer, Br. Richard Pearce, of Penzance.

P. G. S. W., Br. Augustus Smith, of Tresco, Abbey, Scilly.

P. G. J. W., Br. Reginald Rogers, of Truro.

P. G. Chaplain, for Br. the Rev. H. Grylls, Br. the Rev. Cuthbert Edgcumbe Hosken, of Luxulyan.

P. G. Registrar, Br. Edmund Carlyon, of St. Austell.

P. G. Secretary, acting, Br. W. R. Ellis, of Falmouth.

P. G. Sup. of Works, Br. John Hodge, of St. Austell.

P. G. D. C. Br. John M'Farlane, Heard, of Truro.

P. G. S. D., Br. John Borlase, of Castle Horneck, Penzance, and the Royal Cornwall Rangers Militia.

P. G. J. D., Br. J. Mason, of Callington.

P. G. Sword Bearer, Br. Captain Peard, of the Royal Cornwall Rangers Militia, Bodmin.

P. G. Pursuivant, Br. Samuel Harvey, of Truro.

P. G. Stewards, Brs. J. M'Manas and W. Michell, of St. Austell.

P. P. G. Stewards, acting, Brs. Mills and Dabb, of Redruth.

P. G. Inner Guard, Br. Serjeant-Major Wing, of the Royal Cornwall and Devon Miners Artillery Militia.

After these investments and ceremonies, the V. W. D. B. G. M. Bro. Ellis read a report sent to the Grand Lodge, of his visits during the past year, and addressed the brethren on the state of the Lodges in the Province. He said—I have to congratulate the brethren upon the healthy state of the Craft in this Province, there being between two hundred and three hundred contributing members of Lodges and but one Lodge here unrepresented, but which is an old and formerly "True and Faithful" limb of the body. I have reason to hope that at our next meeting we shall not only have "No. 400," but probably a further addition to the registry of

the county. And, my brethren, if I can induce you to survey the ample pages of Masonic History, in all the depths of its mysterious emblems,—if I can kindle in your breasts that fervour and sincerity which animated the ancient Masons,—if I can do this, as a Mason, I shall not have to regret the lengthened period I have devoted to the Order; but in the sentiments, if not in the strict language, of an eloquent Brother, permit me to say, that like the sun when feebly yet gently declining, I hope to close my career in this respect in “Peace and Harmony,” the title of the Lodge of this place. And when around the banquet of brotherly love, some of you think of days long vanished, memory may treasure with all a brother’s rhapsody, the rich, the glowing, the elegant picture of a true Mason’s life.

The Lodge having been duly closed, the procession was re-formed in the same order as previously, and proceeded to the Town Hall, which was tastefully decorated with evergreens, &c., and the different emblems of Freemasonry, and the tracing boards, were exhibited in their respective situations. The banquet provided by Bro. Robert Dunn, of the White Hart Hotel, was a sumptuous repast, and the dessert and wines were truly excellent. The P. G. M. Sir Charles Lemon, had a fine buck killed for the occasion, and he also contributed largely to the dessert. Grace was said by the P. G. Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. Cuthbert Edgcumbe Hosken; and the P. G. M. Sir Charles Lemon occupying the chair, proposed after dinner, “The health of her Majesty the Queen,” “The Duke of Cornwall, Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family,” which toasts were drunk with due honours; as was also that of “The Earl of Zetland,” the Grand Master of the Freemasons of England; his deputy, “The Earl of Yarborough;” and “The health of the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, and the P. P. G. Officers.”

After this the P. G. Stewards introduced into the room a large number of ladies, who were admitted by tickets, and the brethren having given place to them at the table, they partook of the dessert. “The health of the Ladies” was then proposed by the P. G. M. Sir Charles Lemon, in the usual complimentary terms; and the toast, which was drunk with much enthusiasm, was acknowledged by Brother Borlase, Lieutenant of the Royal Cornwall Rangers.

Brother Augustus Smith then proposed “The health of Sir Charles Lemon,” and said, I feel all the difficulty of the task, the more so as I find I have not only to address myself to the wisdom of Solomon, but am called on to bespeak the admiration of the Queens of Sheba, by whose presence we are honoured. I feel the more embarrassed, lest I should not do justice to the individual whose health I have to propose, through not expressing myself in such terms as his merits so justly deserve; while on the other hand, I fear lest in expressing myself too warmly, as speaking in his presence, I should lay myself open to the charge of flattery. Whatever terms I may use, however, in reference to our Right Worshipful Grand Master, be assured they will be given with all the truth and sincerity of a genuine Mason. We, as Cornishmen and practical Masons, all know the merits of the granite of Penryn, which for all structures we prefer for its strength, the closeness of its grain, and its various other admirable qualities. But there is another kind of social granite also known to us as Speculative Masons, which crops out in that same vicinity, at a place called Carclew. This particular formation is greatly prized by us as Cornishmen; we admire it not less for its soundness and fine grain, than for the high polish it exhibits, and the facility with which it is worked and works. If in the Penryn granite its fine blue colour is a recommendation, in that found at Carclew we admire its beautiful Lemon tint. Now it is well known to us all that in our various social institutions in this part of the world, we always endeavour to obtain the free use of this material, whether it is as the foundation stone, or wherewith to adorn the facade of the superstructure. To us Freemasons it is still more a matter of pride and satisfaction that this material constitutes the keystone of the arch of the fraternity. We are much gratified by your presence here to-day, and I trust, Right Worshipful sir, you are none the worse for the fatigues of the day, and especially in having been *todded* off on so long a march this morning. How that came about I am quite at a loss to understand, but perhaps it was in compliment to your christian name, that the brethren were obliged to seek a church at Charlestown. That you may long continue the keystone of our arch and

main ornament of our Craft is, I am sure, the sincere prayer of every Mason in Cornwall, and we most heartily drink your very good health.

"The health of the Deputy P. G. M. Brother Ellis," and of the "P. D. P. G. M. and Treasurer, Brother Pearce," were also proposed and drunk, and suitably acknowledged.

The Ladies then retired, and the Lodge was close tyed, when the P. D. P. G. M. proposed, in highly eulogistic terms, "The health of the two Wardens, Brother Augustus Smith, of Scilly, and Brother Reginald Rogers, of Truro," and in doing so, he referred particularly to the great improvement which Brother Smith had effected in the Scilly Islands, converting the inhabitants from almost a state of pauperism, to the condition of an industrious and intelligent community. The P. G. Senior Warden, Brother Augustus Smith, returned thanks and said, whatever his measures had been at Scilly, the groundwork had been education, with a view to teaching others to assist themselves; that all his plans had been regulated by true Masonic principles, and results having now proved their soundness, and given confidence, had he to do the work over again he should in almost every particular, follow out the same course. The P. G. Junior Warden, Brother Reginald Rogers, also acknowledged the toast in suitable terms. "The health of the P. G. Chaplain" was next given, with thanks for the very excellent discourse he had that day delivered, conveying as it did many moral lessons, and inculcating to the brethren their duties as Christians as well as Masons. Brother the Rev. Cuthbert E. Hosken acknowledged the toast, and gave "The better health of Brother Grylls;" and the next proposed was, "The Masters of the different Lodges in the County," which was responded to by Brother Hogge, P. M., of the St. Austell Lodge. The D. P. G. M. next proposed "The health of Brother Heard, the P. G. Director of Ceremonies," and bore testimony to the efficient assistance he had rendered to the Craft, and the able manner in which he had fulfilled the onerous duties devolving upon him. Brother Heard responded, and said he should always be happy to perform the duties incumbent upon him, as a Mason. Several other Masonic toasts were then given, amongst them "The health of the host, Brother Dunn," with thanks to him for the elegant repast he had provided. The Brethren spent the remainder of the evening in "Peace and Harmony," and separated with every feeling of fraternal regard and esteem.

CHESTER.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

This Lodge held its annual meeting on the 26th ult, at Congleton. The full report of the proceedings, which reached us as we were going to press, and consequently too late for insertion in our present number, shall appear in our next. We may, however, state, that there was a procession of the brethren from the Lodge-room, at the Lion and Swan Inn, to St. Peter's church, where an appropriate sermon was preached, in aid of the Provincial Masonic Funds of Benevolence, by Rev. T. W. Newell Tanner, V. W. P. G. C.

DEVONSHIRE.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE (No. 122).—The members of this Lodge held one of emergency on the 18th of July, when Br. Phillips, the W. M., most ably initiated Dr. Andrews, Surgeon of H. M. S. Alarm, into the first degree of the science. Labour finished, refreshment, in shape of Br. Killingley's *recherché* supper followed, to which, we need scarcely say, prompt justice was done. The members of this Lodge having made arrangements for the annual trip up the beautiful river Tamar, on the 31st ult., all were anxious for weather suitable; but as the course of excursion and picnic parties is, as Shakespeare tells us, the course of love is, "Destined never to run smooth," so was the path of the brother who catered for the pleasure seekers beset with thorns of sundry kinds. First, the weather was anything but such as would have been chosen on the day previous—rain and mist, mist and rain, being the only variation—so that doubt and consternation overspread the countenances of those superintending the culinary department; indeed, we are not sure that a messenger was not despatched to the front to give notice of the first glimpse of sunshine, or even

blue sky, to enable them to decide whether it be a case of *heartburn* with the ducks and chickens or not. Secondly, it was discovered at the eleventh hour that the "Earl of Mount Edgecumbe," was with his family at their ancient seat of "Catebell." What was to be done? the noble Lord's steward had kindly given permission for the party to dine in the hall—(the great treat of the day)—but as his Lordship and family were there, an intrusion on their privacy was not to be thought of, without special permission from his Lordship himself. Brother P. M. Call immediately volunteered to wait on his Lordship, and present a memorial from the Lodge, praying that the same kindness might be accorded on this, as had been on previous years. We need not say, P. M. Call was received with all the kindness and urbanity which characterise his Lordship, and intercourse with his tenantry. His Lordship expressed in the most pleasing terms his happiness at being enabled to conduce to that of others. This trouble being over, there remained only the weather, but with *that* P. M. Call was powerless, and nothing could be done better than hope it would clear in time. The morning came, and with it clouds and rain, till eight o'clock, after which time it gradually lightened, and by the period appointed—"The sun always shines on Freemasonry"—old Sol burst forth, and gave prospect of a beautiful day. The party, a small one of about ninety, landed at "Catebell," where they did ample justice to Br. Killingley's good things. After the cloth was drawn, the W.M., Br. W. R. Phillips, gave the Queen and the Craft, which was responded to with the loyalty which marks the noble Order. The "Earl and Countess of Mount Edgecumbe," having been given, was received with loud cheers, and a speech was made expressive of the gratitude felt by the members of 122, and their friends, for the treat afforded by the noble lord and lady. The ladies were represented by that pink of politeness and ladies' man, the Senior Warden, who, in a speech of wit and humour, did ample justice to the fair ones who graced the hall with their presence; finally expressing a wish that at the next annual excursion he should only be called on to answer for *one* lady, and not "*The Ladies.*" The afternoon was spent in dancing. Tea was served about five o'clock, and at seven, the steamer started for the "Weir Head," returning to Mill Bay Pier about nine o'clock, after one of the most delightful days it has been our lot to enjoy.

On the 8th of August, the Lodge again met, and balloted for Br. Lieut. Edmund Joseph Squire, who was unanimously received with much pleasure by the brethren. An emergency meeting also took place on August 20, when Br. John Andrews, Surgeon of H.M.S. Alarm, was passed to the degree of a fellow craft, by the W. M., in a manner that should make many of our purple friends look to their laurels. Lodge closed in peace and harmony at 8.45, the brethren retiring to refreshment, thence to their homes at a seasonable hour.

LODGE HARMONY, PLYMOUTH (182).—This flourishing Lodge held its monthly meeting on the first Monday in September, when two brethren were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and two gentlemen initiated. The ceremonies were performed by the W. M., (Br. Earl) with good effect. Business over, the brethren adjourned to partake of an excellent supper, supplied by Br. Watts, (in his usual good style). A very pleasant evening was spent, and the brethren retired early.

DURHAM.

LODGE OF INDUSTRY, GATESHEAD (No. 56).—At a meeting of this Lodge, held on Monday, 27th of August, it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Br. E. D. Davis, P. M., seconded by Br. Octavius Bell, to make a further donation of £10 10s. to the Royal Freemasons' Charity for Female Children—this being the second donation from the Lodge to that institution.

LANCASHIRE.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKBURN (No. 336).—This Lodge held its regular Lodge-night, on Friday, the 31st of August, at the Angel Inn, King-street, the W. M., Br. W. Thwaites (West Bank) presiding, assisted by Brs. Whewell, S. W., and Yates, J. W. Several matters of business being transacted, the brethren present ably worked the first degree, and afterwards adjourned, and separated at an early hour, after passing a very pleasant evening.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEW MASONIC HALL.—Wednesday, August 29, was a gay and bustling day in Newport, the occasion being a grand ceremonial by the Freemasons of this town. Having taken steps to secure a handsome and commodious building in Dock-street, at the corner of Ruperra-street, they fixed upon that day for laying the foundation stone of their temple, and invited a large body of their brethren, from Bristol, Bath, Monmouth, and other places, headed by Col. Tynte, M.P., the P.G.M. of the province of Monmouthshire; and from the preparations which were made, it was quite evident that, weather permitting, an effective demonstration would be secured. Although recent weather was changeable, Wednesday, in that respect, was a “Queen’s day,” and everything else pertaining to an out-door show was as gratifying, we should think, as the Craft could desire.

As a brief description of the intended building may be acceptable, we appended the following:—

The style of the building is an adaptation of Italian, which is now universally admitted, by its general use throughout Europe, as that which is the best adapted for street architecture. In this case the architect has obtained, a grand and striking effect at comparatively little expense and without any sacrifice of interior accommodation. The angle formed at the junction of the streets is in this case very obtuse, and makes the plan more than ordinarily difficult to arrange; it is, therefore, rounded off and treated in a slightly different manner to the other fronts of the building, and forms a conspicuous feature in the elevation—very properly marking thereby the principal entrance to the Masonic Hall. This entrance is approached by four wide circular steps, and is flanked on either side by a column of the Ionic order and of peculiar and characteristic design. From the porch, a geometrical staircase, proposed to be formed of the beautiful Forest of Dean stone, and having a handsome iron balustrade, will lead to the Lodge Room, a beautiful room, 45 feet long by 24 feet wide, and 22 feet high, and enriched with noble cornices and plaster work. The other rooms appropriated to Masonic purposes will consist of an inner porch, a large committee-room, treasury, and Tyler’s-room, which seem very conveniently arranged. A balcony over the entrance-door is likewise approached from the landing of the staircase, and the large window is also flanked by columns, but which are in this case, of highly enriched design, and of the Corinthian order. The whole of the building is crowned by a boldly projecting cornice, over which is a parapet and ornamental balustrade, which we think will have a good effect in so commanding a situation. There are two other entrances to the building. These lead to seven sets of chambers, which are proposed to be let as offices for professional men, &c. The whole of the basement is arranged for warehousing purposes, and is approached by a gateway from Ruperra-street. The new Masonic Hall and Chambers are from the designs of Mr. R. G. Thomas, of this town, to whom Newport is certainly being indebted for several fine buildings of classic design; and the works are being proceeded with with all due despatch by Mr. Henry P. Bolt, the builder, and the masonry by Mr. Williams, of Park-place. The contract price is 1770*l.*, and another 100*l.* will probably be spent in decorations, before final completion.

Around the place where the stone was to be laid were placed five “pillars,” one of which was higher than the rest, and topped by a handsome crown, of large dimensions, formed of evergreens, flowers, and gilded bays. The pillar itself was also entwined with flowers. The banners of England, France, Turkey, and Sardinia were suspended from that pillar. The four less pretentious pillars were situated at the corners of the ground, and were similarly covered with evergreens, flowers, and banners. The triangle by which the stone was to be lowered into its destined place, was decorated with flowers, &c. This, however, was not the only spot where there were decorations, Dock-street, Commercial-street, and High-street, were literally covered with flags, most of which were upon cords stretched from one side to the other. Adjunctive to the decorations, we report that the bands of the North Devon Militia and the Royal Glamorgan Militia, occupied an important position during the day, their strains lending an indispensable attraction to the scene.

At an early hour the bustle of the day commenced, railways and steamers bringing large numbers of the brethren and their friends to enjoy the holiday. Not less than 400 brethren were in the procession, and represented the following Lodges:—Bristol: Clarence, Sussex, Beaufort, Moira, and Colson. Bath: Cumberland and Sussex, Monmouth: the Monmouthshire. Hereford: the Palladium. Ross: the Vetruvian, Cardiff: the Morgan. Newport: the Silurian.

The Town Council assembled in the Committee-room, preparatory to joining the procession, and there partook of luncheon. Those who belonged to the Order, of course, wore their several badges.

Some delay was experienced in arranging the procession, and thus the expectant multitude, both in the streets and seated at windows, were kept a considerable time before they beheld the whole body marshalled. It was a lovely day, however, and as they had turned out for a holiday—with that patience for which our countrymen are proverbial—they stayed their stay until the hour came for gratification; and when it did arrive, the sight of so large a body of gentlemen, with their peculiar emblems, did not fail of imparting the anticipated pleasure.

The P.G.L. of Monmouthshire was opened at the King's Head, at Ten a.m.

The Silurian Lodge, No. 693, opened at the Town Hall, at Ten a.m., when the P.G.M., accompanied by the D.P.G.M., and the P.G. officers were marshalled from the King's Head, to the Town Hall (accompanied by a band), and having duly obtained admission, the P.G.M. addressed himself to the W.M., saying,—

“W.M. of the Silurian Lodge, I hereby, in the presence of these Worshipful Masters and worthy Masons, diligent workmen of our secret craft, do ask of you and your Company, if you know yourself at this time to have done anything contrary to the laws of Masonry, which has not been communicated to the P.G.L., and whereby you should be suspended from your work?”

W.M.: “We are good Masons at this very time.”

P.G.M.: “Have you amongst your Company any brother guilty of strife or disobedience in open Lodge, or who after open Lodge, brings scandal and disgrace upon the craft?”

W.M.: “We have none, Right Worshipful Master.”

D.P.G.M.: “Have you permission to do this day's work?”

W.M.: “We have, Right Worshipful Master, and, with your permission, it shall be read.”

The dispensation was then read; after which, the D.P.G.M. said:—“Masters, Wardens, Deacons, and Working Masons,—all here is right as it should be. I give you all joy of this day's work: it has begun in zeal, may it continue in peace, and end in charity. May all good Masons help us in this day's work; and let us praise the master, officers, and brethren of the Silurian Lodge, for wishing to raise a temple to Masonry. The blessings of Heaven be with us all; and may the new Lodge increase the craft, harbour the poor brethren, and console the rich.”

All: “So mote it be.”

The Procession was then arranged by Brothers Chilcott and West, P.G. Directors of Ceremonies, in the following order:—

A number of boys, sons of Masons, bearing flags.

Union Flag,

(Borne by the Son of a M.M.)

Band of Music.

Tyler, with a Sword.

Visiting Brethren, according to their seniority.

Officers, wearing their collars and jewels, with their respective Banners, &c.

Rough Ashler.

Entered Apprentices.

Tracing Board of the first degree.

Ionic Column.

Doric Column.

Perfect Ashler.

Trowel; Inscription Plate; Mallet.

Junior Deacon.		Senior Deacon.
	Director of Ceremonies.	
	Tracing Board of the third degree.	
Salver (with corn, wine, oil, and salt), born by a M.M., (or a Son of a M.M.)		Treasurer, with coins to be deposited.
Secretary, with Book of Constitution.		Senior Warden with the
Junior Warden, with the		Level.
Plumb-rule.		
	Banner of Silurian Lodge.	
	P.G. Tyler.	
	P.G. Pursuivant.	
	Banner of P.G. Lodge.	
	P.G. Organist.	
	P.G. Superintendent of Works.	
P.G. Director of Ceremonies.		P. Asst. G. Director of Ceremonies.
	Past P.G. Deacons.	
	P.G. Deacons.	
	P.G. Secretary.	
	P.G. Registrar.	
	P.G. Treasurer.	
P.G. Steward.		P.G. Steward.
	P.G. Chaplains.	
	Past P.G. Wardens.	
	P.G. Wardens (with Level and Plumb-rule).	
	Past P.G. Masters.	
P.G. Steward, with } Wand.	Deputy P.G. Masters. {	P.G. Steward, with Wand.
	Flag of Deputy P.G. Master.	
	Master of Silurian Lodge, with the Square.	
	P.G. Sword Bearer.	
P.G. Steward, with } Wand.	P.G. Master. {	P.G. Steward, with Wand
	Flag of the P.G. Lodge.	
	The Mayor and Corporation.	

Operative Masons, one of whom carried a small portion of mortar.

The procession being thus formed at the Town-hall, proceeded down Commercial-street to St. Paul's Church; on reaching which, the brethren fell back to the right and left, forming an avenue, through which the P.G.M., preceded by his Sword Bearer, and followed by the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge, the D.P.G.M., attended by two Stewards, the P.G. Officers and the rest of the brethren, according to seniority and rank, passed to the church in inverted order, the band playing the "National Anthem."

About a quarter to two o'clock the procession arrived at the church, where a large congregation was assembled, and the service was at once proceeded with, the Rev. J. S. Sidebotham, of Oxford, chaplain of the Silurian Lodge, reading the prayers and lessons. A most excellent choral selection, well executed, formed part of the service.

The Rev. G. ROBERTS, the Grand Chaplain, delivered a very eloquent address, from Prov. x. 25, "The righteous is of everlasting foundation." He said they had that day met together to lay the foundation-stone of a Masonic Lodge, where the peculiar duties of their Order were to be performed, where they were to pursue the investigations of science, where they were to engage themselves in cultivating knowledge the most sublime—the knowledge of the Most High God and the knowledge of themselves—the knowledge of the relation in which they stood one towards another, and especially towards the brethren with whom they were united by a secret and singular bond of sympathy. And then the Lodge itself was an object of interest to the contemplative mind; for, though based upon the earth, and formed of perishable materials, and circumscribed in its proportions, it had the elements which invested it with a character infinitely beyond that which its mere substantive form imparted, for

its head reached to the heavens, and its foundations were deeper than the roots of the everlasting hills, and its length and breadth embraced the whole world, and its centre was the pillar of eternal truth. Such was really the Masonic Lodge. It had symbols which possessed significance to the initiated, but to the uninitiated they were like unintelligible language; and many objections had been raised on account of those symbols and the secrets which belonged to the Order. It was objected by some that because of the universality of Freemasonry, they were seeking to supercede and dishonour Christianity, by disseminating a mongrel sort of religion, apart and distinct from the revelations of the Almighty. Again; it had been said if they had some great secret locked up in their own bosoms, and it was for the benefit of mankind, why encumber it with symbols, and why not admit all men into their society? Such excuses, sneers, and objections had been levelled by the wise, the philosophic, and the religious, as well as by men of shallow understandings—men who were “wise in their own conceit;” and yet through all ages the most illustrious men, those with the most enlightened intellect, and pure philanthropists, had not scrupled to knock at the door of the Lodge, enter in, and abide under the shadow of its roof. He thought they ought not, on an occasion like the present, to flinch from examining those strictures which had been advanced against them, nor from vindicating, so far as they might, the construction of their society, which was upon the ancient principle of legitimate pursuits, and the gentle works of charity and love. He then went on to show that in olden time symbols were used to express ideas; that it had long been the custom for bodies of men to unite for the purpose of carrying out great objects; and that in all their proceedings they sought to advance the welfare of men by charity and love. The investigation of the Christian faith formed an interesting part of their work; and although their Hebrew brethren could not go thus far, they still united with them in the worship of the true God, and did not relax their hold upon Masonry because the majority recognised the Christian faith. The genius of Masonry demanded belief in the fundamental doctrines of revelation, and from that book they derived their principles. They sought to live on earth in harmony and love, and hoped hereafter to praise God in the Great Lodge above! After some eloquent allusions to the symbols of God in the lightning and the storm, and in all those grand and sublime works which the Architect of the Universe brought into existence, the preacher adverted to the symbols contained in the investiture of the order of the Garter, the Ribbon, and the George, respecting none of which had there been raised any of those objections which were raised respecting the Masonic Order. In conclusion, he said their work of laying the foundation stone would be incomplete unless they felt for the poor among the Craft, whose prospects had been blighted, and therefore needed help. Let them, therefore, bestow their gifts, and distribute to those who were in need from those excellent charities which their fathers established.

The congregation then withdrew, during which, a collection was taken at the doors.

In the same order the procession moved to the site of the new building, taking the following route:—Commercial-street, Commercial-road, and Ruperra-street, to the site of the intended building, the band playing “Entered Apprentice.”

On arriving at the spot, we observed that an immense gathering had already taken place, the reserved seats for the ladies, which would accommodate 250, being quite full. The sun shone in all his effulgence, and expectation was on tip-toe for the completion of

THE CEREMONY.

A confined space, an immense rush within the enclosure, and the absence of some kind of a fence round the immediate spot, caused an uncomfortable kind of confusion; but in the midst of it the ceremony went on in the following order:—

On arriving at the site, the W.M. took his place in the east, the P.G.M. sitting on his right, and the D.P.G.M. sitting on his left. The Senior Warden in the west, and the Junior Warden in the south (standing); the rest of the brethren taking places as most convenient, when the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge (Mr. R. G. Thomas) delivered the following charge:—

Men, women, and children, here assembled to-day to behold this ceremony, know all of you, that we be lawful Masons, true to the laws of our country, and established of old, with peace and honour in most countries, to do good to our brethren, to build great buildings, and to fear God, who is the great Architect of all things. We have among us, concealed from the eyes of all men, secrets which may not be revealed, and which no man has discovered; but these secrets are lawful and honourable to know, by Masons, who only have the keeping of them to the end of time. Unless our Craft were good and our calling most honourable, we should not have lasted so many centuries, nor should we have had so many illustrious brothers in our Order ready to promote our laws and further our interests. To-day we are here assembled, in the presence of you all, to build a house for Masonry, which we pray God may prosper, if it seem good to Him, that it may become a building for good men and good deeds, and promote harmony and brotherly love, till the world itself shall end.

Response—"So mote it be."

A bottle was produced, containing a scroll, and it was deposited in a cavity of the stone. A copy of the scroll was read by the Secretary (Brother Williams) of the Silurian Lodge, which gave a short history of the Lodge and its foundation, a list of the present officers, the board of governors of the new Masonic Hall, a list of the subscribers, and a full programme of the day's proceedings.

The Treasurer (Brother Edward Wells) then produced the coins, which were from a farthing to a five-shilling piece of the present reign, and they were also deposited in a cavity in the stone.

After that, the inscription-plate was read by the Worshipful Master of the Silurian Lodge, as follows:—

ALL GLORY TO THE MOST HIGH!

THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THIS MASONIC HALL, ERECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF
THE SILURIAN LODGE,

No. 693, OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS,
Was laid by

COLONEL KEMEYS TYNTE, M.P.,

P.G.M. FOR MONMOUTHSHIRE,

Assisted by JOHN E. W. ROLLS, Esq., of the Hendre, D.P.G.M. for the same
Province, and the OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND AND THE
SILURIAN LODGES,

On WEDNESDAY, the 29th Day of AUGUST, 1855.

A.D., MDCCCLV. : A.L., 5855,

According to the Ancient Usages of Masonry, and in the presence of a numerous and brilliant Assemblage of the Craft.

R. G. THOMAS, of Newport, Architect.

HENRY P. BOLT, of Newport, Builder.

Mr. Williams, the Mason, having produced the mortar and the trowel, having been presented to the Right Worshipful Master (Colonel Tynte), he spread it on the lower stone, and the upper stone then descended, the band playing "Rule Britannia," and afterwards, the National Anthem.

The P. Grand Chaplain then offered up the

PRAYER OF BENEDICTION.

"May the Almighty Architect of the Universe, who has disposed all things in order, according to the excellency of His will, who made the heavens for His Majesty, the sun and stars for His glory and our comfort, and the earth as a place for our obedience to His laws, look down upon us Master Masons, now endeavouring to build a house according to the rules of charity, by the bond of love. May this house, of which we have placed the first stone in the earth, be a habitation for good men, meeting to-

gether to do good : may their secret assemblies be convened in law, proceed in honour, and end in charity. May all Masons that enter under the shadow of its roof, remember that "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him." May the work done here prosper ; may the heart of all the workmen be comforted—may no strife, brawling, or unseemly words be heard within its walls—may the Master love the brethren, and the brethren honour and obey the Master—may our going out and our coming in be blessed for evermore—may our baskets be filled with plentiousness, and the voice of joy and thanksgiving abound—may there be no mourning nor sorrow of heart ; and may the wayfaring Mason find a comfortable journey to his home, when he passeth by the gates of this house. O Lord ! prosper Thou our work ; yea, prosper Thou our handy work, and teach us in all times, and in all places, to build up in beauty that temple of our souls which Thou hast given us to adorn with all good works, till we arrive at the Grand Lodge above, where all things are perfect, and there is no more labour ; but peace and happiness for evermore."

Response—"So mote it be."

D.P.G.M. : Worshipful Master of the Silurian Lodge, what is the jewel of your office ?

W.M. : The square.

D.P.G.M. : Have you applied the square to those parts of the stone that should be square ?

W.M. : I have, Right Worshipful Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

D.P.G.M. : Brother Senior Warden, what is the proper jewel of your Office ?

S.W. : The level.

D.P.G.M. : Have you applied the level to the stone ?

S.W. : I have, Right Worshipful Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

D.P.G.M. : Brother Junior Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office.

J.W. : The Plumb-rule.

D.P.G.M. : Have you applied the plumb-rule to the external edges of the stone ?

J.W. : I have, Right Worshipful Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

P.G.M. : Having full confidence in your skill in the royal art, it remains for me to finish the work.—He then took the mallet, gave the stone three knocks, and said,—

"May this undertaking be conducted and completed by the Craftsmen, according to the good plan, in peace, harmony, and brotherly love."

The W.M. then advanced again to the stone, and strewed upon it some grains of wheat, and afterwards sprinkled it with wine.

The P.G.M. scattered salt upon it.

The W.M. poured a quantity of oil upon it, and pronounced the following benediction :—

"As Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, fleeing from the face of his brother Esau, and going out from Beersheba towards Haram, lighted on a certain place and tarried there all night, making to himself a pillar of stone, on which sleeping, he dreamt he saw the gates of Heaven ; and when he awoke, he anointed the stones with fresh oil, calling the place Bethel, or the house of God ; so do I anoint this stone with pure oil, praying that in the building which may arise from it none but good men may be admitted, and men that fear God and love the Brotherhood.

After three cheers for the Queen the assembly dispersed.

The procession reformed, and returned up Dock-road, Llanarth-street, and Commercial-street, to the Town-hall, and resumed the Lodge. The thanks of the meeting were voted to the P.G.M. for his attendance ; to the Deputy P.G.M. for his assistance on the present occasion ; and to the P.G. Chaplain, Br. George Roberts, for his sermon, accompanied with a request that he would print it ; to the Rev. J. T. Wrenford for the use of his church ; and to the Rev. J. S. Sidebotham for reading the services ; to the Mayor and Corporation for the use of the Town-hall ; and to the choir for their kind assistance.

The trowel with which the stone was laid, was presented to the P.G.M., with a suitable address, by the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge; and after an acknowledgment of the same by the P.G.M., a few observations relating to the discipline of the province were made by the D.P.G.M., and the Lodge was closed in solemn form. After which, the procession proceeded to the King's Head, where the P.G.L. was closed, and the brethren joined the banquet.

THE DINNER.

Owing to the protracted character of the proceedings, the company was not able to sit down to dinner at four o'clock, the hour appointed; and it was not till after five that an attempt was made to commence that important meal. The room in which dinner was served, was the new large room in course of erection at the King's Head. The walls were very elaborately decorated by the gentlemen above named, flowers and evergreens being profusely used. The square and compass were represented in flowers; a large number of the flags of the allied nations were beautifully blended; a number of pendants were hung in various parts; and the gas chandelier was covered with evergreens. The tables were arranged thus: three were placed nearly the entire length, and one across the top, raised in the form of a dais, and the chair for the Right Worshipful the P.G.M. was decorated; and immediately behind the chair was suspended a tinted drawing of the edifice about to be erected.

Col. Tynte, M.P., the Prov. G.M. of Monmouthshire, was in the chair; and the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge, Brother Thomas, was in the vice-chair. On the right and left of the chairman were Captain Bowyer; J. E. W. Rolls, Esq., Deputy Prov. G.M.; Rev. G. Roberts, P.G.C.; Dr. Bowles; Col. Burlton; Captain Tynte; — Kent, Esq.; — Davis, Esq.; C. Lyne, Esq.; S. Campbell, Esq.; J. J. Nicholas, Esq.; and S. Coombs, Esq.

The Prov. G. Chaplain said grace at the commencement of dinner, and at the close "*Non nobis Domine*" was sung.

The Chairman commenced the toast list by saying that, the first toast was one which required but few words to make it appreciable by the brethren. It was, "The Queen and the Craft." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. D. W. Nash, the D.G.P.M. of Bristol, said, that he and his friends were obliged to leave, as time and tide waited for no man; but, before they left, they wished to give utterance to the great gratification which they had experienced in being permitted to assist in the ceremony of the day, and to hope that the Order in the province of Monmouthshire would be prosperous. They felt satisfied that there would be a continuance of the interchange of Masonic courtesies which had distinguished those of Monmouthshire towards the Bristol brethren in times passed, and which they of Bristol were always wishful to reciprocate. He wished to express their best wishes for the prosperity of the Lodge whose foundation stone had been laid; and might Masonry attain that high position in the United Kingdom which it was deserving of. (Cheers.)

The Rev. G. Roberts said he would propose, out of its order, the toast of "The P.G.M. of Bristol." (Cheers.) He assured the gentlemen from Bristol that the Monmouth brethren entertained the highest respect for them. Bristol was the great mart for commerce on the Severn, and she was always ready to pour out her treasures for other towns. She was the pioneer of commerce on the waves, and she had been the pioneer to the towns on the banks of the Severn, and had added to the prosperity and intellect of the country. Bristol lent its aid when Masonry was weak in Monmouthshire, and they had learned to follow the bright example which Bristol had set them. He most cordially gave them the toast, and it was drunk most rapturously.

The Chairman also acknowledged the good services of Bristol in times past, and then gave, "Prince Albert and the rest of the Royal Family."

Captain Bowyer said, the manner in which the Queen of England had been entertained in France was the admiration of all Englishmen. He trusted that now the jealousies of the two nations had passed away, and that the great union would exist for many generations, to give protection to the just rights of mankind, and to promote the real liberty of the world. "The health of his Majesty the Emperor of the French." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Rolls paid a brief tribute to both arms of the service in proposing the "Army and Navy," which was duly honoured.

Major Maclurcan responded on behalf of the army, and Mr. Lyne for the navy, observing that the navy had not had so great a share in actual warfare, because Russia had not dared to attack us at sea. The navy, however, had effectually protected our homes and our commerce, both of which were among its great duties. (Cheers.)

Capt. Tynte gave the health of "The Bishop and Clergy of the diocese of Llandaff." (Cheers.)

The Rev. G. Roberts rose to respond, as he was sorry that there was not one clergyman of the diocese present.

The Rev. Mr. Williams, curate of St. Paul's, said there was one present, and therefore Mr. Roberts gladly gave way. Mr. Williams said he was very happy to find himself in the position he did that day, and hoped that before many months had elapsed they would have many clergymen of the diocese enrolled as Masons (Applause.)

Mr. Roberts said he hoped there never would be an occasion of a Masonic gathering in the diocese, but that the clergy of the diocese would be represented. (Applause.)

The Chairman then gave "The Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland." (Cheers.)

The Chairman followed that by "The Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl of Yarborough." (Cheers.)

Col. Bariton spoke of the great cordiality with which he had been greeted by Masons at all times and in all places, and more especially by the Scotch and Irish. He had occupied the post of P.G.M. at Bengal, and had had forty years' experience in Lodge, cantonment and camp, during which time he had been associated with their Scotch and Irish brethren. He therefore gave them the "G.M.'s of Ireland and Scotland, the Dukes of Leinster and Athol." (Cheers.)

Br. Bowles then rose, and said, he thought that his first duty was, as he believed, that with the exception of the Right Worshipful the G.M. of this Province, he was the senior member of the Grand Lodge of England, to return thanks for the toast of his noble friends, Lord Zetland and Lord Yarborough. His next duty was one which he discharged with very great pleasure. Both gratitude and inclination prompted him so to do—it was to return his best thanks to the brethren of the Monmouthshire, and more especially the brethren of the Silurian Lodge, for the very cordial reception with which they had been pleased to honour him. His flights of eloquence were, he thought, very much like those of the goose—no sooner was he upon the wing than he was down again. (Laughter.) But there was something in the very interesting proceedings of that day which seemed to generate an influence like the magnetic power imparted to iron, giving to the tongue faculties of utterance, and the mind properties and powers which they possessed not before. Their social Masonic reunions, where their banquets were crowned with sparkling wine, and fragrant with the delicacies of other climes, tended to smooth the rough path of existence, inasmuch as they afforded them many opportunities of cultivating those fraternal attachments which were so delightful in themselves, and often so pure and lasting as to afford comfort and support in the hour of death. (Hear, hear.) But they had met for a far nobler purpose—they had met to assist in laying the foundation stone of a building to be dedicated to the cultivation of moral, religious, and intellectual Masonry. His honourable friend, the Right Worshipful the P.G.M., had laid the chief corner stone of a temple which was to be erected, and which would be set apart for the cultivation of the intellect and for the promotion of charity: a temple where they would meet to breathe the spirit of liberality; where they would learn to reverence the rights of conscience; where they would, he hoped, attend to promote human progress, and where they would also seek, and, he trusted, receive "the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace;" and where also they would have filial communion with the "High and Holy One that inhabiteth eternity." While others sought to shut up God in creeds and denominations; while they sought to fetter man in the chains of uncharitableness, and intolerance, and persecution, they would in that new Lodge be bound together, not by a bond of creeds, but by the bond

of brotherly love and charity. That was the noblest of all bonds. He trusted it would long continue to be the distinguishing bond, and keep the brethren of the Silurian Lodge and the members of the province together. He found he was entrusted with the toast of the evening. He was exceedingly sorry it did not fall into abler hands. Very much might be said about it, but it would be a wasteful excess of words to do more than mention the name of the gentleman who had presided over that province for thirty years, and who was loved and honoured as few men were by those who knew him best. (Cheers.) Turning to the chairman he said, Colonel Tyne, I have only to propose your good health. May the staff of God's promises help you on your way, so that when that time comes which comes to all of us, the lamp of God's love may light you through the dark valley and guide you in safety to the golden land. And I am sure with one heart and voice all present will say, "So mote it be." (Loud cheers.)

The Chairman said if he had some difficulty, when assembled in Lodge, in thanking them, he felt more difficulty, now, after so eloquent, so feeling, and so kind a speech from his excellent friend, Dr. Bowles. He modestly likened his speaking to the flight of a very humble bird; but he (the chairman) thought it was more like the flight of the eagle, soaring with his eye on the Sun of Masonry; and in a flight which they all looked upon with admiration, he described, in eloquent, glowing and Masonic terms, the uses of the Lodge, which, he trusted, under the blessing of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, would speedily rise in that town, the corner stone of which, to-day, he had the high honour and gratification of laying—he trusted that the blessing of the Most High might attend that Lodge, and that it might, on its completion, bear those fruits wished for, and, he might say, foretold. It was now indeed a long time since he first had the honour of presiding over that province. Many of those present were not then born. In fact a new birth in Masonry had taken place, for then it was almost a dead letter. He felt at the time young and inexperienced in Masonry. Still he was the son of a Mason of merit and distinction; and feeling himself unequal to the task, he consulted his royal master, the late Duke of Sussex, who appointed him, and he should never forget the words which he uttered, "Let Masonry take its course. Attempt not to force it, and the time will come when Masonry will be a profession you will have pride in. Masonry never dies, and it will resuscitate again in the province of Monmouth." These were the words of the then Grand Master, and days like the one they had just had, showed that Masonry was not dead here, and that they stood as high in the Masonic world as any province in the kingdom. He felt it was a proud day to preside on such an occasion; and in conclusion made some graceful remarks on the able manner in which the D.P.G.M. discharged the duties of his office, and those other officers of the province whom he had appointed, all of whom were recommended by the D.P.G.M. The silver trowel, with which they had presented him would be to him more valuable than any silver plate from the jeweller's shop, and he should hand it down to his son, whom he was proud to see present on this occasion, with the hope that it would be an heir loom in a family of Masons. (Loud cheers.)

Br. Rolls said it gave him the greatest pleasure to propose to them the health of one of the oldest and best Masons in England, and who was looked up to with the greatest reverence. It was the health of Col. Tynte, the father of their chairman, and grandfather of Capt. Tynte, another of their officers, and who, amongst other good things which might be said of him, had contributed two whole bucks for their banquet. "The health of Col. Tynte, the P.G.M. for Somerset." (Loud cheers.)

The Chairman responded.

Br. Kent, P.G.M. for South Australia, said he was a stranger to nearly all in the room, except Brother Thomas, who, he was proud to say, was a fellow-colonist, and who was received into Masonry in the Lodge which he (Mr. Kent) presided over for two years. How Mr. Thomas had improved that circumstance his position that day was an evidence. In South Australia Masonry had great difficulties to contend with for a long time, but it was now overcoming them; and there was one singular fact in its history—the ladies were in its favour, because it made the members better husbands and better fathers than they were before. At the present time there were

six Lodges in Adelaide, and three in its neighbourhood. He gave the toast of "The Right Worshipful D.P.G.M., Br. Rolls, and the P.G. officers." (Cheers.)

Br. Rolls returned thanks.

The Chairman said want of time forbade him giving the gentlemen he was about to name separately. He gave them the "Grand Masters of the provinces of Hereford, Oxford, Australia, and Bengal." (Cheers.)

Dr. Bowles briefly responded.

Br. Lyne said, amongst the numerous toasts of the evening, none were more interesting than that of "The P.G.C. Brother Roberts." (Cheers.) He knew he had only to mention the name to elicit their approbation, and to show how dearly Brother Roberts was beloved by his brethren. They were under the deepest obligation to him for being present on the occasion; and those who had the opportunity of hearing his admirable sermon, would agree with him (Mr. Lyne) that no other man in this province had done more to induce worthy good men to become Masons than he had. With all earnestness he gave the toast. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. Chaplain said, the kindness with which they had received the toast connected with his name showed that the old feeling of Monmouthshire still remained, verdant as ever, flourishing as ever, and that nothing in the world could possibly separate that feeling of good fellowship which had been established; and though time and space might have separated them, still the good old feeling remained, and he could not forsake old friends. Reminiscences and associations of those bonds which bound them together in the bond of charity and by the tie of love prompted him to make an effort to be present on that occasion; and he felt it would be well to visit his brethren, especially when he heard what preparations were being made. He resolved to give himself up to them that day, whatever inconvenience he might experience, and again receive those smiles and shakes of the hand which were an index to what was felt by the heart. The Right Worshipful the G.M. had told them that time and tide waited for no man; neither would railways nor telegraphs, or one of their excellent friends would have been present, but he was summoned to a distant place by the telegraph that morning; and because time was on the wing he would not detain them, or he might talk at great length were he to yield to those feelings which were suggested by a visit to Monmouthshire. There was something in Monmouthshire which always entwined itself around his heart. It was in Monmouthshire that he first associated himself with Masonry. He was glad to say that the sun of Masonry had risen at Newport, the intellectual powers of which town were developing themselves every day, and in nothing more so than in Masonry, taking this day as an exponent of the intellect of Newport. He could recollect when the Newport Lodge was not recognised as it was now, but a change had taken place, and now it had become the centre and focus of the Masonic genius and mind. As they passed along in the procession, he said to his friend that that beat what they undertook when the Newport docks were opened. There was no such gathering on that occasion, when the Masonic body quietly gave in their adhesion at the nuptials of the Usk and the Severn. On this occasion, by the manner in which Newport had come out, it was in effect saying, "These are the men in whom we can trust." He was sure that none but Masons could have produced such a mark of admiration as had been afforded, and have passed through such living walls and received such acclamations in voice and heart as they had done. (Cheers.) He often looked back to the period when he became a Mason. A friend of his said, "You had better become a Mason." "What is Masonry?" "Well, I don't know what it is; try it." (Laughter.) His worthy Brother, Alec. Rolls, and he did try it, and he was sure it was very nice indeed. (Loud cheers.) Having noticed, in approving terms, the manner in which Brother Chilcott worked for the Provincial Lodge, he concluded his remarks by drawing attention to the charities of the Order, and said he was sure it would be gratifying to their chairman if something were done by the brethren towards carrying out the Sussex Memorial, which was proposed to be effected by the addition of a wing to one of the London hospitals. (Cheers.)

Dr. Bowles thanked Mr. Roberts for introducing the subject of the Sussex Memorial. He had been domestic chaplain to the late Duke, and knowing His Royal

Highness's wishes respecting the hospital, felt it to be his duty to forward the object as much as possible. The governors of the hospital had given £1,600, £2,000, had been subscribed, and there was still a deficiency of £500 in the sum requisite for building the wing and giving accommodation for one hundred beds. They could not pay a more proper tribute to the late G.M. of England than by contributing to the memorial. (Applause.)

The Chairman gave "The Mayor and Corporation, and success to the trade of Newport." (Cheers.)

Mr. Alderman Mullock returned thanks, and hoped the Mayor would be a Mason before the next meeting. (Cheers.)

Mr. Wells proposed "The Loyal Monmouth Lodge." (Applause.)

Mr. King responded.

The Vice-Chairman said they were much indebted to the Visiting Brothers for their help in carrying out the ceremonial. "The Visiting Brothers." (Cheers.)

Br. F. Langley, of Cardiff, responded.

The Chairman said that they were under great obligations to the Vice-Chairman in the three-fold capacity as W.M. of the Silurian Lodge, as architect of the new building, and as vice-chairman, for his able duties, in respect of all of which they returned him their thanks. He concluded by giving them "The W.M. of the Silurian Lodge." (Cheers.)

Br. Thomas returned thanks.

The Chairman again thanked the brethren for the polite attention he had received at their hands, and bade them good night; and as he left the room he was greeted with a round of cheering.

Br. Rolls, the D.P.G.M. then took the chair, and some other toasts were proposed, and songs sung.

This closed the interesting day's proceedings.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

On Thursday, the 30th August, a number of the Newcastle and Gateshead brethren proceeded to Berwick-on-Tweed, to join a picnic, and to partake of a "Kettle," to which St. David's Lodge had invited them. The weather was fine, and at 2 o'clock, (with a goodly number of sisters) they embarked on board the *Mary Ann Jane* (paddle-steamer), Capt. Thomas Elliot, of Spittal, accompanied by the band of the Third Lancashire Militia, all under the able superintendence of Brother Montgomery. On arriving at Heugh Shield, the party landed, and partook of refreshment. Again embarking, they steamed up to the Union Chain Bridge. Returning to Heugh Shield, the "kettle" was ready, and they partook of "pot luck" in the ancient Border style. The merry dance followed, on the smooth green turf, and was kept up till the sun set behind the Cheviots, which brought the outdoor proceedings to a close, after spending one of "the happiest days of their lives." The brethren had much to do to get away from their kind entertainers, and be in time for the south train at eleven o'clock; when the good town of Berwick, and the Tweedside lassies, were left behind. "Though out of sight," our correspondent sighs, "to memory dear."

SHROPSHIRE.

ADMASTON.—On Tuesday, the 4th ult., the usual annual dinner among the members of the Local Lodge of the North Wales and Shropshire Masonic Order was held at the Admaston Spa Hotel. Extensive preparations had been made by Mr. Purcell, the proprietor, and a sumptuous dinner was provided. The dinner was under the presidency of Sir W. W. Wyn, Bart, M.P. About seventy sat down; this number comprising the principal brethren from the neighbouring provinces. The entertainment, which was varied by some most excellent glee singing, went off exceedingly well, and gave general satisfaction. On Wednesday, a party of the members of the Lodge, accompanied by ladies, paid a visit to the Wrekin, where a most pleasant afternoon was spent. "Dancing on the green turf" was well kept up, to the music of Mr. Lewis's band, from Shrewsbury.

YORKSHIRE.

GRAND LODGE.

By the appointment of the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, the Provincial Grand Lodge for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, was held in the room of the Old George Lodge, at Scarborough, on Monday, the 10th of September. In the absence of the Earl of Zetland, his Lordship's Deputy, George Marwood, Esq., of Busby Hall, officiated. The Lodge was much gratified by the presence of Lord Londesborough, Senior Grand Warden of England, who, at some personal inconvenience, attended in his place as Senior Grand Warden for this Province. All the provinces were represented by deputations; and about 200 brethren were present. We understand that the extent of the Order, and the satisfactory progress of Masonry generally, and in this province in particular, formed a subject of much congratulation amongst the brethren then assembled. The proceedings in the Lodge occupied about one hour. The banquet took place at six o'clock in the evening, in the Town Hall. The room was beautifully decorated with evergreens, banners, and appropriate Masonic devices. The dinner was served up punctually, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master accompanied by the Provincial Grand Officers, heralded by a flourish of trumpets, entered the room in procession. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master before taking his seat, briefly announced the gratifying intelligence (just received by telegraph, and kindly communicated by Brother Theakston,) that the south side of Sebastopol had been won by the allied armies. This was received with vociferous cheering. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master then took the chair, and we observed he was supported on his right hand by Sir J. V. B. Johnstone, Bart., M.P.; John Harland, Esq., of Marrick, P.P.G.W.; W. E. Richardson, Esq., Worshipful Master of the Old Globe Lodge; C. Bradley, Esq., Past Provincial Officer; and J. C. Smith, Esq., P.G.R. On his left by the Rev. W. Hutchinson, M.A., G.P. Chaplain; the Rev. C. Eckersall, E. H. Hebden, Esq., Past Provincial Officer; R. W. Hollen, Esq., P. G. Treasurer; Brother Richardson, of the Middlesbro' Lodge; and K. Peel, Esq., a visiting brother. The dinner was supplied by brother Millhouse, of the George Hotel; the profusion and quality of the dishes, (including every delicacy of the season,) the way in which it was served up, and the arrangements generally, were such as to elicit the approbation of all present, particularly of those accustomed to attend public dinners. The dessert and wines were equally unexceptionable.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire was held on Thursday, 13th ult., at one o'clock, at the Music Hall in this city, the Right Worshipful H. C. Vernon, Esq., P.G.M., presiding. The handsome building was elegantly decorated with banners and insignia of the Order. About 80 of the brethren assembled. The usual Lodge business having been disposed of, the party dined at the Guildhall, where a first-rate banquet was prepared under the superintendence of Br. Webb, of the Bell Inn. The chair was taken at five o'clock by the P.G.M. The usual patriotic and other toasts were proposed and well received, the evening being spent in the manner observed among Masons; the party separating about 9 o'clock. The evening was much enlivened by a party of glee singers (Messrs. Cooper, Berkley, Perkes, and Brooks), under the leadership of Br. Jabez Jones. The following were the brethren appointed as officers for 1855-6:—D.P.G.M., Br. E. A. H. Leclmere, 772; P.S.G.W., Br. H. M. Wainwright, 730; P.J.G.W., Edward Giles, 772; P.G.C., Rev. A. G. Davies, 730; P.G.T., Masefield, 730, 313; P.G.R., Renaud, 730; P.G.S., R. P. Hill, 349; P.S.G.D., M. Dennison, 730, 313; P.J.G.D. John Williscroft, 838; P.G.S.W., Barber, 349; P.G.D.C., B. Brooks, 824; P.G.A.D.C., E. Hopkins, 772; P.G.S., W. Bristow, jun., 313; P.G.O., W. Done, 349; P.G.P., J. Wheeler, 824; Stewards, W. D. Lingham, W. Wood, H. Isaacs, J. Hughes, R. Smith, and Jabez Jones, 349.

INSTRUCTION.

THE ROYAL JUBILEE (No. 85).—The brethren of this distinguished Lodge of Instruction held their anniversary festival on the evening of Tuesday, the 18th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, (Br. C. Ireland) Fetter Lane. Br. Thos. Alex. Adams, W.M. of the Domatic Lodge, No. 206, and P.M. of St. John's Lodge, No. 196, ably presided. Those excellent working Masons Br. Hill, P.M. of the Universal, No. 212, and Br. Farmer, W.M. of the Lodge of United Pilgrims, No. 745, severally filled the Wardens' chairs. The Lodge having been regularly opened, the minutes of the proceedings of the last Lodge were read and confirmed, after which it was proposed, seconded, and agreed to that as the Lodge was deeply indebted for its present flourishing and efficient condition to the zealous services of their Secretary and Treasurer, Br. Charles Ireland, the members should be invited to cooperate in presenting him with some testimonial of their fraternal regards and esteem. A committee was then appointed to carry out the intention of the Lodge. After these proceedings the Lodge proceeded to work the seven sections of the first degree which were most correctly rendered by Brs. Thomas, Brett, Tyrrell, Wadeson, Farmer, Hill, and Isaacs. The lecture having been completed, the brethren were called off, and about 40 in number sat down to a banquet served with that elegance and liberality which invariably characterizes the catering of their worthy host. After an evening spent in harmony and good fellowship, the business of Masonry was resumed, when several of the visitors, including Brs. Gravel, Plummer, and Steward, were admitted as joining members of the Lodge, subject to the usual provision, after which the proceedings were closed in harmony.

ROYAL ARCH.

DEVONSHIRE.

CHAPTER OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—Held at the Prince George Hotel. The members of this Chapter, after two failures, succeeded in getting the requisite number together, on the 18th inst. The minutes of the last meeting (in November last), were read and confirmed, after which the annual election and installation of officers took place, but as this was done in a style prevalent in the Chapters of these towns, we think it unnecessary to make further comment. We are led, however, to notice the fact, that two young companions (never in a Chapter since their exaltation, last November), were given office, one as Scribe E., the other as P. Soj., over the head of one Companion who has held the office of assistant for three years past (certainly a long time to sojourn in one position). We are sorry to say that, since the lamented decease of Comp. Dr. Carwithen, there has not been any P.G.C. for Devon, which accounts, in some measure, for the state of the private Chapters of these towns.

DURHAM.

CHAPTER-DE-LAMBTON (No. 111).—The companions of this Lodge held a convocation in the Phoenix Hall, on Friday, 31st August, for the appointment of officers for the ensuing year, when the following companions were duly elected:—Comps. Wm. Baglee, Z.; J. Spark, H.; L. Chatt, J.; Wm. Kyle, Scribe E.; John Glen, N.; T. Robson, P. Sojourner; W. Burdes and W. Atty, Assistant-Sojourners; C. Rodgers, Treasurer; P. J. Baglee, Janitor.

SCOTLAND.

ST. MARK'S LODGE, GLASGOW (No. 102.)—The brethren of this Lodge met in their splendid hall, Buchanan, Street, Glasgow, on September, 17, when the W.M., Br. Donald Campbell, initiated a gentleman into the secrets and mysteries of our ancient and honourable Order, in very excellent style. The brethren were then called off from labour to refreshment, when

The W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," and "The Grand Lodge of Scotland," both of which were duly honoured.

The W.M. next proposed "The Grand Lodge of England," with which he associated the name of Br. Warren, a member of that body, and one of the Grand Stewards of England.

Br. Warren replied, and explained to the brethren the advantages they would derive from a Fund of Benevolence, such as existed in England, to which they could refer applicants, and have their cases investigated, and thus prevent the impositions frequently attending indiscriminate almsgiving.

The W.M. next proposed "The Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the health of Br. Sharman."

Br. Sharman returned thanks for the kindness with which they had referred to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the honour they had done him in coupling his health with their wishes for the prosperity of that important Masonic body.

The W.M. then proposed the health of the newly initiated brother, whose name was the 1650 on the roll of St. Mark's Lodge.

This toast was duly honoured, and responded to by the newly made brother.

Br. Warren proposed the health of the W.M., Br. Donald Campbell, whose mode of working he spoke of in very complimentary terms.

The W.M. returned thanks, expressed his high respect for Br. Warren, and his determination to do all that lay in his power to promote the circulation of the *Masonic Mirror* (with which he knew that brother to be connected), because he had seen that that periodical was characterized by an honesty and straightforwardness which had pleased him very much indeed. (Cheers).

The W.M. then proposed the health of Br. Hamilton, who was about to leave this country for Australia, and who had been very zealous in his efforts to make himself familiar with Masonry, and very diligent and regular in his attendance at the meetings of the Lodges.

Br. Hamilton returned thanks. After some other toasts, the proceedings were enlivened by a little harmony; and the brethren separated in strict accordance with Forbes Mackenzie's ideas of the time to betake themselves to their own firesides.

An emergency of the brethren of the Lodge was also held on September 21, for the purpose of initiating a young gentleman who was suddenly called upon to proceed abroad. The ceremony was ably and imposingly performed by Br. Donald Campbell, W.M. of the Lodge. Amongst the visiting brethren present were Br. H. G. Warren, P.M., of 202, London; Br. H. R. Sharman, S.D. of the same Lodge, and Br. John Preston, W.M. 175, Greenock.

The W.M., Br. Donald Campbell, in proposing the health of the newly initiated brother, congratulated the brethren on the fact that St. Mark's Lodge had now attained a very high position in the Craft. More members had been initiated during the past ten years than during the whole period of its previous history. In the chair which he had that moment the honour to fill, had sat the late Marquis of Anglesea, (cheers), Mr. Sheridan Knowles (cheers), Mr. Henry Monteith, of Carstairs, and many other very distinguished men. (Hear, hear).

After the usual toasts the brethren separated.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

A meeting of the Grand Chapter of Scotland was held at Edinburgh, on Wednesday, September 19, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and

Comp. Gaylor, G.N., reported, that no communication had been received from the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen relative to the charter granted to the spurious Mark Lodge in London.

A report of a committee appointed to visit various Chapters to inspect their working, and give them any information they might require, was then read. It represented Royal Arch Masonry to be generally flourishing, but that several Chapters required considerable instruction as to the proper ceremonies to be observed in exalting a candidate, which the Committee had, as far as possible, imparted to them.

Comp. Gaylor then brought forward a motion to the effect, that as there appeared to be a growing desire in England to obtain the secrets of the Mark Degree in Freemasonry in a legal manner, a committee be appointed to inquire how far the Grand Lodge of Scotland could assist them by the issue of Charters for that degree only.

A short conversation ensued, in which the utmost caution was recommended, in order not to trench on the prerogatives of the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of England, and the Committee was appointed.

The Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen was ordered to be struck off the roll of Grand Chapter, and its Charter withdrawn, if immediate measures were not taken to withdraw the Charter granted by the Companions to the London Lodge.

Other business being disposed of, the Chapter was closed and Companions separated.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF SCOTLAND. — On Friday Evening, Sept. 21, the worthy Comps. Dr. Walker Arnott, Regius Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow; Donald Campbell, M.E.Z., of Chapter No. 50; and other members of the various R.A. Chapters in Glasgow, assembled at the St. Mark's Masonic Hall, for the purpose of formally inaugurating a Provincial Grand Chapter for the Western District of Scotland. The visiting brethren were Comps. H. G. Warren, I. Simmonds, and H. R. Sharman, from London. Comp. Dr. Arnott produced and read his warrant from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, authorising him to open and hold a Provincial Grand Chapter, and appointing him M.E.Z. thereof. He then assumed the 1st Principal's Chair, appointed his P.G. Officers, of whom the following is a correct list:—G. A. Walker Arnott, LL.D., Grand Superintendent or Prov. Grand First Principal, Z.; Donald Campbell, Prov. Grand Second Principal, H.; John Preston, Prov. Grand Third Principal, J.; Roderick M'Kenzie, Prov. Grand Scribe, E.; James Muir, Prov. Grand Scribe, N.; George Jasper Lyon, Prov. Grand Treasurer; James Horne, Prov. Grand First Sojourner; James Campbell, Prov. Grand Second Sojourner; John Ferguson, Prov. Grand Third Sojourner; James Pollock, Prov. Grand Janitor.

The P.G. Chapter was ordered to meet in that hall on the last Fridays in January, April, July, and September, except in cases of emergency, of which the M.E.Z. promised to give the Companions due notice.

The next meeting is fixed for the last Friday in October, when some of the officers appointed, but who were absent on this occasion, will be obligated and invested.

The M.E.Z., Dr. Arnott, then informed the brethren that it would be the duty of this Prov. G. Chapter to look after the various Chapters within the district, and to infuse into them renewed energy, as well as to caution, advise, inform, and correct them with regard to their working. Some of these Chapters were nearly dormant, so that there would be plenty of work for them to do. (Hear.) It would be his object to visit as many of these Chapters as he could, and see if he could not rouse them up to do something. (Hear, hear.) Those which were actually dormant he had no power to resuscitate without leave from the S. G. Chapter; but that body would not withhold its sanction to revive any Chapter for which there was a good case made out. (Hear, hear.) He should visit the different Chapters personally, and converse with the individuals belonging to them, in order to see what could be done to bring them into a more efficient condition. He trusted that he should have health and leisure for these duties, as well as for those of the Provincial Grand Lodge, as he was P.G.M. for the same district.

The Provincial Grand Chapter was then closed.

GLASGOW CHAPTER (No. 50).—On the 14th of September, at the usual meeting of this Chapter, a Brother was duly exalted by the M.E.G. Companion Donald Campbell. There were three English visiting companions present viz. Comp. H. G. Warren, of No. 91, 259 and 778; Comp. Simmonds, No. 812, Comp. R. Sharman of No. 778. Companions Warren and Simmonds were duly exalted to the degrees of Excellent Master, and Mark Master Masons; Companion Sharman, who was previously a Mark Master Mason, (Irish Lodge of Justice No. 37, Jersey) was also obligated in that degree, and passed through the ceremonies with the other companions. The three companions were next obligated as Royal Arch (Scotch) Masons having taken that degree in England, and they were then affiliated as members of this Chapter. The Companions having been called off from labour to refreshment,

The M.E.Z. Comp. Campbell, gave the health of the newly initiated Companion, which was duly responded to.

The M.E.Z. said, that he had now to ask them to drink to the newly affiliated Comps, of Chapter No. 50, and prosperity to the Grand Chapter of England. One of those Comps. he had to introduce to them as the Editor of the *Masonic Mirror*, a work which he believed was known to nearly every Companion of that Chapter. He was delighted to welcome Comp. Warren to Scotland, and at having the pleasure of affiliating him with Chapter No. 50, by which he had been enabled perfectly to observe the differences of the working in the two countries—and he should be much pleased whenever his avocations would allow him to visit Scotland, at seeing him in their Lodge and Chapter-room—as he evidently, from the tone of the *Masonic Mirror*, took the deepest interest in the welfare of Freemasonry. (Cheers.)

The toast having been drunk,—

Comp. Warren returned thanks, and begged to express his great obligation for the high honor they had conferred upon him in having elected him an honorary member, and affiliated him with their Chapter. He knew of no higher honor that could have been paid to him, and through him to the *Masonic Mirror*, which it should always be his endeavour to make worthy of the support of the brethren. He was sure, that the members of the Grand Chapter of England were at all times anxious to do everything in their power to promote the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry, and that the members of the various private Chapters would ever be glad to welcome their Scottish Companions amongst them. He had been much pleased with the way in which the ceremony of that evening had been performed, and the intimate knowledge which the M.E.Z. evidently possessed, not only of the Scotch, but the English ritual. Before he resumed his seat, they would probably permit him to propose the health of that worthy Companion. (Cheers.) He should deem it presumption to do so had his acquaintance with Comp. Campbell commenced that night—it had not done so, though it was true, only a few days had passed since he first met Comp. Campbell; but from the day the *Masonic Mirror* was first started he had been in constant communication with him, and had received from their worthy M.E.Z. most valuable advice and assistance—which, he had great pleasure in thus being enabled to acknowledge in Chapter No. 50, where he appeared to be so well known, and so highly esteemed. (Cheers.) He would ask them to join him in drinking the health of Comp. Campbell, and prosperity to St. Mark's Lodge and Chapter No. 50.

Comp. Campbell thanked Comp. Warren for the kind terms in which he had proposed the toast, and the other Comps. for the equally kind manner in which they had responded to it. He then said, as Br. Warren has coupled with his toast the name of St. Mark's Lodge, I wish to inform the English brethren, that in Scotland the R.A. is as distinct from the Craft, as the Craft is from Knight Templarism in England. (Hear, hear.) We have no annual subscriptions here, and therefore we have no funds for charitable purposes as the English brethren have. We have only the small fees which we take from candidates at their initiation, but yet the St. Mark's are enabled to spend £50 a-year in charity. (Cheers.) I have, however, long looked forward to the time—and I trust that now it is not far distant—when we shall have these annual subscriptions from the members of the Lodge, and then we shall have funds for charity at our disposal, as the English Masons have. We have 400 or 500 members now on our books, and what would five shillings a-year from each be?

A mere bagatelle! Many English Lodges pay five pounds a-year in the shape of subscription. Were we to make a regulation that five shillings a-year should be subscribed by each member, we should raise 100*l.* instantly; and this, together with our initiation fees, would give us a fund of 200*l.* or 250*l.* at once, and would furnish the nucleus of a Fund of Benevolence such as those which are possessed by England and Ireland. I do hope that we shall soon have some such fund as this, and support the poor sons and daughters of deceased or distressed Freemasons. (Cheers.) So much for St. Mark's Lodge. As members of Chapter 50, we are but the tenants of St. Mark's Lodge; and in this chapter we have members of other Lodges: for we have in Glasgow sixteen Lodges, but only four Chapters. We have as companions in this chapter brethren from five or six different Lodges. When I first joined this Chapter, a few years ago, we had a fund of only 6*l.* Since that time we have spent 70*l.* in regalia—(hear, hear)—and we have money in hand yet. (Hear, and cheers.)

After a brief interval, which was occupied by a song,

The M.E.Z. Campbell said, while in Scotland the Grand Lodge recognizes no degree beyond that of a Master Mason, in England they recognize also the Royal Arch; but if you step across the water to Ireland, the Grand Lodge there recognizes all the degrees, including Templarism, up to the 33rd degree. (Hear.) I have now to ask you to join with me in drinking to the prosperity of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, with which I shall ask you to couple the name of a Companion now present, who is now a member with us, but who is also a member of a Chapter holding of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Ireland. I mean Companion Sharman, whom we are happy to receive here in the same spirit in which we ourselves hope to be received under similar circumstances. Our working in Scotland is a little different from the Mark Master Masonry which he may have seen in the Irish Mark Master Masons Lodge to which he belongs; our working of the Royal Arch degree, also differs from that with which he may be familiar in England. But the landmarks are the same: (hear) and I should greatly rejoice to see the day when our workings in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, and throughout the world, become as nearly alike as they can possibly be made. (Hear, hear.) We have the same deplorable differences in the profession to which I belong; there is one pharmacopœia for England, another for Ireland, and a third for Scotland; so that if an Apothecary here should make up the prescription of an English Physician as it is written, what in England would effect the cure of the patient, would here become a dangerous dose. (Hear, and laughter.) I hope, however, that the day is not far distant when we shall not only have uniformity of Masonic ritual, but also a National Pharmacopœia. (Hear, hear.) I shall now ask you to drink "Prosperity to the Grand Chapter of Ireland, and the health of Companion Sharman, member of a Chapter holding of the same."

The toast having been drunk with great cordiality,—

Comp. Sharman said, M.E.Z. and Comps., he felt exceedingly grateful for the honor conferred upon him in coupling his name with the Grand Chapter of Ireland, to the prosperity of which they had drunk so cordially. His connexion with Irish Masonry was but slight, though his attachment to it was great. One Saturday evening at the banquet table of his mother Lodge (Phoenix, 202, London), there sat next to him a brother wearing the exquisitely chaste little jewel which belonged to the M.M.M. degree. It attracted his attention, and he began to make enquiries of the Brother respecting the degree. The result of the conversation was that he promised to propose him (Br. Sharman) a member of a M.M.M. Lodge with which he was connected. He was greatly pleased at the time, but he had since learned that the Lodge in question had no legitimate authority for acting; only a warrant from a daughter Chapter, whereas in England they recognized no warrants from anybody but Supreme Grand Lodges or Chapters. He then looked forward to his introduction to that Lodge (known as the Bon Accord M.M.M. Lodge, meeting in London), with great pleasure; but, alas for the uncertainty of sublunary affairs, the brother who was to introduce him went home apparently in full health, and the next day—which was the Sabbath—he suddenly expired! Some time after this, still desiring to take the M.M.M. degree, he discovered, whilst on a visit to Jersey, that there was a M.M.M. Lodge held there. He asked to be allowed to take the degree, and the

Jersey brethren, with a kindness and cordiality which he should never forget, called a Lodge for that especial purpose. In return, he exerted himself to secure other candidates for the same honor from amongst the Jersey Masons who were qualified to take it; and here again meeting with the same kindness from the Brethren, he presented himself at the door of the Lodge, not a solitary candidate, but with 16 Comps. (Cheers.) They took the degree, which was substantially the same as that which he had seen worked that evening by their excellent M.E.Z.; but the ceremonial was more elaborate, and he thought in some respects preferable, although the charges were not so lucid and comprehensive as those in the Scottish Ceremony. Such was his connexion with the G. Chapter of Ireland—for this was in the Irish Lodge of Justice, No. 37—and as there appeared to be no other Irish Mason present, he begged most respectfully and cordially to thank them for their good wishes in respect of the G. Chapter of Ireland, as well as for the kind manner in which the M.E.Z. had been pleased to couple his name with so important and interesting a toast. (Cheers.)

After several other toasts, the brethren separated at an early hour.

THE ANNUAL BANQUET.

The annual meeting of this very flourishing Chapter was held Sept. 24, at the St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow. The Chapter having been duly opened, the following Companions were appointed, obligated, and invested as officers of the Chapter for the ensuing year:—Donald Campbell, Z; James Horne, H; John M. Rowand, J; Robert Mitchell, E; Robert Thomson, jun., N; Alexander Mc Donald, Treasurer; James Noble Sutherland, 1st Sojourner; James B. Murdoch, 2nd Sojourner; James P. Stewart, 3rd Sojourner; Henry Johnstone, Sup. of Works; James Pollock, Janitor; Proxy Principal, Edward Main.

At the conclusion of the business, the company adjourned to a very elegant dinner.

The M.E.Z. Comp. Donald Campbell presided, and gave "The Queen and the Craft." The Masons, he said, were a loyal body; they always drank this toast with enthusiasm, and never more so, in that Chapter, than when as now, Her Most Gracious Majesty was spending her time amongst her Scottish subjects.

The toast was drank with great applause.

The M.E.Z. then proposed "The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland," with which he coupled the name of Companion Dr. Arnott, the D.G.Z. of Scotland."

This toast having been duly honored, Comp. Dr. Arnott, returned thanks. The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland had not been many years in existence. Previous to that period, Arch Masonry in Scotland, was mixed up very much with the Knight Templars. Somewhere about 1811, under the auspices of the Duke of Kent, separate charters were issued for the Knight Templars' Encampments, and the consequence was, that for some years Royal Arch Masonry in Scotland was without any head. About 1818, they got the Chapters to agree to submit to a head in the shape of the Supreme Grand Chapter as it now existed, and since that time Royal Arch Masonry had made very great progress. There were many Chapters at first which would not yield obedience, till lately, when he (Dr. Arnott) came to Glasgow, and then, partly by the Companions leaving the irregular Chapters, and applying to the Supreme Chapter for proper charters, and partly from other causes, the irregular Chapters gradually disappeared, and at this moment he believed there was not in Scotland a Royal Arch Chapter at all in a working state which did not hold regularly under the Supreme Grand Chapter. (Hear and cheers.) He had held his position as D.G.Z. for a number of years consecutively, except during one year, when it was desired to place in his chair a gentleman who had rendered some service to the Edinburgh Masons; but that gentleman found the duties of the office too onerous for him, and resigned at the expiration of the first 12 months. On being applied to again to allow himself to be put in nomination for the office, he (Dr. Arnott) consented on this condition, viz., if he should be elected without a dissident voice he would serve, if not, he would not. This condition having been strictly fulfilled, he consented to serve the office, and had served accordingly ever since. His post was by no means a sinecure. There were a great many duties connected with it which did not meet the public eye, and which would not do exactly even to

come before the General Committee. Numbers of letters came to him privately, and he attended to them, so that his post, though unpaid, was by no means a merely nominal office. Great confusion had existed with respect to the laws; there were additions and alterations being perpetually made, till at length the Chapters did not know what was law, and what was not. Under these circumstances, at the request, and with the assistance of the Supreme Grand Chapter, he undertook the preparation of the code of laws which now existed in a printed form, and by which Royal Arch Masonry throughout Scotland was governed. This was a step which had been attended with good results. (Hear, hear.) The Supreme Chapter and himself were naturally very much linked together by these joint exertions; he therefore returned thanks on his own account, and on behalf of the Supreme Grand Chapter with which he had the honor to be so closely connected. (Cheers.)

“The Army and Navy” was next given, and responded to by Comp. Taylor.

The M.E.Z., Donald Campbell, then gave “the Grand Chapter of England,” with which he associated the name of Comp. Warren.

Comp. Warren returned thanks. As an humble representative of the Grand Chapter of England, he felt gratified at the manner in which they had referred to that body, and at the same time he had personally to return thanks for the great kindness and hospitality which he had experienced at their hands since he had been in Scotland. Their excellent Principal Z. and Companion Arnott, he had long known by correspondence, and he was delighted with the opportunity which this visit to Scotland had afforded him of personal intercourse with them. He had observed that though there was a diversity between the English and Scotch working, the Scotch Chapters had preserved all the ancient landmarks and every essential portion of the ceremony; but in England, the Mark Masters degree had been struck out of the Arch and dispensed with in English Chapters, though it was said there were still charters in England under which that degree might be worked. There was a strong feeling, however, in favour of the legitimate re-introduction of the Mark Degree in England, and the subject had quietly, if not openly, been brought before members of the Grand Lodge; and in fact, two or three of the Grand Officers had actually gone so far as to have themselves initiated in the so-called Bon Accord M.M.M. Lodge, the authority of which was denied, simply to see what the degree was. Their opinions not having become publicly expressed, he could not reveal them, but he believed they were by no means of an unfavourable kind. (Hear, hear.) There was a growing feeling in favour of Freemasonry throughout England. He would very much like the workings of Masonry so to harmonize, that a brother might feel equally at home on entering a Lodge whether in England, Scotland, Ireland, France, or any other part of the globe. They had some differences, no doubt, in Scotland, which appeared novel and strange to the English Mason; they had also a custom of advancing candidates much more rapidly than was thought proper in England. But, as he had had no opportunity of fairly watching the influence of this practice, he should not venture to pronounce any decided opinion on the subject. He would only state the English practice was thought best for England, and he agreed in that opinion. There was, however, one point, on which there was no difference, either of opinion or of practice, and that was as to the manner in which they ought to receive strangers. (Cheers.) He had been delighted with the cordiality with which they had received him, and he could only say, that if any of them came to London, and asked for him at the Freemasons’ Tavern, he should be glad to welcome them, and he gave them this invitation in the name of the five or six Lodges and several Chapters to which he belonged (Cheers.)

The M.E.Z. then gave “The Grand Chapter of Ireland, and the Health of Companion Sharman.”

Companion Sharman returned thanks. In the absence of any one more intimately connected with Irish Masonry, it afforded him great pleasure to thank them for their good wishes to that portion of the Craft, as well as for the honour they had done him in associating his name with that excellent and respected body of men the Grand Chapter of Ireland; and for the general cordiality with which he had been received by

the members of the Glasgow Lodges, both when "tyled in," and when wandering about their beautiful country. As to the Mark Lodge, it appeared to be now admitted that the Bon Accord London M.M.M. Lodge was irregular, and must be discontinued. He hoped, however, that a legitimate Lodge in that Degree might soon be opened in London. Authority was the keystone upon which the safety of the Masonic Order depended, and it must be respected if that Order was to be long preserved. From the cordial manner in which Comp. Warren had taken up the subject in the *Masonic Mirror*—even before he was himself a Mark Master, and from the general tone of Masonic authorities in Scotland, he thought there was reason to hope, that soon there would be a Mark Lodge in London, legitimately constituted, respectably conducted, numerous attended, and powerful both in the numbers and the character of its members. (Hear, hear.)

The M.E.Z. then gave the Principal Grand Chapter for the West of Scotland, and Dr. Arnott, the P.G.Z. thereof.

Dr. Arnott returned thanks.—He had been proposed to the Office of P.G.Z. without his knowledge or consent; but he had yielded to the wishes of the Supreme Grand Chapter, and would do his best to fulfil the duties assigned to him. (Cheers.) He eulogised Chapter, No. 50, which he thought was one of the best in his district. He next referred to the great difficulty experienced in times, which he could well remember, in getting up meetings in this degree; and said he could recollect with regret a period when a candidate was often admitted for the sake of the fees, but this was, happily, no longer the case. (Hear.) Nor was there any need for such a state of things, as their funds were ample. (Cheers.) There was no excuse now for their regarding anything but the personal character of the candidates. (Applause.) He concluded by proposing "the health of their M.E.Z., Donald Campbell, and prosperity to the Glasgow Chapter No. 50," to which although they were in some sense toasting themselves (Loud laughter), he trusted they would all stand up. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

The M.E.Z., Donald Campbell, returned thanks. He could well recollect the period referred to by Comp. Dr. Arnott, when, instead of the goodly gathering of the evening, there were two or three of them waiting from eight till ten without correct or a sufficient number to open the Chapter. The date of that state of things was not very distant. Happily, now, they were in a different position, and so long as he had health and leisure he would devote it to the promotion of their prosperity. During the past year they had exalted 27 brethren, (cheers), during the previous year, only 17, and during the year before that, but 13 (hear, hear); for the three years before that period only 7 or 8. (Hear, hear). The Order was now beginning to take a vigorous stand, not through the labours of any particular individuals, but in consequence of the vigorous and united exertions of all the companions. (Cheers.)

Comp. Murdock proposed "The health of the retiring officers," who he said had worked with great zeal and ability.

Comp. Lyon returned thanks, but denied he was of a "retiring" disposition, inasmuch as he had just been appointed to office in the Provincial Grand Chapter. (Laughter). He was in fact, Treasurer of the Provincial Grand Chapter, and would have for the present charge of about enough to purchase pens, ink, and paper for summonses, (cheers), which he would direct his clerks to address and send round, with a great deal of pleasure. (Applause.)

Comp. White, in a brief speech, proposed the new office bearers, to which Comp. Mitchell responded, and expressed a hope that they would leave the Chapter to their successors, at least in as good a position as they found it on taking office.

"The Trustees of St. Mark's Hall," was the next toast, to which Comp. Notman responded in an appropriate speech.

Comp. McDonald proposed the health of the Second Principal.

Comp. Horne returned thanks. He expressed his gratitude for the attention and instruction for which he had in the past been indebted to Comps. Dr. Arnott and Donald Campbell; and hoped, with their and other assistance, to fulfil the duties of his new office with satisfaction to all concerned. (Hear, hear.)

"The Sister Chapters of the West of Scotland," was the next toast; followed by, "The Treasurer and Stewards of the Banquet," which was given by Comp. Lyon, in a very humorous speech.

Comp. Warren then proposed, "The Ladies, and Comp. Lyon," to which the worthy Companion replied, in a speech which elicited roars of laughter, from the assembled Companions.

Comp. Notman gave, "Prosperity to Chapter No. 50, and the health of the last axalted Companion, Forester," to which Comp. Forester returned thanks.

Comp. McDonald then sang a very beautiful Masonic song, entitled, "The Changes of Life."

Several Other Companions also favoured the Chapter with a little harmony.

Comp. Notman proposed, "All Poor and Distressed Masons," &c.

The M. E. Z. then closed the meeting in the usual way.

ROYAL ORDER.

A meeting of the members of this order (of which the King of Scotland—or Great Britain, when there is one, is always the Supreme head,) was held in St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow, on Tuesday last, the 25th Sept., when Br. H.G. Warren and Br. Wm. Forester were duly initiated into its mysteries and became knights of the Rosy Cross—a distinct Order from the Rose Croix, to which, however, its members by a recent arrangement, are entitled to be advanced at reduced fees. The ceremonies were ably performed by Br. Dr. Arnott, and Br. Donald Campbell.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MARK DEGREE.

SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Edinburgh, 21st Sept., 1855.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I annex, for your information, copy deliverance of this body in reference to the charge made against the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, in having improperly and illegally issued to certain parties in London a warrant for exercising the Mark Degree there, and remain,

Sir and Brother,

Your very obedient Servant,

WM. GAYLOR, G.S.N.

(Copy referred to.)

Edinburgh, 19th Sept., 1855.

It having been reported to the Supreme Chapter that no communication had been received from Companion Rattie, First Principal of the Bon Accord Chapter, Aberdeen, in answer to their former deliverance calling upon that Chapter to report that they had withdrawn the Mark warrant which had been improperly and illegally issued by them for constituting a Mark Master's Lodge in London, are unanimously of opinion that such conduct infers a want of respect towards the Supreme Body, and a refusal to comply with its decisions. They, therefore, as well on account of the irregularity which has been committed, as of this act of disobedience, suspend the said Chapter of Bon Accord, Aberdeen, from their privileges as a body of R.A. Masons, and until such time as effect shall have been given to the Order made upon them, and the warrant in question delivered up, in order to its being cancelled.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Aberdeen, Sept. 21st, 1855.

SIR,—Having seen a letter in your last number, from Scribe N., of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, Wm. Gaylor, will you permit me to reply to some statements which that letter contains, as they are not consistent with fact.

Scribe N. states, "if the Aberdeen Chapter is correct, and has been fulfilling its

obligations to the Mother Chapter, *Dr. Jones is not a member of it, and never received any degree whatever from that source, his name not appearing recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, which is the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy.* It is to be doubted, therefore, whether the others stand in any different position."

When I read this, I immediately wrote to Scribe N., requesting a list of members affiliated into the Bon Accord Chapter; also the list of office-bearers elected in 1854 (it should have been 1853). Upon the 13th, I received from Scribe N. a list of the Companions who had been exalted in the Chapter, along with a list of original members. Dr. Jones's name was not in either list, the office-bearers for 1854 were correctly given, but the answer for the list of 1853 was, that the return had not been filled up. I will transpose the extract from the letter above quoted, and without hesitation say, that the Supreme Chapter is not correct, that it has not been fulfilling its obligations to the daughter Chapters, that Dr. Jones is a member of the Bon Accord Chapter, that he received three degrees (Mark, Past, and Excellent), and must have done so before being affiliated into it, that his name does appear to be recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy. What are the facts of the case? Companion Jones was affiliated into the Chapter, Sept. 23rd, 1851; his name, along with the recording dues, was sent to the Supreme Chapter, January 23rd, 1852, for which *monies* we have a receipt signed by the Grand Treasurer, who at length sets forth that "Wm. Jones, of the Royal York Chapter, No. 7, of England," is recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, as a member of the Bon Accord Chapter, No. 70, Aberdeen; this, in my opinion, and I think Scribe N. will coincide with me, is *the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy.* And still further (to guard the character of my friend, the late Daniel Robertson, then Grand Treasurer), if Scribe N. will look at the accounts of the Supreme Chapter for the year 1851-52, he will find it published that a sum of money was paid by the Bon Accord Chapter, for recording the name of a Companion; the name of that Companion was Dr. Jones; how comes the name to be omitted from the record;—perhaps the "recording angel," having some slight prophetic compunction, "dropped a tear upon the word, and blotted it out for ever." Companion Jones was elected one of the office-bearers of the Chapter in 1853; how it happened that the annual return made by Chapter No. 70 that year was not filled up, I cannot say, but this I know, that it was the Grand Scribe's duty to see that it was filled up. As to the other members "forming the London Bon Accord," if you permit me in your next number, I will show you "*the glaring amount of ignorance displayed*" (his own words) by Scribe N., with reference to them, and of his knowledge of the laws and regulations of the Supreme Chapter. I think that I have already pointed out some facts which I hope will be of use to him in future, so that he may not be so very confident in his assertions, let him bear in mind that assertions are not facts, even when made by a Grand Scribe; such individuals are not infallible, as can be proved by the many errors which his letter contains, errors not entirely the fault of the printer.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RETTIE,

First Principal, Chapter No. 70.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—You will probably receive many comments on the very extraordinary letter of Comp. Gaylor, Scribe N. for Scotland, which appeared in your number for September, on the subject of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters.

It must be admitted that the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen has no power to grant warrants to hold Chapters or Lodges either in Scotland or elsewhere, and that the warrant granted by it to hold the London Bon Accord Lodge is a nullity. But the London Bon Accord Lodge is not on that account either a spurious or an illegal body. The Supreme Chapter of Scotland may, as long as it pleases, thunder forth its anathemas against the London Bon Accord Lodge. That Lodge is composed of a very large

body of men, occupying, many of them, the highest station in society, men of the greatest intelligence, capable of judging between right and wrong, and are, therefore, not likely to be swayed by the *ipse dixit* of any one. The majority are good working Masons, and very many of them of superior Masonic talent. They, on mature consideration, are of opinion, and insist that being, as they are, according to the constitutions, regular Mark Masters, meeting and working in strict conformity to the ancient landmarks, they are a perfectly legal and regular body, and need not, for their meeting in England, any warrant whatever. Indeed, there is not at present in existence any body authorized to grant them a warrant. The Supreme Chapter of Ireland or Scotland have no power to grant a warrant to hold a Chapter in England. They grant warrants to hold Chapters in the colonies, but they have no power to do so, and there is quite as much ground (perhaps more) for saying that Chapters meeting in the colonies under warrants granted by the Supreme Grand Chapters of Ireland and Scotland are spurious and illegal, as that the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters is so. But Companion Gaylor, from the tenor of his letter, would not have us think so. He evidently wishes us to believe, that if the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters had taken a warrant from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and paid the fees for it, all would have been correct, but the London Bon Accord Lodge unfortunately did not pay any fees to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and "*Hinc ille lachrymæ.*"

I think, however, that the London Bon Accord Lodge ought, without delay, to return the warrant to Companion Rettie, in order that it may be destroyed, and he be relieved from his present difficulty.

I am, Sir, and Brother,
Yours fraternally,

M. M.

20th Sept., 1855.

THE WIDOW'S FUND.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—There are many brethren who, like your correspondents of last month, deplore the limited means at the disposal of our Annuity Funds. I know many who would gladly exert themselves to promote the REAL OBJECT of the Charity—the relief of existing cases of distress—but their ardour is damped by the reflection that no such object could be gained; that nearly the whole of the results of their exertions, instead of being available for the pressing exigencies of the present, would be engulphed by the "Permanent Fund."

It is much to be regretted that there should be any obstacle to active co-operation in support of this excellent Institution, whilst so many brethren are crying for help. The Widows' Annuity Fund is limited to £4,000 (and that is a large sum), which is a practical recognition by the Grand Lodge itself of the principle of limitation; which appears to be as applicable to the one Charity as to the other. It is the general opinion of those conversant with such subjects, that the Fund should not be allowed to accumulate beyond £10,000; and by many that £8,000 would be amply sufficient for the purposes for which it is intended. I think, therefore, that it should be limited to one of these amounts, or increased only by Bequests, so that all Donations and Subscriptions may be afterwards applied to meet the claims as they arise.

I have no doubt that the rejection of so many candidates has deeply excited the sympathies of the Craft, and trust that it will lead to earnest endeavours on their part to prevent the recurrence of such painful results. Knowing by personal experience what may be done by individual exertion, I would strongly urge the more energetic amongst the Fraternity to do their utmost to stimulate less active brethren to subscribe to these charities, and to solicit donations and subscriptions from others. I am convinced that if the subject were to be properly agitated, and the principle of limitation adopted, such a sum would be annually raised as would render the Fund adequate to the relief of the necessities of all proper applicants, and thus entirely sweep away the

system of elections, which I cannot but regard as antagonistic to the principles of our Order. In aid of which, and as an humble example to brethren generally, I pledge myself, to continue to collect not less than £10 per annum in favour of one or both of these Funds; and if only one member of each of the 125 London Lodges would do the like, the sum of £1,250 would be raised (independent of the subscription of each Lodge itself); and if the same course were adopted in the 429 country Lodges, at only £5 each, the large sum of £2,295 would be added, being a total of £3,545 per annum.

I am, dear Sir, and Brother,

Faithfully and Fraternaly yours,

SAMUEL ALDRICH.

Hampstead, 20th August, 1855.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Clerkenwell, 20th August, 1855.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I observe that in your latter numbers of the above work, are inserted communications on this important subject, complaining of the present difficulties under which our institutions are labouring, but not pointing out a removal or a remedy.

I therefore submit, that as we register about 900 Lodges, under the English constitution, and averaging ten members only to each, that the Lodges as a body contribute two guineas, and individual members averaging five shillings per head (say by 1st December next), would realise over £5,000. This I consider a minimum. Let it be done for the next ten years, would = £50,000: divided between the charities, would give each £12,500. This subscription not to interfere with the annual festivals.

The method of collection to be as follows:—On appeal from the M.W.G.M. to the several Provincial G. Masters, and from thence to the Masters of Lodges in the Provinces, who shall make the collections, and return the same to the Provincial Grand Masters or their Deputies, and by them transmitted to Br. White, Grand Secretary, Freemasons' Hall, London.

I humbly conceive by this very moderate claim on the Fraternity, the charities will be placed on a respectable footing.

Fraternaly yours,

AN OLD P.M. AND SUBSCRIBER.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER.

THE COURT.

Her Majesty, after her return from her auspicious visit to the Emperor of the French, remained with the other members of the royal family and Court at Osborne, until the 5th inst., when they left that marine residence for the Highlands of Scotland. They stopped that evening in Buckingham Palace, and started the next morning for the North *via* the Great Northern Railway from King's Cross. By some neglectful oversight on the part of the officials of that line, the wheels of the royal carriage were inadequately oiled, in consequence of which the axle got hot, and so heated the saloon, that when the train approached Darlington, it became necessary for her Majesty's comfort, if not for her personal safety, to remove her to an ordinary first-class carriage. The royal party lunched at York, and proceeded at once from that city to Edinburgh, where they spent the night in the ancient palace of Holyrood. In the morning Prince Albert inspected the progress of the building, of which he a few years since laid the corner stone, and which is intended as a National Gallery for the Modern Athens. In the afternoon the Court left Holyrood for Balmoral, where her

Majesty has since been enjoying the fresh air of her northern dominions, and Prince Albert amusing himself with deer stalking, and other field-sports, in which the Prince of Prussia, who has been Her Majesty's guest since the 14th, has participated.

THE WAR.

Last month we had to record the successful attack of the fleets, upon the fortification, of Sweaborg, but now we have with pride and exultation, to record the storming and capture of Sebastopol, together with the seizure of the immense stores of cannon, gun-powder, and projectiles left behind them, by the enemy. We have also to state that a squadron, consisting of ships from the fleets of the Allies, paid a visit to Petropaulovski, which they found deserted by the inhabitants and garrison. They completely destroyed it. These glorious events have not, however, been unattended by heavy losses on the part of the Allies, both in officers, and non-commissioned officers, and privates. On the part of the English, no general officer was slain, but the same pall, which England sorrowing, throws over the slain before Sebastopol, covers the body of a veteran of the last war, the gallant Lieutenant-General Sir George Napier, one of the three brave sons of the "Lass of Richmond Hill," and brother to our revered brother in Masonry, the late Sir Charles Napier, the conqueror of Scinde, and to General Sir Wm. Napier, the historian of the Peninsular War.

COMMERCIAL.

On the 28th of August, the proprietors of the Sambre and Meuse Railway met, and allowed 9169*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, the profits of the line, (now open throughout), for the last half year, to remain in the hands of the Directors, to enable them to meet some of the liabilities of the Company.

On the same day, the proprietors of the Newry and Enniskillen line, by a large majority, rejected the report of the Directors. The receipts of the line for the six months, ending the 30th of June, amounted to 1344*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure to 701*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, leaving in hand a balance of 643*l.* 15*s.*, out of which the Directors recommended a dividend of one shilling per share.

The General Steam Navigation Company, also met on this day, and divided 14*s.* per share, a dividend equivalent to 10 per cent.

The British Telegraph Company also met on this day, and empowered to raise additional capital to the extent of £66,000 on preferential stock, to bear 7 per cent. if terminable in 5 years, or 5 per cent in perpetuity.

This day too, the proprietors of the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton line held their half yearly meeting, and after dividing 2 per cent. on their preferential stock, authorized the Directors to enter into arrangements with the London and North Western and Midland Counties for the working of the line. They also empowered them to raise the sum of £49,000 by mortgage on the Stourbridge Canals, and agreed to consolidate into the Company's Stock, the shares of the Chipping Norton Branch.

On the 29th, the English, Scotch and Australian Bank declared a dividend of 4 per cent., and carried £240 to the Reserve Fund.

On the same day, the Southampton Dock Company divided 17*s.* 6*d.* per share, out of the profits of the last half year, being equivalent to 3½ per cent. per annum. The accounts showed an increase of 4173*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, on the receipts of the half year, over those of the corresponding six months of 1854.

The North Devon Railway Company met the same day, and divided 3*s.* 9*d.* per share of £20, and 3*s.* on each £16 share, carrying 172*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* to the revenue account of the current six months.

At the Ambergate and Boston Railway Company's meeting, also held on this day, a dividend of 2*s.* 2*d.* per share, was declared.

The Vale of Neath Company, the same day, declared a dividend of 3*l.* 15*s.* per cent.

On the 30th, the Australian Investment Company, at a special meeting, increased the amount of their capital from £50,000 to £100,000, and raised the amount of

their shares from £1 to £10 each, in order to come within the scope of the Limited Liability Act.

At the meeting of the South Eastern Company, held the same day, the Directors reported an increase of £10,066 in the receipts of the half year, and recommended a dividend of 8s. 6d. per share. A resolution condemnatory of the Parliamentary treatment of railway property was agreed to, and power given to the Directors to convert £1,000,000 out of the bonded debt of the Company, into Debenture Stock.

On the same day, the South Devon Directors reported to their constituents an increase of 2540*l.* 5s. 0½*d.* in their receipts for the last half year, chiefly occasioned by the conveyance of troops and military stores. They declared a dividend at the rate of 5s. 6d. per share.

The Dublin and Drogheda Company met the same day, and 30s. per old share of £75, and 10s. per £25 share was declared.

On the 31st, the Eastern Counties' Company held their half yearly meeting on which occasion a committee of the shareholders was appointed to inquire into the management of the company. A dividend at the rate of 4s. 6d. per share was declared out of the profits, leaving £1745 13s. 2*d.* to be carried to the account of the next six months.

The allied companies, namely, the Eastern Union and the Norfolk, met the same day, the former divided six per cent. on each £100, A. share, and four per cent. on each £100, B. share. The latter declared a dividend of £1 5s. per cent. for the half year, on the ordinary stock of the Company.

Mr. Talbot, M.P., as chairman of the South Wales Company, explained at the meeting of the shareholders held this day, that by the award of Sir William Cubitt, the Company paid fully thirty per cent. too much for locomotive power to the Great Western Company, so that they were in that position, that any increase of traffic, so long as the award was in force, would be a loss to them. A dividend of three per cent. per annum, was declared.

The same day, the shareholders of the Somerset (Central Line) divided four per cent., and those of the South Yorkshire and River Don four per cent. on their guaranteed, and £1 10s. per share on their ordinary capital.

The Llynvey Valley Company also met this day, and divided four per cent.

At the meeting of the Dundalk and Enniskillen shareholders, also held this day, a dividend at the rate of 6s. per share was declared.

On the 5th of September, the Submarine Telegraph Company met, and reported that the receipts for the half year had been 8382*l.* 16s. 11*d.*, the disbursements had been 2937*l.* 19s., so that there remained a balance of 5444*l.* 17s. 11*d.*, available for a dividend; one of 6 per cent., was declared, being a reduction of one per cent. on the last one.

At an adjourned meeting of the Thames Haven Railway and Dock Company, for the purpose of declaring the state of a poll taken on the proposition for selling the Company's surplus land at Thames Haven, a great majority was opposed to the proposition and in favor of the Company proceeding at once with the construction of the docks, for which purpose, a call of 5s. per share was agreed to.

The Lancaster and Yorkshire proprietors also met to-day and divided four per cent. There had been on the line an increase of the traffic to the extent of about 2½ per cent. over that of the corresponding six months of last year, and a decrease in the working expenses from 44 per cent. to 42 per cent.

On the 6th, the Bank of England raised the interest from 3½ to 4 per cent.

On the 7th, the Midland Great Western of Ireland Railway Company divided their profits at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, carrying £3,682 9*¢.* 7*d.* to the Reserve Fund, which now amounts to £30,000, and leaving a surplus of £5,165 8s. 11*d.*

On the 13th, the Shropshire Union Company reported their net profits for the half year to amount to £18,712, out of which they divided £2 7s. 6d. per cent.

PROVIDENT.

The Norwich Life Assurance Society lately published a report of the progress of their business for the last eighteen months, from which it appeared, that in 1854, they paid policies to the amount of £162,144 13s. 7d., which had become claimed by reason of the deaths of the assured, together with £33,372 5s. 9d., the aggregate amount of the bonuses upon them. They also paid £5,288 3s. 10d. for the surrender of policies assuring £28,995. Within the same period some of the assured allowed policies insuring £44,179 9s. to lapse. The number of policies in force thus became to be decreased to the aggregate value of £235,319 2s. 7d. The new business for the year consisted of 609 policies insuring £313,569 7s. 3d., and yielding a premium income of £10,187 5s. 7d. per annum, being an increase of the insurances in force of no less than £78,250 4s. 8d. For the first six months of the present year the new policies numbered 587, insuring £275,183 10s. 2d., at the annual premium of 9,335l. 0s. 1d. The policies in force on the 30th of June, were in number 8,510, and they insured the sum of £5,402,075.

On the 4th of September, the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company declared a dividend of 4 per cent., and resolved to assure against accidents of every description.

On the 7th, the Conservative Land Society held its annual meeting. The Society has already sold land to the value of 114,336l. 10s. The rights of choice have invariably been sold at a considerable premium.

BENEVOLENT.

Connected with the benevolent institutions of the Metropolis, the most remarkable circumstances of the month, have been the rural fete, given to the children of the St. Ann's Asylum, and the magnificent bequest of the late Mrs. Harriet Richardson, of 12,000l. to the Institution for Aged and Distressed Governesses.

On the 4th, at the quarterly court of the Philanthropic Society, the Secretary stated, that during the last three months, 40 boys had been admitted into the Society's Reformatory, and 52 discharged from it, of whom 35 emigrated, 12 were provided with employment, and 5 either deserted or were discharged as incorrigible.

On the 13th, at the 4th annual meeting of the friends of the Sailors' Home at Portsmouth, it was stated that the deposits of the sailors, which, during the first year the institution was open, amounted only to 649l. 10s. 3d., last year reached the sum of 3411l. 19s. 9½d. The first year there had been 418 boarders, and last year 919. The same proportion appeared in the number of casual meals served, and in the other statistical items, shewing the growing usefulness of the establishment.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 23th of August, a frightful murder was discovered at Cudham, near Bromley. The assassin, supposed to be a ticket-of-leave convict, entered a cottage with the object of robbing it, but being opposed by the wife of its owner, he brutally murdered her, and savagely beat an old woman, the husband's mother.

The Overland Mail, received the same day, brought the intelligence of a shocking scene of bloodshed, perpetrated in a road near Canton, where some hundreds of the Chinese rebels were put to death by decapitation, as a punishment for their disaffection. The same mail also brought tidings of a dangerous insurrection of the Santals, a people inhabiting the Razmahal territory, in the Bengal Presidency. The outbreak has been attributed to tyrannical rule on the part of the servants of the East India Company.

The Birmingham Musical Festival in aid of the funds for the support of the General Hospital, commenced this day, and closed upon the 31st. The total receipts amounted to 11,537l. 5s. 3d., being an increase of 898l. 16s., on those of last year.

On the 29th, a coroner's jury at Dover, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against the officers in charge of the "Vivid," a steam vessel belonging to the Dover, Calais, and Ostend Company, which had, as mentioned in our summary last month, run down

a collier outside Dover Harbour, on the night of the 11th of August, whereby the captain and some others were drowned.

On the same day, a train ran over the body of a child, who had strayed upon the South Western line, near Guildford.

On the 30th, the Lords of the Admiralty, accompanied by the Home Secretary, paid an official visit to Cork Harbour, and inspected the works at Haulbowline, and the convict establishment at Spike Island.

The South London Floricultural Society closed the season with a magnificent flower show at Cremorne Gardens.

There was also on this day a formal meeting of the Convocation of the province of Canterbury. The Chambers only met for the purpose of adjournment.

An accident of a very distressing character, occurred this day in Haversham Bay, resulting in the death of three young men, pupils of the scientific school there, who, while bathing, were carried by a ground swell, into deep waters, and drowned.

On the 31st, Isabella Mary Jolly, was committed from the Westminster Police Court, charged with the murder of her mother at Brompton, of which mention was made in our summary of last month.

The same day died Feargus O'Connor, late Member for Nottingham, and for a long time previously to his being afflicted with lunacy, a distinguished popular leader. The unfortunate man died in circumstances of great distress. The working classes in large numbers attended his remains to Kensal Green Cemetery, on the 10th ult., and by subscription among themselves, defrayed the expenses of his funeral.

On the 1st of September, the Rt. Hon. Sir J. Graham, Bart., cut the first sod of a branch of the Port Carlisle line to Sillioth Bay.

On the same day, Sir Charles Napier made public the correspondence which passed between himself while in command of the Baltic fleet, and the Rt. Hon. Baronet, Sir James Graham, as First Lord of the Admiralty.

Several accidents took place on this day. By one, a gas explosion in his house, Chapel Street, Park Lane, Mr. Temple lost upwards of £40,000 worth of paintings and articles of *vertu*.

A fire the same evening, burnt down the extensive premises of Mr. Thacker, in Dame Street, Dublin.

A gentleman was drowned by the upsetting of a boat in the Thames, near Putney. A search was immediately made for the body, but without avail. Eight days afterwards it was found entangled in the piles for the erection of the new bridge, Westminster. Two brothers, named Lester, were also drowned this day, at Broad Pill, in Somersetshire.

On the 2nd, a painful discovery was made at Bath, and a spendthrift of the name of Thomas Lutton, was happily detected in the parricidal attempt of slowly poisoning Mr. Charles Lutton, a respectable citizen of that city.

On the 3rd, the Mayor of Worcester presided at a public meeting of the inhabitants of that city, at which resolutions condemnatory of capital punishment were agreed to.

On the same day, a meeting of the inhabitants of Derby, expressed themselves anxious to have the restoration of Poland, a condition of any treaty of peace with Russia.

The return of the humane and benevolent Mrs. Bracebridge from the Military Hospitals in the East, was celebrated with great rejoicings at Atherston.

There was a boiler explosion at Preston, whereby one man lost his life. A verdict of Manslaughter was returned by the Coroner's jury against the Engineer.

On the 4th, there appeared in the morning papers an account of the investiture of Omer Pacha, at Constantinople, by the English Ambassador, with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath.

A coroner's jury, the same day, returned a verdict of Manslaughter, against a soldier named John Neal, who, in a quarrel, killed a fellow soldier, named Adriad Williams, in Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth.

On the 5th, the Canterbury Transport was lost off the Rock of Lisbon. The crew and passengers all escaped.

The Early Closing Association commenced its winter campaign, with a public meeting at Exeter Hall.

On the 6th, the assessors appointed by the Crown, commenced their labours in laying out the wards of the Metropolis agreeably with the provisions of the Metropolitan Local Management Bill.

The ticket-of-leave man, supposed to be the miscreant who committed the frightful murder at Cudham, near Bromley, was this day apprehended near the Forest of Dean.

At the Cutlers' feast at Sheffield, it was resolved to get up a testimonial of the public services of Mr. Roebuck, M. P.

A young man, named Payne, committed suicide by suspending himself by a cord, from the ventilator in one of the first class carriages, on the line between Nottingham and Derby.

On the 8th, a passenger on board a steamer from Jersey to Southampton, fell down the hold while in a state of intoxication, and was killed.

An attempt was made by a man named Bellemare to assassinate the Emperor Napoleon, but happily failed.

News was also this day received of the re-commencement of the bombarding of Sebastopol, and the retreat of the enemy from Petropaulovski.

On the 9th, it was telegraphed from the Crimea that the French had bravely stormed the Malakoff, and that the English had been repelled from the Redan.

On the 10th, a library, for the use of Compositors, was opened in Racquet Court, Fleet Street.

On the 11th, Prince Napoleon visited the dockyards at Portsmouth.

The same day, Sir George Brown was entertained at a public dinner by the inhabitants of Elgin, on his return from the Crimea.

The extensive building premises of Mr. Baker, Bishop's Walk, Lambeth, were entirely consumed.

On the 12th, Sir John Dean Paul, Strahan, and Co., were fully committed for embezzlement. Bail was however taken for their appearance at the Old Bailey.

The Duke of Argyll, in an eloquent speech, opened, at Glasgow, the session of the British Association for the advancement of Science.

In the evening of the same day, there occurred a fearful collision on the Reading branch of the South Eastern Railway, resulting in the death of 5 persons, and in the serious injury of a great many others. A pilot engine travelling on the wrong rails, ran into a passenger train. One of the killed was the engine driver of the pilot engine, against whom the coroner's jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter.

On the 13th, Lord Palmerston in reply to an address presented to him by the inhabitants of Melbourne, Derbyshire, triumphantly pointed to the success of his ministry in the vigorous conduct of the war.

The same day, Pulling, the man accused of the Bromley murder, was committed to Maidstone gaol, on the charge. And a brewer, of the name of Payne, resident at Chelsea, and their clerk, John Waller, were also committed to prison, charged with gross conspiracy and fraud.

On the 14th, the Lord Mayor was entertained at a banquet, by the corporation and inhabitants of Congleton.

Great disgust was excited in Camden-town, by the closing of St. Martin's Cemetery, Pratt-street, for building purposes.

On the 15th, the Lord Lieutenant visited the camp at the Curragh of Kildare.

On the 16th, the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, nephew of the late Cardinal Weld, was consecrated bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Clifton, by His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman.

On the 17th, the coroner's inquest, to inquire into the death of the little girl, whose murder, at Bristol, was mentioned in our last number, closed without having come to any satisfactory solution of the mystery in which the affair is enveloped.

On the 18th, Mr. H. Coe Coape was acquitted, at the Old Bailey, of the charge of obtaining 4,000*l.* on false pretences.

On the 19th, Sir John Dean Paul, and Messrs. Strahan and Bates, surrendered to their bail. Their trial was, on the application of counsel, postponed until next sessions.

Lord Carlisle turned the first sod of the Killarney Railway.

The 20th, the anniversary of the battle of Alma was kept with great rejoicing.

The only other event of the month worthy of record, was the visit of Lord Stanley to his father's estates in Tipperary, where he adopted the principle so tersely enunciated by the late Mr. Drummond, when Under Secretary of that country, "Property has its duties as well as its rights."

AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

The English Opera at Drury Lane, the Legerdemain of Professor Anderson, the Wizard of the North, at the Lyceum, and the magnificent spectacle of the Storming of Sebastopol at Cremorne Gardens, maintained their popularity during the whole of the past month.

On the 30th of August, "*Victorine or I'll Sleep on it*," was, after lying by for some years past, re-produced at the Adelphi; and on the 18th, there was brought out at the Haymarket, a new piece of great humour entitled *The Man of Many Friends*. It is from the pen of that indefatigable writer for the stage Mr. Stirling Coyne.

Mr. Phelps has re-opened Sadler's Wells for the performance of the legitimate drama, and has revived the play of the *Tempest*, himself supporting the character of the banished Duke, and a young *debutante* of great promise, that of Miranda.

There has been another revival in the way of amusements, but one of somewhat less histrionic interest. Mr. T. Smith, the spirited and enterprising lessee of Drury Lane Theatre, has, for two weeks, given a galvanized existence to Vauxhall Gardens.

Mr. Albert Smith, on his 1155th appearance, closed for the season, his Ascent of Mont Blanc; and Mr. Love has discontinued his entertainments. Mr. Charles Kean, too, closed the season at the Princesses, with the performance of *Henry the Eighth*.

NOTICES.

TO OUR READERS.

Our country friends will continue to receive their copies of the "Masonic Mirror," through the post for Seven-pence 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. 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.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Annual Subscribers are respectfully informed, that their subscriptions close with the present number. The first volume will be completed with the 14th number, in order that our second volume may commence with the new year—when many important improvements are contemplated. Brethren wishing to complete their volumes, are requested to make early applications for back numbers, some of which, are nearly out of print.

TO THE TRADE.

The trade are requested to notice, that in future the "Masonic Mirror" will be published at No. 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our correspondents are earnestly requested to address their future communications to the editor, to No. 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street. Br. Barton will continue to receive advertisements at his office, 2, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, as usual.

We are requested to state that Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox, the G. Chaplain, has no connection with the "Freemason's Monthly Magazine," and that he has not had any connection with it since March last.

O. P.—*Edmund Kean, the tragedian, was a Freemason, and was initiated in St. Mark's Lodge, Glasgow, in 1817.*

B. J. S.—*We should say not.*

R. T.—*Let us see the paper.*

A. B. C., York.—*You are eligible to sit in G. Lodge.*

Br. F., No. 389, Carlisle.—*A Provincial G. Lodge is held in the first degree. The Provincial Grand Officers hold their offices until their successors are appointed, and the P. G. M. or his Deputy, does not do his duty if he does not hold a G. Lodge, and appoint new officers annually. We should think that the P. G. L. of Cumberland must be on the eve of being held. The G. M. of the Province, Sir James Graham, has not done his duty for years; and, were strict justice done, he would have been long since removed. One Br., whom we believe to be a sincere Mason, was deprived of his office of P. G. M. for being too zealous, and we could wish that the principle was carried a little further, and those P. G. M.'s dismissed who do not attend to their duties; Cumberland and Sussex would then, ere long, have new G. M.'s. So soon as we see this system put in operation, we will readily assist the G. M. by pointing out a few more who never attend to the duties they have undertaken.*

B. B., Dorsetshire, asks whether equal justice is meted out to all the brethren, and whether, if Br. Tucker was properly deprived of his office of P. G. M. for advocating Knight Templarism, Lord Leigh can be permitted to hold the office of G. M. for Wawickshire, he being the Master of an illegal Lodge of Mark Masons not even holding a Charter from the body they profess to work under—the G. Chapter of Scotland.

ADOLPHUS.—*You are too young. No person is admitted into the Order in England until he is twenty-one years of age, excepting by special dispensation, which we do not see any reason for being granted in your case. Were you about to proceed abroad in the service of your country, and wished to be made a Mason before leaving, there would be good ground for a dispensation being applied for, and it would, no doubt, be readily granted.*

R. S. S. should explain himself at greater length. *We do not understand the question.*

A YOUNG MASON.—*The book to which you allude is a vile imposture.*

EDWARD L.—MANCHESTER.—*Preston's Illustrations of Freemasonry may be obtained of Br. Spencer, High Holborn. In our opinion, it would be a great improvement if every Lodge had a Masonic Library attached to it.*

AN OLD P. M. will have no reason to complain in the coming season. *The Freemasons' Tavern is undergoing repairs, and being most elegantly decorated throughout the whole of the rooms.*

JAMES R.—*Where and when were you initiated?*

Through accident the last portion of the letter of Comp. Gaylor in last month's "Mirror," was put to press without being corrected. Amongst other errors apparent to the reader, the name of Brother Massey Dawson was rendered Br. Brassej Dawson. Absence from England prevented our exercising our usual supervision on the occasion.

BLACKBURN.—*In consequence of the change in our Publishing Office, from Wellington St. to No. 2, Red Lion Court, Fleet St., the communication of our Blackburn Correspondent, and perhaps those of others also, has gone astray.*

R. S. is too personal. *We cannot publish Libels for the gratification of private spleen.*

We do not know where you can get a list of Knight Templar Encampments, but will make inquiry on the subject.