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GRAND LODGE was presided over by the G.M. Bro. MASON objected to the vote of confidence in the G.M. proposed by Sir L. CURTIS in September, appearing on the minutes, on the ground of its irregularity, no notice having been given of it. The "antient landmark" in this instance however was, as might be expected, considered unimportant.

The G.M. announced that he had received official intelligence by the union of the two Grand Lodges in Canada, and moved the recognition of that united body.

Bro. DOBIE, Lord CARNARVON and others, suggested that it was inconsistent with the dignity of G.L. and the importance of the subject, that any formal step should be taken before the official communications alluded to had been laid before them. And the Rev. Bro. PORTAL moved a resolution to that effect, which at the request of the G.M. he withdrew, and the motion was agreed to; as was also a proposition by Bro. HAVERS that the G.M. should communicate to the Canadians the resolution of G.L. After the late effusions from the GRAND SECRETARY'S office, we are thankful that there is thus the prospect of a gentlemanly despatch at parting.

Bro. HAVERS brought forward a plan for the erection of larger and more convenient premises in Great Queen Street, upon which a long discussion followed.

Bro. WHITMORE was anxious that the consideration of this important question should not be left entirely in the hands of the Board of General Purposes, and proposed that six other Members of G.L. qualified by their position and occupations, should be appointed with them for the purpose of reporting to G.L. He was proceeding to consult with his friends upon the names most fitting to be placed upon such a list, when he was interrupted by Bro. HAVERS, who with his usual taste, accused Bro. WHITMORE and those with whom he was engaged in conversation, of a party purpose in their deliberation. This offensive "impertinence" as it was afterwards well termed by Bro. PORTAL, resulted in Lord CARNARVON leaving his seat, and walking out of G.L.

A good deal of somewhat personal discussion followed, and ultimately, the report of the Board was agreed to, after a refusal of the G.M. to put the amended list of Bro. WHITMORE.

G.L. was closed at Twelve p.m.

SINCE poor humanity succumbed to its first temptation in Paradise, mundane happiness has only existed in a state of imperfection—communities under various forms of government—societies under various regulations—have at different stages of the world's history aimed at a realization of perfect felicity, all with the same result—failure and disappointment. Even Masonry, happily constituted as it is, and admirably adapted to the requirements of the human heart, has fallen short of the desired end, though we believe it has done more than any institution of mere earthly origin in promoting the welfare of mankind. The chief reason of this, and that which constitutes its greatest charm, is its comprehensiveness. Ignoring all distinctions of creed and race, Masonry ranges under its banners men of every nation, tongue, and kindred, the G.A.O.T.U., their only adoration, their only object the good of their fellow men. In the sequestered retreats afforded by the Lodges pleasant trysting sports after the distracting cares and anxieties incidental to worldly pursuits—they meet, secure from the intrusion of all topics which may irritate or disturb. At the Banquet board they enjoy a temperate conviviality, and then any little asperities which may have occurred in the hard "battle of life" are softened, hand meets hand in the grasp of fraternal affection, and kindling animosities subside into brotherly amity. This sketch represents Masonry as it ought to be, and as it would be were all her sons "worthy of the vocation with which they are called." Alas! that such is not the case! Hardly, however is it to be expected that it should be so. The Masonic Lodge may clothe, but not always conceal the failings of human nature; may correct, but not invariably destroy, its errors. The love of display—the cravings of ambition—the desire for power—the yearning after popular applause—may lead a brother into courses which the better judgment cannot approve, nor charity herself overlook. Thus far our Homily—now for its application. On Friday, Nov. 26th, the Emulation Lodge of Improvement held high festival in Freemason's Hall, some two or three hundred Brethren being assembled, representing various Lodges in London and in the Provinces, and entertaining varying views and opinions on every conceivable subject. Bro. Jno. HAVERS, P.G.D. President of the Board of General Purposes occupied the chair as W.M. Taking advantage of his position and professing a desire to add his "mite of instruction" to the proceedings of the evening, Bro. HAVERS dilated at great length on the excellencies of the Institution and the duties of its

members. Apparently flinging to the winds, all other considerations save that of propagating his own ideas, and advancing his own interests and importance, he then introduced to the notice of the audience what he was pleased to term the "dissensions from within" and which he told them constituted the greatest danger to which Masonry is exposed. With all the accompaniments of elevated voice—excited gesture—and deficient manners—the speaker went on to hint his denunciations against all and every of those who declined to bow the knee to the idol he had set up. Such idol, being certain ideas and opinions which met with an eloquent and powerful exponent in Bro. HAYERS; every one who has the hardihood to dissent therefrom subjecting himself to be held up to the odium of his brethren as "a recreant" and "a traitor." That there should be no mistake on the subject, "GRAND LODGE" was specifically named, in which it is well known differences of opinion at present exist on several questions vitally affecting the interests of the fraternity, there being numbered amongst those who do not agree with Bro. HAYERS many who are not one whit less devoted to the cause of Masonry, or one whit less loyal towards constitutional authority than himself. Much dissatisfaction was expressed, we are given to understand, at the time, and many brethren have since objected to the course pursued. Of what avail is it to speak in dulcet accents of the blessings of unity, and the beauties of fraternal affection, if these are immediately followed by irritating allusions and by words of studied aggravation? With what consistency can Bro. HAYERS set up as a censor of morals and conduct, while sinning against every canon of propriety and good taste by committing a breach of those principles and precepts the practice of which he so ostentatiously advocates?

In the world of politics, diversity of sentiment on questions of public policy rarely, if ever, are permitted to interfere with private friendship; and this, simply because their discussion is confined to their own peculiar arena, and not permitted at the convivial assembly, or at the social reunion. So should it be with us. May the time be far distant when the hallowed precincts of our private Lodges, and the joyous occasions of our festive gatherings, shall be subject to the intrusion of the demon of strife, assume what shape he may—even that of an angel, fair to outward seeming.

It is in the sincerity of this aspiration, and with the desire, while boldly advocating the rights of free discussion, to preserve the consideration of certain subjects for fitting opportunities, that we protest against the introduction at such a time, of such expressions and such topics as those which marred the excellence, and destroyed the effect, of an otherwise admirable address. As in doing this we are not without some fear, that if we have not attached an undue importance to the event, we have magnified the consequence of the speaker.

One parting word. We wish Bro. Havers would take a little of his own advice, and borrow for a time his neighbour's glass. At present, we feel assured that he sees everything through a jaundiced medium. So

satisfied is he with the view afforded by his old antiquated instrument, that he obstinately persists in declining to avail himself of the proffered use of his neighbour's, with its modern improvements and superior advantages—contenting himself with depreciating that which he will not enjoy, and with condemning that which he cannot comprehend.

Let Bro. Havers school himself into the adoption of a more conciliatory demeanour—let him come to admit the possibility of the views and opinions of others being now and then as valuable as his own—of their motives being as pure, and their integrity as unimpeached—and he shall not lack the tribute of our meed of acknowledgment of the genuineness of his professions, and the honesty of his purpose!

Bro. Havers' conduct in Grand Lodge on 1st instant, was a strange comment on the better portion of his lecture of the previous Friday!

DURING the brief but eventful career of this periodical we have been continually exposed to the common lot of those who fearlessly discharge their duty—the most unfair criticism and unbounded abuse. And this Billingsgate system of opposition has of late, it seems, been the staple of official lecturing at Provincial meetings, where the bitterest gull that sycophancy could supply, and a considerable disregard of truth, have been the weapons employed in our immolation.

On the 24th of last Sept., the V.W.G. Reg. assisted by the Pres. of the Board of General Purposes, presided at the banquet of the Prov. G.L. of Suffolk. The speaking department, at all events of the Executive, was well represented, but what was the subject doomed to loose such mighty tongues? The men of war at all events, were mighty, but where was the object of their steel?

From a lengthy account in the *Masonic Mirror* whose Editor, we rejoice to see, shared in the hospitalities of the evening, we learn that the unrepresented *Observer* was the annihilated victim (oh! manly victory) of Bro. ROXBURGH's high-spirited charge; that we formed (oh! hard-earned glory) the *spolia opima* of Bro. HAYERS' self-decreed triumph. How Bro. WARREN's new supporters, studiously violating the principles of masonry can further ignore the rules of gentlemanly criticism; how stooping to scurrilous misrepresentation of our objects and our conduct they can condescend to a policy of fulsome adulation in his favour, is the matter we have gleaned from his report of the Suffolk dinner. Our readers may occasionally in their metropolitan wanderings have met with processions of hireling advertisers cased in boards of announcements in prominent type. They may have acquiesced in the utility, but can hardly have been impressed with the dignity, of these peripatetic puff-sandwiches. Nor does such an occupation appear to us to be one laudably adopted by brethren in the positions of Bros. ROXBURGH and HAYERS. We must not, selfishly speaking, complain of their advertising mania, for although they affect to assume that these papers are unread, we flatter ourselves that a truer

appreciation of their circulation is afforded by the experiences of the office, and a more correct view of their future prospects by the well known literary axiom that the surest pass-port to a work's success is the abuse of untrustworthy critics.

It is however we think questionable whether the reputation of the M.W.G.M. be really heightened by the Pœans of praise his immediate advisers are so perpetually offering him, coupled with virulent denunciation of those who may have occasion to oppose his measures. He can speak boldly enough and well enough for himself. There is no occasion that his words should be so mercilessly plagiarized in the after dinner speeches of indiscriminating placemen. He is known throughout England as an amiable and kind-hearted man who has indentified himself with the sports of his country, and passed with unblemished reputation through the trying ordeal of turf associations; still, though we may join in the cheer of satisfaction which greets the triumph of the Zetland spots at Epsom or at Doncaster, we take liberty to regard the Grand Master of England as one whose conduct in his high office may lawfully be criticised in these columns. We shall never in tacit submission to the mandates of two of his officers, cease to protest against wrong doing; they for their part will do well to ask their consciences how often the cabinet has been morally responsible for the errors of the throne, and to stand out boldly in their own defence, instead of thrusting forward a popular nobleman to shield them from the reproaches they may feel they have deserved, and the ignoring they may be justified in fearing.

Sparingly and gently we would speak of Bro. WARREN. But where we do not reproach, we must not be taken as admiring.

We seek not to penetrate the *arena* of the journalist's speculations but, we do him the justice to believe that his present connexion with the periodical he has of late conducted is not a commanding or close one. A lapse from independence of thought and expression to the reverse is generally gradual; where the change is sudden some external and powerful agency has been at work. Bro. WARREN indignantly repudiates the performance of an acrobat feat ascribed to him by a humorous correspondent of the *Observer*, and we are inclined to accept his denial; for an automaton can hardly be said *actively* to have performed an evolution, when the strings have been pulled behind the curtain, nor perhaps should that helmsman of the fourth estate be accused of designed treachery whose bark has been charmed from the straight and true course by the Sireus of the Suffolk banquet.

NAUGHTY children, old or young, are invariably threatened with OLD BOGIE, in some shape or other.

There never was a reformer in Church or State, who was not accused of being a heretic or a revolutionist, if

he escaped the grand charge of all, that of acting from purely interested motives.

The association of certain independent members of GRAND LODGE for the purpose of discussing questions of Masonic policy, seems to have occasioned no slight alarm to some of our Brethren. The organ of the Executive has been filled with declamations upon the subject, and the introduction of what are mysteriously termed, "Parliamentary tactics" into G.L. is denounced as a heavy blow to Freemasonry. All this is nothing but OLD BOGIE.

GRAND LODGE is a deliberative assembly, and the supreme governing body of the Craft. For some little time however, the deliberation has been left in the hands of the immediate advisers of the G.M., while the great body of those who compose G.L. have confined their attention to eating and drinking, indifferent whether the government were well or ill administered; whether reforms were resisted, or Colonies driven to secede; if only they might be allowed to devote themselves in peace to the consideration of their bill of fare, and assist digestion by fulsome flattery of the powers that be.

From time to time indeed, there have been spasmodic attempts on the part of individual legislators to correct abuses, and maintain their right to legislate. They have generally been either bullied or bribed into silence, and matters have relapsed into their old state of stagnant quiescence.

Latterly however, the opinion seems to have been gaining ground, that the non-official members of G.L. are not only bound, but are fully competent, to take an active part in the management of their own affairs. Many causes have contributed to this. The want of capacity shown in the Executive, throughout the whole of their dealings with Canada—the immolation of all law at the shrine of the governing faction in G.L.—the distribution of Masonic patronage—and lastly, the appearance in G.L. of Brethren equal, if not superior, in social position and intellectual attainments, to those who have hitherto swayed its destinies.

But let us see in what position a Brother finds himself who is anxious to do his duty as a representative of his Lodge, in the great council of the Order. If he is content to shape his ideas according to the official rule, then his course is certainly plain enough: he has nothing to do but to struggle for the foremost place among the inglorious throng whose highest ambition it is to be counted a sure vote by the Executive. But should it be his misfortune to believe that the representatives of the Craft have a higher duty to perform than that of Registrar's General of official decrees, he immediately stands opposed, single-handed, to a compact band, pledged to support each other, meeting beforehand to decide upon their course, wearing the same distinctive badge, occupying the same raised benches, and—with some distinguished exceptions—invariably voting the same way. What chance has he against such a "party"? None whatever. He may think himself fortunate if he escapes personal insult at the hands of some glib speaker of the Dais, or of some zealous partizan on the

floor of G.L. Failing this however, he will probably be exposed to the impertinent attacks of the official press, whose latest feat in this line, has, we observe, been an insolent sneer at the nationality of a late most highly respected officer of the Craft, for having the presumption to refuse to allow G.L. to stultify itself rather more than usual, at the nod of the G.M.'s present advisers.

Of necessity then, those who are anxious for fair discussion and honest deliberation in G.L., must associate together, in order to arrive at something like a mutual understanding upon the various questions that are to come before them, as well as secure to themselves the protection of mutual support.

We believe that the time has come when independent members of G.L. must think and act for themselves, indifferent to the attacks of the Executive, or of their organ. We believe that concerted action will tend most effectually to break up the present system of clique government, and we have therefore given it, and shall continue to give it, our cordial support. At the same time we must express our conviction that nothing but mischief can ensue from the introduction of questions of Masonic policy at the banquets. The Constitutions provide for their discussion in Lodge (p. 63, sec. 24), but at the former, they are as much out of place as is the "sickly sycophancy" to which the Executive, past and present, is usually treated.

"JUSTITIA" is a meteor of epistolary polemics who coruscates in the atmosphere of the newly organized magazine. He professes himself anxious to return to Masonic harmony. Let us see how he sets about it.—"The time for anything approaching to false delicacy is gone by."—"The day of temporizing is past."—"The Brethren must gird up their loins for the combat," &c.; such are some of the most pacific forms of expression of which "Justitia's" pen is capable. Such are the challenges he flings down to those independent opponents of jobbery and clique whom the magazine thinks fit to nickname the "Observer party." The *Observer* in return, begs to assure its calumniator, that it is ready to take up his gage; that it is prepared to enter the lists for the maintenance of Masonic liberty, and that it will not permit honest gentlemen, without protest, to be victimized by libel and scurrility. If, as is occasionally hinted, "Justitia" is versed in courts of law, he must ere now have experienced the mortification of discovering that the tactics of brow-beating and intimidation, entail not unfrequently the discomfiture of their employer.

It being now allowed by the chiefs of the Executive, that the Canadian differences had their origin in the apathy and insolence with which their statements of grievances were received in this country, we need hardly dwell on the service of those brethren, by whose ability and zeal the slothful officials were called to account for their misdoings. The severance then prophesied, has come to pass; and it is nothing new that the prophets of

evil, however true their words, should be treated with contumely and insult.

Among others, Bro. the Earl of CARNARVON was fearless and forward in the denunciation of abuse and wrong. He courted and must have expected his fate. But while the merits of that high-minded and talented young nobleman have earned for him respect and admiration in society at large, and distinction at the hands of the Queen's advisers, we shall not condescend to plead his defence against those slanderers of his fair fame whose flatteries could not bribe him from the path of honesty, and whose present outpourings of vilification are only calculated to sully the pages of the Masonic press, and to waken the contempt of all right-thinking men. Nor will we refer at length to the circumstances under which a feeling of self-respect drove him from G.L. at the last quarterly communication; we would rather do Bro. HAYERS the justice to hope that unscrupulous as are his speeches, he is occasionally visited by feelings of more refined taste and of regret for their utterance.

It is fortunate that our impression of to day gives to our readers together with "Justitia's" letter to the Magazine (for this tissue of spiteful absurdity shall have all the publicity its author can desire) the few observations of Lord Carnarvon which have tended to stir the gall of that short-sighted and illogical scribe. Couched in terms of respect towards the M.W.G.M. and breathing a spirit of conciliation both to the Canadians and to their old opponents on the dais, the noble brother's speech offers indeed in its grace a wide contrast to the compositions of the "Justitia" school: we now propose to see how far his expressed sentiments justify his accuser in the assertion that he "lent the prestige of his name to a discreditable course."

It being a conclusion common, we presume, at last both to the champions of Canadian rights and to the advocates for Canadian oppression that the new united G.L. there must be recognized by ours, but one question of the vexed subject remained, viz: as to the manner in which such recognition might be effected, with a due regard to our duty towards ourselves, our dependences, and our allies. There were two courses to be pursued: the notice of motion of the Rev. Bro. Portal would have been fair towards G.L. and dignified towards Canada: the other, pursued by the M.W.G.M. "is inconsistent (we quote the P.G.Reg.) with the dignity of the G.L. of England, or with the respectability of that of Canada."

Not being in the secrets of the administration, we do not enjoy, as we ought perhaps, the point of the satire to which Bro. Dobie subjects himself at the hands of the *Magazine*. "We think" says their leading article of the 8th, "that he of all men will do wisely in observing a discreet silence, especially on the subject of the Canadas."

How far this rebuke may have been merited we will leave to be settled by those with whom the P.G.Reg. was then acting; but if such misconduct is to condemn to silence all who shared its responsibility, to what sufferings is not G.L. foredoomed, deprived as it will be of the sweet counsel of so many who are wont to

monopolize no inconsiderable share in its discussions, and to insist with no inconsiderable dictation on the on the adoption of their views? We, for our part, take Bro. Dobie's words *quantum valeant*, and we agree with them. We remember how the M.W.G.M. has insisted on the necessity of *official* notification of the union of the two Canadian G. Lodges being laid before the G.L. of England, before the latter could formally recognize their new brother. To have acted consistently with his declared opinion, and consequently with a strict interpretation of his duty, he should have given notice that, after the message just received had been laid before the Board of Masters and communicated to G.L. he would then move *that formal recognition of the G.L. of Ancient, Free, and accepted Masons in Canada, to which the motion which stood in the name of Bro. PORTAL sought to pledge the Craft in this country. Deliberately and carefully worded was the motion of the reverend Brother. It requested the M.W.G.M. to take the "necessary steps for establishing Masonic relations." Have such necessary preliminaries been gone through? Clearly not. In their eagerness to take the wind out of Bro. PORTAL's sails, the advisers of the Grand Master have urged an incautious and precipitate, if not an illegal, course.*

We use the latter word advisedly; for the letter (by his Lordship's statement) was addressed in due form to the G. Sec. with the intention of being communicated to G.L. Time has not permitted of such communication; we know nothing of the letter. "There are several other matters in it," says my Lord, "which I should have thought it necessary to mention, but I am precluded from doing so now."

In fact, G.L. has received *no official intimation at all*, and yet in forgetfulness of the bitter experiences of the past we are required to deliver ourselves blindfold to the guidance of an Executive which has before proved unfaithful to its trust. We have done so. Though the M.W.G.M. felt manifestly ill at ease and insecure as to the legality of his procedure; though Bro. DOBIE's protest was respectful and Lord CARNARVON's suggestions courteous and gentlemanly; though the motto adopted for this occasion was so suspiciously contrary to the policy pursued when action might have saved us a loyal dependency; though we have taken no pledges as yet for the welfare of those Lodges who still beyond the sea are more faithful to us than we have deserved; though the message addressed to us by our distant brothers has been as it were waylaid and privately consulted by our officials, (who only vouchsafe to us the consolation that there is more in it than we may for the present know;) in spite of all this, the cry of "Faction" "Faction," produced its intended effect.

It spread confusion and dismay like the alarm of fire at a playhouse. Where caution is sacrificed to the desire of escape light-fingered Jack sacks a booty. Now let our readers judge fairly in this matter; let them read the Debate and decide which would have been the safer course, that recommended by Bro. DOBIE (*is he of the Observer Party?*) by Lord CARNARVON, &c., and implied

on the notice paper by Bro. PORTAL; or the one adopted by G.L. To ourselves it appears that this forced answer of ours to a communication we have not seen, is hardly tendered with a good grace to our Canadian Brethren; and that they for their part will not execrate to the extent our opponents may desire, the names of those who once bore the front of battle for them, and now would have their recognition stamped with the impress of mature deliberation and unquestioned legality.

THE scheme propounded by the Board of General purposes, or rather its chairman, for the erection of a central Masonic palace in London, is well worth the attentive consideration of the craft—more especially of those country brethren, from whose pockets the funds are principally derived, and who may fairly demand that the fountain of Masonic Charity may not be exhausted for many long years to come, in order that their more favoured London brethren may have better accommodation for their meetings, and their social enjoyment. If a large outlay is demanded, for the purposes sketched out in the different speeches delivered at the last meeting of G.L. and if the money is to come from the fund, five-sixths of which has been contributed by the provinces, we cannot but think that the demand should be accompanied by some proposition for their better representation in London, so that the advantages may not be all on one side, and the taxes almost entirely on the other.

It will doubtless be a great convenience to the London brethren to secure more comfortable accommodation for themselves. It might not even be amiss, if a suite of apartments were provided for the President of the Board of General Purposes, where he might hold periodical levees of his adherents and superintend the Grand Secretary's office, with less trouble than at present.

Indeed if the Tavern is to be abolished, and the *cuisine* remodelled, that versatile functionary must of necessity be on the spot, to see that those Lodges which support the "Constitutional Authorities" obtain accommodation commensurate with their deserts, and that the rebels are stowed away in the attics, and do not get their dishes too hot.

Whatever may be decided on, however, we venture to think that the indecent haste with which votes were pressed at twelve o'clock at night, is a bad presage for the future. Nor do we like the opposition that was made to the appointment of a committee of taste, to decide upon plans. It looks as if the whole matter were intended to be a job.

The architects who happen to be Masons, may well hesitate before they compete with the G.S.W. While the first-rate men whom we might obtain from the outer world, but who it appears are to be debarred from competition—would certainly never dream of placing their professional reputation at the mercy of such a body as the Board of General Purposes, even though it contains a couple of respectable builders amongst its members.

That body may be a very fit one to consider questions of Masonic discipline, not as regards points of taste. We should be sorry to intrust them with the selection of a carpet, and we are quite sure the G.M. would feel the same about a race cup.

We wish it were not our duty in connection with this subject, to refer to the ruling of the G.M. upon the appointment of a committee of taste. It will be remembered that Brother WHITMORE carried a motion in September, permitting any brother to move an amendment to any recommendation of the Board of General purposes. The Board on the present occasion, recommended that the subject should be referred back to the Board, with directions to report thereon to the next Grand Lodge. To this Bro. WHITMORE moved as an amendment, that the subject be referred to a committee of six brethren, who, with an equal number to be selected by the Board should report to G.L. This amendment the G.M. refused to put.

"Antient Landmarks" are certainly a great safeguard to the wandering mason—they remind us of a floating light that has broken away from its moorings.

In the face of such ruling as this, however, we venture to hope that the craft at large (or at least the independent portion of them) will pause, before it endures the somewhat ludicrous assertion of the partizans of the Executive at Oxford—that the G.M.'s constitutional authority is in danger! Unless, indeed, a distinction worthy of Juvenal, is drawn between constitutional and arbitrary power.

"THE SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS IN SCOTLAND," is rather an imposing title, and the Grand Chapter itself is, in truth, a somewhat imposing body. Some of its impositions are simple and local, as its imposition of condign punishment on a certain chapter, No. 70, at Aberdeen, without any defence being heard, or opportunity for any defence being allowed. Other of its impositions are compound and foreign, as when it deliberately issues certificates, stating as facts, things which are not, with the notable object of seducing English Lodges from their allegiance, and inducing their Members to become vassals of Scotland. The notorious case of the false certificates, and pretended warrant for the Kent Mark Lodge has been already sufficiently exposed, and the part taken therein by an officer of high rank, clearly brought home to him. There the matter would have rested had not this unfortunate officer provoked further attention to his conduct, by a recent letter to the *Masonic Magazine*, signed with the initials D. R. A. T. N. These initials, to the writer's eye, have betrayed a secret, but the Royal Order of Scotland (our brother will understand this allusion), shall not be made the cloak of such an unworthy matter.

It is plainly our duty as English Masons, to oppose to the utmost of our power the imposition of any foreign Masonic authority within this kingdom, more especially when accompanied with such peculiar circumstances, and such corrupt motives. There appears to be a very legitimate mode of exercising this opposition, namely, by an attempt to open the eyes of our brethren to a comparison of the pretensions and actual position of this very imposing body.

In May, 1858, the Chapter bearing the highest number on the roll of the Grand Chapter of Scotland was No. 81. But of the previous numbers nine had then disappeared from the roll, leaving seventy-two as the apparent number of

Chapters accounted for. Of these seven were in arrear of returns, liable to be erased from the roll. Thirty-two were in arrear of their returns, and considered dormant. Four had returned their Charters; amongst which is the chivalrous No. 70, of Aberdeen, which refused to submit to the outrageous injustice and overbearing of the Grand Chapter officials. This shows that out of the apparent list of seventy-two Chapters, no less a number than forty-three were ineffective. Deducting which, we arrive at twenty-nine as the actual number of Scotch Chapters in all parts of the world, working, and in regular communication with the Scotch Grand Chapter. Now of this number ten are in various foreign parts. Three out of the ten were new warrants, granted in May, 1857. Deducting which, we find in that month of May no more than sixteen regularly working Chapters in the whole of Scotland. These sixteen Chapters, with the three new ones, exalted to the Royal Arch Degree, during the year 1857-8, no more than 196 Companions. We will not attempt to compare with these figures the stability of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, against which the attacks of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, through Bro. Gaylor, the Grand Scribe, E, have for three years been so harmlessly directed; but we will compare them with those Mark Lodges which the Grand Chapter itself has originated, that the absurdity of its position may be more clearly shown.

The number of warrants for Mark Lodges in England, issued by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, up to the month of May, 1858, was twelve.

Of these twelve, seven alone appear to have made their returns, but these returns show no less than 202 Mark Masters advanced in the year 1857-8, being just eight more numerous than the Royal Arch Exaltations in the Scotch Chapter.

It thus appears that these nineteen Scotch Chapters, with their 196 candidates, and paying, as will be shown, £112 11s., are the lords paramount of the twelve Lodges in England, with their 202 candidates, paying £81 10s.

A position very creditable to the shrewdness of the former, but suggesting many considerations on the part of the latter.

Next in respect to Finances. The whole twenty-nine Chapters working under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, contributed in 1857-8, £138 13s. Of this sum the ten Chapters in foreign parts contributed £26 2s. Leaving the quota of Scotland itself on account of her 196 Exaltations, and other dues £112 11s. On the contrary, the amount of the dues paid to the Grand Chapter of Scotland, by the seven Mark Lodges in England, for their 202 candidates, together with the warrant fees paid by the remaining five Lodges, was £81 10s. Showing a difference between the latter and the former of only £31 1s. In other words, the Scotch Mark Lodges in England, contributed to their Scotch superiors, a sum equal to nearly three-fourths of what the Royal Arch Chapters in Scotland itself contributed. This statement simply applies to the year 1857-8, and, of course, the large sums paid by these Lodges in previous years, for advancements and warrant fees, would greatly swell the £81 10s. above-specified. And what have they received in return? Have any grants been made to them from the Grand Chapter funds for the purposes of charity, or for any other purpose whatever?

Let us refer to the Accounts. Under the head "Printing" is found Mark Warrants, &c. £9 1s. 3d. Mark Lodge Laws, £3 14s. 6d. Then we have a payment to a certain Mark Lodge Kilwinning London, who appear very sensibly to have withdrawn their application for a warrant, £3 3s. Showing a total of £15 18s. 9d., which is fairly to be deducted from £81 10s., before we ascertain the exact profit made by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, upon this notable speculation, between March 1857, and March 1858.

It is to be noticed, however, that the Grand Chapter expended during the year the sum of £2 13s. in charity, four-ninths of which may be considered as chargeable to their profits; and with respect to an item of £12, paid "to scribe E., for performance of extra duties," it may fairly be considered as connected with his unfortunate zeal, and mis-directed energy in regard to the notorious Kent and Florence Nightingale Lodge cases, both of which were established by means of the false certificates already alluded to as exposed.

Whatsoever sums, however, may reduce the above gross profit of £81 10s., it is very evident that money has been the prominent result, if not the ostensible object with this Grand Chapter in their Masonic invasion of England.

It is evident also that their pretensions in respect to numbers and influence are absolutely insignificant, and when we remember in addition to these facts, the very important revelations which have lately been made public regarding the positive lack of authority, legitimacy, and antiquity of this Scotch Grand Chapter, it simply excites our wonder that such parties could have been so infatuated as to challenge criticism in the manner they have done.

GRAND LODGE.

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QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.—The quarterly convocation of Grand Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, Dec. 1st, the M. W. Grand Master the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, presiding, supported by Bros. Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G. M. for Hampshire, as D. G. M.; Col. Brownrigg, S. G. W.; Wyndham Portal, J. G. W.; S. Tomkins, Grand Treas.; Roxburgh, G. Reg.; Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; Crohn, G. Sec. German Correspondence: P. Scott, S. G. D.; Hopwood, J. G. D.; Moore and Ward, G. Chaplains; Jennings, G. D. C.; Woods, Asst. G. D. C.; Gooch, G. S. B.; Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; Horsley, G. Org.; Smith, G. Purs.; Hall, Pait G. Reg., and Prov. G. M. for Cambridgeshire; Dobie, Past G. Reg., and Prov. G. M., Surrey; Bowyer, Prov. G. M., Oxfordshire; Fleming, Prov. G. M., Isle of Wight; Bagshaw, Prov. G. M., Essex; Beadon, Pattison, W. H. Smith, Dobree, Dundas, Hebel, and Sirt, Past Grand Wardens; Sir J. W. Hayes, Past G. Chap.; W. H. White, Past G. Sec.; Lotter, Faudell, Udall, T. R. White, Hervey, Nelson, Havers, Jones, Wilson, J. N. Tomkins, Past Grand Deacons; Le Veau, Evans, Biggs, and Masson, Past Grand Sword Bearers; Breittling, Past G. Pursuivant.

The Grand Master apologized for the absence of the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Panmure, who would have been present had it not been for the severe indisposition under which he was labouring.

THE MINUTES.—The minutes of the previous quarterly communication were then read; and on the question being put—

Bro. Mason rose to call attention to a resolution of the last Grand Lodge. He said that he did so with considerable reluctance and with very great pain: but he considered that, on the part of a Freemason, a sense of duty and a determination to perform it, should take the precedence of all other feelings. He considered that the bulwark of Freemasonry was the Book of Constitutions, and so long as they adhered to that they would be sure to be right. But if it should be permitted to any member of Grand Lodge to choose for himself what part of the Book of Constitutions he would obey and what part of it he would reject, they would have nothing safely to depend upon—their sheet anchor would be gone; but every Freemason who had Masonry at heart would ever be anxious to adhere to the landmarks of the Order. He would contend for the maintenance of their laws in all their integrity, as laid down in the Book of Constitutions. Now at the last Grand Lodge there was a resolution proposed, and a vote was passed, of which no notice had been given. Had he been present, he did not know but that he should have concurred in the propriety of that vote, for he held the Grand Master in high respect and esteem, and he believed that his lordship was respected and

esteemed by every member of Grand Lodge. (Applause.) But however greatly the Grand Master was esteemed, their esteem for Freemasonry itself ought to be still greater, and they ought not to break through the laws laid down for them, to please or gratify any individual, whatever his rank or his position. He mentioned this because he wished not to be misunderstood. He had not the slightest ill feeling, but had always borne his testimony to the gentlemanlike bearing which characterised the conduct of the Grand Master. Still the motion to which he referred ought to have been submitted to the Board of Masters, which had not been done. As it was a vote of confidence in the Grand Master, he should have voted for it, had he been present; but inasmuch as it was a resolution proposed, and a vote passed irregularly, improperly, and illegally, he objected utterly and entirely to that vote being recorded upon the minutes. He referred to the Book of Constitutions, page 19, rule 8, as an authority for the view he took of the matter.

Bro. Savage called attention to that portion of the minutes which referred to the non-confirmation of a part of the minutes by the especial Grand Lodge in which it was proposed to confer additional votes on the Masters of Lodges, owing to the two grants of £100 each to the charities. He made his objection on this ground—he maintained that it was not competent for Grand Lodge to refuse to confirm one portion of a resolution while it did confirm the other. It was a condition of these grants that the extra votes should be given to the Masters of Lodges. It was not competent to Grand Lodge to sever the two portions of the motion. When a vote of Grand Lodge was put for confirmation, it must be confirmed or rejected in its entirety.

The Grand Master said that Bro. Savage had raised an important question, a question which was deserving of consideration, and it should have his earnest attention.

The Rev. Bro. Portal called attention to what he maintained was a gross inaccuracy in the published minutes of Grand Lodge, in which he was made to say, that "all cause for his motion would have been removed if the M. W. G. M. had called upon the Prov. G. Master for Bucks and Berks, or his deputy, to hold a Prov. G. Lodge once a-year." Now the Grand Master said he had called upon the Prov. Grand Master of Bucks and Berks to do so. He (Bro. Portal) denied that he had made such a statement, what he had said was, "That all cause for the motion would have been removed if the Prov. G. Master for Berks and Bucks, had obeyed his lordship's suggestion." He thought that the Grand Secretary, or whoever it was that was responsible for these published minutes, ought not to make him say what he never said, and never dreamed of saying. (Laughter, and cheers.)

The resolution confirming the minutes was then put and agreed to.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.—Bro. Symonds announced that his name appeared on the balloting paper for the Board of Benevolence without his sanction, and whoever had caused it to be put there had taken a most unwarrantable liberty, as he was not a candidate.

The following Brethren were appointed scrutineers:—Bros. Taperley, No. 227; Michael, No. 117; Lowenstark, No. 1035; Goodwin, No. 78; Rogers, No. 13; Prescoe, No. 213; Harris, No. 223, and two others whose names Bro. Jennings could not decipher in the list presented to him.

NOMINATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER.—Bro. Crombie, amidst loud applause, nominated the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland as Most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year. It was needless, he said, to expatiate on his lordship's merits, which were well known to them all. There was one quality which could not be overlooked, and that was the courtesy and firmness with which he presided over their deliberations on those occasions, preserving that concord and harmony by which he trusted their meetings would always be distinguished. They were now commencing the fifteenth year of his lordship's Grand Mastership, and he trusted that he would live many years longer to preside over them in the same peace and harmony. He begged to nominate the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland as Most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year.

RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA WEST.—The Grand Master:—"Brethren, I have a most important motion

to propose to you, but before doing so I will pause to see if any Brother has any other name to propose—

No other nomination being made—the Grand Master said,—“Brethren, the intelligence of the formation of an Independent Grand Lodge for Canada West, only reached us officially yesterday, too late to be laid before the Committee of Masters. But so long ago as August last, I instructed the Grand Secretary, in case of any intimation being given of the formation of an Independent Grand Lodge of Canada West, to give notice that I would move in the September Grand Lodge a resolution that the Grand Lodge of England should recognize that Grand Lodge. In September I again told the Grand Secretary that, in case any such intimation arrived, he would consider my directions as still in force for the Grand Lodge in December. The Grand Secretary having been in daily expectation of receiving this information, gave the notice in my name, though without my knowledge, having reason to think it probable that such an intimation would arrive. As it turns out, I am glad he gave that notice; because I have been able, though not in the way that I could wish, to move that this Grand Lodge should recognize the Grand Lodge of Canada West. I say not in the way that I could wish, because the letter addressed to the Grand Secretary with the intention of being communicated to Grand Lodge, having only arrived yesterday, could not be laid before the Board of Masters. Therefore, I consider we are precluded from considering or debating that communication; but I consider that, in accordance with the strict letter of the law, I am not precluded, notice having been given, from moving that this Grand Lodge should recognize the Grand Lodge of Canada. There are several other matters in this communication from the Grand Secretary of Canada, which, under other circumstances, I should have thought it necessary to mention; but I am now precluded from doing so, because the communication itself has not been laid before the Board of Masters. At the same time I am convinced that, on the principle of *bis dat qui cito dat*, it is better that I should at once move the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada West, leaving those questions which may arise to be debated at a future Grand Lodge. Brethren, in recognizing the Grand Lodge of Canada, I consider that it is absolutely necessary that we should guard the privileges of those Lodges in a part of Canada, Quebec, Montreal, and St. John's, New Brunswick, which have never thrown off their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and which now form a province. We must take care that these Lodges are protected by us, and that nothing should be done by any other Grand Lodge to induce these Lodges to withdraw their allegiance from the Grand Lodge of England. I am sure that Grand Lodge will agree with me, I will therefore simply move the following resolution:—

“That official intimation having been received of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons in Canada, this Grand Lodge recognizes that body as an independent Grand Lodge, having jurisdiction over the province hitherto known as Canada West, and expresses its desire to entertain henceforth with it such a cordial and fraternal intercourse as will serve to promote the interests of Masonry in both countries.”

Bro. Sir Lucius Curtis, acting Deputy Grand Master, seconded the motion.

Bro. Dobie, P.G. Reg., said he thought it too much to ask Grand Lodge to come to anything like a decision on the subject at that moment; such haste was not consistent either with the dignity of the Grand Lodge of England, or with the respectability of the Grand Lodge of Canada. He hoped that Grand Lodge would consider the point, and let it stand over for further consideration. Let them not be guilty of an act of injustice to those who owed allegiance to them. The laws of the new Grand Lodge of Canada provided that those who did not unite with that Grand Lodge should have no right to enter it at all. He would like the Grand Lodge of Canada recognized as it should be. They would be proceeding too rapidly if they did it that night. He would rather postpone it till the next Grand Lodge.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon:—“Like the Worshipful Brother who just sat down, I intended to have made one or two remarks. Like him, your lordship's observations have come upon me with

surprise. Like him, I can say that, while hearing with perhaps as great satisfaction as any other member of Grand Lodge the announcement which your lordship has just made—while concurring in it as heartily as any one in the room can concur in it, because it has been the course which I have all along thought desirable and right, and which I have proposed to Grand Lodge, sometimes perhaps with too much pertinacity—at the same time I agree with the worthy Brother who has just sat down, and would respectfully request your lordship to reconsider the motion, with the view of bringing it forward at the next quarterly communication. Nobody more thoroughly and heartily agrees with the substance of that motion than I do; but, for that very reason, I would invest the announcement with all the deliberation and all the solemnity which it can possibly have, and therefore I would earnestly press on your lordship the importance of giving formal notice of it now, and bringing it forward at the next quarterly communication, that it may be carried, as it deserves to be, with complete and entire unanimity. There is one single remark more which I would make, and that is, that I trust that the announcement which you have just made may be in many respects the close of these differences which have embittered the discussions of the last year and a-half. I trust that whatever may have been the causes which have led to the separation of the Canadian Lodges, and no one regrets them more than I do—no one has spoken more freely concerning them than I have—still, whatever these causes may have been, I trust that, though we may henceforth be separate as bodies, we may in heart be one—having the same common object—that we may still be united by ties as strong and as enduring as those bonds which unite us socially and politically with the Canadian dependencies of the British crown.”

Bro. Havers, P.S.G.D.:—“I feel, as every one who is placed in my position must feel, a certain degree of difficulty. We have here a proposition to recognize the Grand Lodge of Canada, couched in Masonic terms; and yet, from the lips of him who has been the chief, the most eloquent advocate of the claims of Canada, we have an opposition to that motion. Most Worshipful Sir, it has been within the knowledge of all the Masons of this country, or at least within the knowledge of all those who take an interest in its progress, that so far back as July last we were aware of the existence of this Grand Lodge, although it was not till yesterday that our Grand Secretary received an official intimation of the fact. Shall we ignore all that we have known of their doings? Shall we take no notice of all that has been placed before us in print, and in communications published by ourselves, with respect to the cordial and fraternal spirit which governed these two Grand Lodges in their union, and in the expression of their feelings to us; I have never denied the shortcomings of the Grand Lodge of England towards the Canadian Brethren. Without going a step further than what the Grand Master proposes, by recognizing the Grand Lodge of Canada, reserving unto himself the mode in which that recognition shall be made,—you will do an act worthy of the Grand Lodge of England, and grateful to the feelings of your Canadian Brethren—an act which will serve to cement at once and for ever that cordiality which happily now exists. You do not bind yourselves to any specific act further than that which justice demands at your hands, and you reserve to yourselves the distinct jurisdiction over Quebec, Montreal, and St. John's, New Brunswick, giving the Grand Lodge of Canada, numbering a hundred Lodges, full jurisdiction over Canada West, but at the same time reserving most carefully and most explicitly—as we are bound as honest men to do—the protection of the Grand Lodge of England for those Lodges which have not thrown off their allegiance to us. I entreat Grand Lodge to adopt the Grand Master's resolution; and, on the principle of *bis dat qui cito dat*, to hold out cordially the right hand of fellowship to our Canadian Brethren. I would respectfully ask the Grand Master to add certain words to his motion,—“and that such recognition be communicated in an appropriate manner by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.”

Bro. Binckes said that he had not intended to have addressed Grand Lodge upon this question, nor should he have done so but for the uncalled-for observations of the last speaker. If Bro. Havers had heard with surprise what had fallen from Lord Car-

narvon, with what feeling must Grand Lodge have received the speech of Bro. Havers? For himself he was positively astounded. No inconsistency could be greater than that of a man recommending the adoption of a course the legitimate result of efforts which he (Bro. Binckes) and those with whom he acted had constantly exerted, but which had on all occasions been opposed by Bro. Havers with the whole weight of his marvellous abilities.

Bro. Havers: "No, no."

Bro. Binckes: Bro. Havers says "No, no." Is he determined to question all my statements in Grand Lodge? Is my veracity a thing of nought? I appeal to your own records for proof of the correctness of my statement, which I maintain is in every respect consistent with fact! (No, no.) Precipitancy may have been justifiable in those who had uniformly advocated the rights of the Canadian Brethren, and who had pressed their grievances with a view to their remedy, but it was another thing with those who had as uniformly ignored them, and who now proposed concession only because it was unavoidable. There was no one more anxious than himself for the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada, but he did wish that so important an act should be performed with due deliberation, and invested with all the dignity and solemnity of which it was susceptible. He sincerely trusted that they might long maintain amicable relations with that body, destined as he believed it was to become one of the brightest stars in the masonic firmament.

Bro. Gregory:—"Most Worshipful Sir, as an independent member of Grand Lodge, I cannot help expressing my astonishment that those who have heretofore advocated the claims of the Canadian Brethren, should now resist a proposition so graceful and so noble as that which has proceeded from your lordship. It is not for us to go back to the past history of Grand Lodge, or to past disagreements. We ought to endeavour to heal all bygone animosities. In all that has been urged against your lordship's motion, I have been unable to discover any practical reason why it should not be carried. It had been urged that the interests of the Lodges which still remain faithful to the Grand Lodge of England will be prejudiced by precipitancy; but I cannot admit that for a single moment. Most Worshipful Sir, I feel sure that, being in possession of all the facts, you would not bring forward the motion which you have brought forward to-night, unless you were confident that the interests of those whom you have to defend were properly secured. I entirely approve of the addition which Brother Havers proposes to make to the motion. I am at a loss to account for the opposition to this motion, which is now raised by those who for months and years have been contending for this very thing, when as yet the time was not ripe for its performance. You had announced that you would be ready, so soon as unity was restored in Canada, to hold out the right hand of fellowship to the United Grand Lodge of Canada. Now, we have before us, this evening, no new facts. We have simply the "official" notification of that which has been long known. Why then should we wait for more "solemn" deliberation? I demand some reason. As to the charge made against Bro. Havers, that Brother has never opposed the recognition of Canada, though he has seen difficulties in the way of it. Look at the inconsistency of those Brethren who place themselves in systematic opposition in this Grand Lodge. Why, the *fidus Achates* of the noble lord who places himself at the head of those Brethren has, this very night upon the notice paper, substantially, and almost verbally, the same as your lordship's motion which he is opposing. Now suppose, Most Worshipful Sir, that you had not brought forward this motion which you have introduced this evening, I want to know whether Brother Portal really would have brought forward the motion which stands on the paper in his name? My lord, it is time that these dissensions should cease from among us. It is time that Grand Lodge should decide whether it will have and obey a head and chief, or whether its peace shall be continually and pertinaciously disturbed. In the name of that fraternal good will which ought to characterize all our proceedings, I pray Grand Lodge to support your lordship in the motion now under consideration."

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal said that the phrase used by the enthusiastic Brother behind him (Bro. Gregory) was none the less offensive to those who knew the Latin language, because it was

expressed in that tongue. What the Earl of Carnarvon had said was, not that he was opposed to the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada, but that he was, under the circumstances, opposed to its being recognized on the present occasion. As to the motto of *bis dat qui cito dat*, which had been quoted, there was a great difference between habitually travelling by a goods train and embarking all at once on a runaway engine. The question ought not to be decided till the documents were before Grand Lodge. He did not know what there might be in the Grand Secretary's desk, or in the pocket of the Grand Master's confidential adviser—*fidus Achates*, if he would not think the term offensive. He could see no cause for this mighty bustle all at once, and should move, as an amendment, "That this Grand Lodge declines to decide upon the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada till it has further information, and an opportunity for more mature deliberation."

Bro. Hearne seconded the amendment.

Bro. Slight opposed it. It was beside the question to say that they waited for those papers. All they waited for was the official intimation, which the Grand Master had informed them was received yesterday. Some Brethren had spoken of being "astonished;" he had been "astonished" to find opposition to a motion like this. He had expected that it would have been carried unanimously. He felt sure that the Canadian Brethren would be astonished to find their recognition opposed by Brethren who had for years expressed themselves anxious that such a recognition should take place. Bro. Portal had said that this was not the proper time for the recognition, and yet he had the following motion on the paper for that evening:—"That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, the interests of Masonry will best be promoted by the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that it respectfully requests the Most Worshipful Grand Master to take the necessary steps for establishing Masonic relations with that body."

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal: "It does not say 'immediate' recognition."

A Voice: "That's a quibble." (Laughter.)

Bro. Slight: "The Grand Master asks no more than Bro. Portal asks, in the motion which he has deliberately placed on the paper."

Bro. Whitmore condemned the unseemly haste with which a step was now proposed to be taken, which Bro. Portal, in common with others, admitted to be desirable. He wanted to hold out the right hand of fellowship, and not the left hand.

Bro. Savage agreed with the statement of the last speaker, but disputed his deductions. He agreed that they should hold out the right hand of fellowship and not the left hand, but he thought it would be holding out the right hand if they recognized the Grand Lodge of Canada at once; but that it would be only holding out the left hand if they put it off any longer. In fact it would not only be holding out the left hand, but it would be giving the cold shoulder.

Bro. Gole asked how they could afterwards secure the rights of Lodges adhering to the Grand Lodge of England, after the unconditional recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada?

The Grand Master: "Brethren, I shall first reply to the question which has just been put to me, as to how we are to deal with and secure the rights and privileges of those Lodges who still act under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, if we at once and unconditionally recognize the Grand Lodge of Canada. I ask how we are to secure those privileges if we do not recognize that Grand Lodge. If a government does not recognize the existence of a new government in a foreign country, how can it send a diplomatic agent to that foreign country? I am placed in a difficult and painful position. I have brought forward this motion after giving it my best consideration. I think I was right in doing so. I hope I shall have the support of Grand Lodge. My great object will be very much marred if, when Grand Lodge goes to a division on the subject, there should be any considerable minority. They would cause the recognition to go out to Canada with a very bad grace, and it would not be likely to be well received. It has been stated that I have been hostile to the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada. That is not the fact. Quite the contrary. I have considered it necessary to do all in my power

to preserve the dignity of the Grand Lodge of England. (Applause.) But when Bro. Portal says that I have been going on for four years in antagonism (or some equivalent phrase) to the Grand Lodge of Canada, I deny that statement utterly. Some months since great concessions were made to the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada, and those concessions satisfied the Canadians—but they came too late. I acknowledged that there had been faults on the part of the executive of the Grand Lodge of England, which I did not wish to palliate; I also stated that I thought there were faults on the part of the Canadians; but I should let bygones be bygones. I was bound to do nothing to induce Canada to declare its independence, but I always stated privately that when they did declare themselves independent they should at once be recognised. I said that if they thought it to their advantage to govern themselves, in God's name let them do it. As I wish to acknowledge the Grand Lodge of Canada with a good grace, I hope the amendment will be withdrawn. I pledge myself to do all that I can, and I hope Grand Lodge will assist me in carrying out this resolution in a manner agreeable to the Canadians, and with due regard to the Lodges which act with us. I hope the amendment will be withdrawn, and that the thing will be done gracefully. When I gave notice of this motion, I had not seen the motion which now stands on the paper in the name of Bro. Portal I cannot see much difference between my motion and his. If I had not brought forward my motion, would the worthy Brother have brought forward his? I really cannot see how he could have backed out of it. Nor can I see if he really intended to have brought forward that motion, why he should not support mine. I do not accuse the Brother of party motives, or of factious action—but might I not with some justice think that there was a party move here? Because the Grand Master brings forward a motion, a Brother, who had given notice of nearly the same motion, opposes it, without giving, in my opinion, the least reason for doing so. I do not wish or intend to say anything disagreeable to any Brother, but I cannot help adverting to this. Now, Brethren, I hope you will support the motion, and let it go forth to Canada as the simultaneous act of Grand Lodge (Applause).

The amendment was then withdrawn, and the Grand Master's resolution was agreed to amidst loud cheering.

Bro. Havers then moved that the M.W. Grand Master, be respectfully solicited by Grand Lodge to communicate to Grand Lodge of Canada West, the resolution to which Grand Lodge had come upon the question.

Bro. Whitmore having seconded the motion, it was unanimously agreed to.

The M.W. Grand Master assured Grand Lodge that it was his most anxious desire to carry out the resolution to which they had arrived, and that he would take all necessary steps to preserve the privileges of those Lodges which had remained firm in their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England.

TASMANIA.—The M.W. Grand Master next informed Grand Lodge, he had a few days since received two letters from Tasmania, one from the Grand Master of that province, and the other from Bro. Toby. These documents had arrived too late for reference to the Colonial Board, with a view of acting on them at the present quarterly communication. It was, however, his intention to refer them to that Board, that they might come in regular order before Grand Lodge at its next meeting.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.—Bro. Clarke, G. Sec., then read the report of the Lodge of Benevolence, from which it appeared, that in September six petitioners had been relieved to the extent of £87; that in October eight petitioners had been relieved to the extent of £92; and that in November eight petitioners had been relieved to the extent of £87. The Board recommended Grand Lodge to relieve two Brothers—one to the extent of £30, and the other to the extent of £100; and also to relieve two widows to the extent of £50 each. This report was received, and its recommendations acted upon.

The scrutineers here brought up their report of the Past Masters elected to act at the Board, for the ensuing twelve months, as follows:—Bros. Sheen (No. 237) 186; Gale (No. 19) 166; Lambert (No. 234) 159; Young (No. 11) 154; Binckes (No. 11) 150; Barrett (No. 188) 148; Adams (No. 196) 146; Barnes (No. 30) 146; Haward (No. 85) 144; Collard (No. 168) 140; Paas (No. 30)

138; Gurton (No. 211) 124. Contrary to usual custom, the numbers polled by the unsuccessful candidates were not announced.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.—Bro. Clarke, G. Sec., then read the report of the Board of General Purposes, which has already been printed in this journal, pp. 985-7.

Bro. Havers then moved that the report be received, and entered on the minutes.

Bro. Roxburgh, G. Reg., having seconded the motion, it was carried *nem. con.*

Bro. Havers next moved that Bros. Thomas Page and John Robert Gospel, of the Lodges then numbered 31 and 466, Liverpool, and who had been suspended since March, 1823, be restored to their Masonic privileges.

This motion having been duly seconded, was unanimously agreed to.

THE PROPERTY OF THE CRAFT.—Bro. Havers—"Brethren, at this late period of the evening it is impossible that I can go into all the particulars, and place before Grand Lodge all the papers which I shall feel it necessary to place before them previous to asking their decision on this important question. First of all it is most desirable that in coming to a decision we should have the fullest discussion of a matter which involves the gravest interests to Masonry. This is a question which is important in itself, and which has long engaged the attention, not only of myself, but of older Masons than I am. It raises the question as to whether it may not be worth our while to devote this place wholly to Masonic uses. This Grand Lodge has a right to demand at the hands of the Board of General Purposes some of the details, and with respect to the first resolution there can be but little difficulty—

"That it is desirable that the freehold property now belonging to the Society, or such part thereof as may be necessary, shall be devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes."

"What is our present position? We possess a whole block of premises, beginning with Bacon's Hotel, and reaching to No. 59, forming an immense frontage. At the present time we reserve to our exclusive use the Temple, and the Grand Secretary's office; we also retain the partial use of this room, that is to say we use it on an average seven times a year. For the rest of the year Masons are shut out, and the public have the advantage of it. We use the temple four or five times a year. We can have greater accommodation, and we ought to have it. We ought to have a Masonic library; the Craft requires it, and it is only consistent with the position we wish to occupy, not alone as a mere charitable and social institution, but as an intellectual and scientific body. There ought to be a place where brethren in London or from the country could go for study, for instruction, or for Masonic purposes—a place where our country brethren might procure refreshments, and be received, and not find their way into this room at the very last minute, when the proceedings of the Grand Lodge have already commenced. There is no doubt that we can have this without any question arising as to its practicability. Our present position will enable us to have these matters at any rate, without going any further. My own feeling is that the first resolution involves that. Next comes the question as to whether the property should be devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes, in a manner which may eventuate in the sacrifice of some portion of our income, and whether the scheme shall embrace not only these arrangements, but also improved tavern accommodation. We desire that Grand Lodge may have the question fully before them. We shall state every fact to enable you to arrive at a correct decision, without blinking any part of it. The question is, then, "tavern or no tavern?" I wish to offend no man's prejudices. You will have to give us instructions whether you will have a tavern here, or whether you will have this building, if practicable, devoted exclusively to Masonic uses. We must put you in possession of such facts as shall enable you to come to a conclusion as to whether this is possible and desirable. Let me therefore first state—throwing overboard, for the moment, and leaving out of consideration the tavern property—we derive from it the sum of £800 a year. That is the net amount. It is liable to some drawbacks which in a period of eight years have gone to the extent of £1,200. Therefore, although you do give permission to your present tenant to let this hall, and from thence derive an

increased rental, we may fairly assume £800 as the net rental. It has been my business to ascertain what has been the income and the expenditure of the Fund for General Purposes, to which alone I shall refer in all these calculations; for of course we cannot touch the Fund of Benevolence. On January 1, 1850, having completed the purchase of a large property, and there not being sufficient funds in hand, we were indebted to our treasurer and bankers, £1,488 : 12s. 11d. We have since then given away £7,553 : 3s. We have purchased property to the extent of £5,450. We have purchased, and now hold £6,500 stock, and we have a balance at the bankers of £811 : 13s. 1d. We have had an income, therefore, over and above our expenditure during the period I have mentioned, of £21,798 : 9s. This gives you a surplus income over your expenditure of £2,500 per annum. We can afford therefore to risk the loss of a part of the rent of the tavern. Over and above the current expenditure there has been an outlay, which will not occur again, of £1,200. £600 was given to your new tenants for the purpose of necessary repairs. Your tontine dividend hangs on the life of an elderly lady, and although ladies seem determined to live for ever when they get an annuity, this life must fall in the course of a few years, and this will be a considerable addition to our revenue. We can do nothing great in altering the accommodation of the present tavern till the lease falls in, which will be in three years and three quarters; and at that time, if we go on at our present rate, besides £6,500 in the funds, we shall have as much more. With that we may do a great deal. In return for the £800 a year tavern rent, we pay £5,000 per annum for our banquets. This pays the expenses; and if it pays our tenants, it could be made to pay us. It will be worth while to consider whether we could do this without loss. We are not less numerous or less wealthy than the clubs, and we may find that we can be perfectly self-supporting. That which appears to be difficult now, may perhaps be found so simple that we shall wonder it was not done long ago. There have gone forth amongst the Craft very large rumours as to what the Board intends to propose; but we have come to you with no extravagant proposition—nothing which will forestall one penny of your income. We shall rather endeavour to determine how you can make the best use of your present property, than build more. We shall see how little, and not how much, can be built. We have been content, for a number of years, with a certain degree of accommodation. I do not blame the tenants, who have no doubt done the best they could. We could not have worse accommodation if we took the property into our own hands, and we should have a greater use of our own rooms. Suppose that instead of meeting here four times a-year, we could always come here and find this room ready for our use, for refreshment, or to meet friends. You have got your building, your Temple, and half the things that the London clubs commence without; yet you are in doubt as to whether you can support yourselves. The pecuniary sacrifice which you might be called upon to make would be counterbalanced by the higher credit in which Masonry would be held. Again, we may fairly ask—is it desirable to accumulate large sums of money? No advantage could be gained if the Board of General Purposes had £20,000 in the funds at this moment. You cannot have a better way of expending your funds than in the erection of such a temple as Masons ought to meet in—a place which would add honour to the reputation of English Masonry which found its home there. We ask you for £300, not that we intend to spend that sum, but as we hope to have a building more worthy of the society, we ask you for that sum that we may put ourselves in possession, at the outset, of a plan which will be well matured, so that if we take any steps hereafter, they shall all be parts of one great plan. It has been proposed to lay out £40,000 in building a suitable hall and tavern, but where is the money to come from? You could not propose to Grand Lodge to borrow the amount, nor, if you did, would Grand Lodge be likely to sanction such a scheme. If you borrowed £40,000, and built the largest tavern in London, 7 per cent. on the outlay would not be too much to expect; but did any one of them for a moment imagine that they would be able to get £3,000 a-year for such a tavern. It was not likely. But it is neither practicable nor expedient that this Society should become large tavern-holders. Nor would such a course be at all creditable to us. It must be remembered that the Grand Lodge

of England, the largest and most influential in the world, is the only Grand Lodge which holds its meetings in a tavern. What you are asked to decide to night is—first, is it desirable that a portion of this property should be set apart exclusively for Masonic purposes? and, secondly, will you remit the matter back to us, and let us lay before you such a scheme as we think practicable and desirable? We will come to you and state what it is proposed to do. You shall be the judges. I am sorry that I have occupied your time so long. I have endeavoured to place before you as clearly as I could the whole state of the case. I desire to see this place freed from the trammels of trade, and to see Masons accommodated as they ought to be; yet, although I feel very strongly on the subject, I shall be ready to bow most respectfully to the decision of Grand Lodge, whatever that may be."

Bro. Webb, in seconding the proposition, said there could not be two questions in reference to it. After the able and lucid speech of Bro. Havers, who had, as he always did, completely exhausted the question, it was not necessary for him to add another word to what had fallen from that Brother.

The M.W. Grand Master said that, before he put the question, he was desirous shortly to state his opinion as to whether their freehold property could be made available for the purposes to which Bro. Havers had alluded. He had no hesitation in saying that, if such a scheme was practicable, it would add to the respectability and dignity of the Craft to entirely do away with the tavern. He knew that there was a strong feeling throughout the Masons in the country against the practice of holding their meetings in taverns, and in several places the Brethren had subscribed towards the erection of buildings devoted solely to Masonic purposes. Such, to his own knowledge, had been the case at Malton, in Yorkshire; and he believed that the same thing had occurred in Hull. If those examples were acted upon by Grand Lodge, it would not only be highly appreciated by their Brethren in the country, but would serve as an example to Masonry generally.

Bro. Binckes, in reply to the observation of Bro. Havers as regarded his conduct as a member of the Board of General Purposes, expressed his surprise at the statement that he had withheld his ideas from the Board, when Bro. Havers must remember that he had more than once cited the Carlton Club as an instance of a building having been erected in separate portions. The additional information which he had adduced to G. L. he had only been put in possession of that very day, and the evening previously.

Bro. Havers denied that he had, in the course of his speech, suggested a club at all. With respect to Bro. Binckes's proposal, it came upon him quite unexpectedly, and he thought that Brother, as a member of the Board of General Purposes, would have done his duty better if he had brought it before them for consideration instead of keeping it for Grand Lodge. The question was not whether the thing was practicable, but whether it was desirable.

The resolution was then agreed to.

Bro. Havers next moved the adoption of the second recommendation, that the subject be referred back to the Board, with directions to report thereon to the next Grand Lodge but one, and to bring before it such a scheme as may appear to be practicable for carrying out the foregoing resolution, and to authorise the Board to expend a sum not exceeding £300, for that purpose; and if they see fit, to submit the subject to the public competition of the whole Masonic body, and to offer a sum not exceeding 150 guineas in premiums for the best design.

Bro. Webb seconded the motion.

Bro. Whitmore said, that inasmuch as it was proposed to send the report back to the Board of General Purposes for the details of a plan, they had, he thought, arrived at a very serious portion of the question. He would be perfectly content to refer it to the consideration of a committee of the members of Grand Lodge generally, many of whom were more competent to deal with the subject, than was the Board of General Purposes, not only in regard to the point of architectural merit, in the plan they might adopt, but also in a knowledge of the changes which were necessary to render the building useful for Masonic purposes. (Hear,

hear.) He did not see why those Brethren, who had all along taken an interest in the property of the Craft, should be shut out from the consideration of the subject. There was a Brother who had just left the seat beside him—he alluded to Bro. Beadon—who was most competent to judge of such a matter. He would say the same of Brother Dobie, and of many other Brethren, members of Grand Lodge, but not members of the Board of General Purposes, and who would on that account be precluded from giving the Craft the benefit of their judgment, their experience, and their taste, in the selection of a plan for the proposed alterations. He thought that a committee of six should be appointed to meet a like number from the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. Havers said, he agreed to a great extent with what had fallen from Bro. Whitmore, and if he would name a few gentlemen, members of Grand Lodge, such as Bro. Cabbit and Bro. Hardwicke, as a committee to confer with the Board of General Purposes it would be most happy to avail itself of their assistance. He hoped that the consideration of this question would be kept clear of party feeling in Grand Lodge.

A Brother asked if the 150 guineas was included in the £300.

Bro. Havers replied in the affirmative, although the Grand Secretary intimated that it was not.

Bro. Whitmore said, he had no objection to fall in with the views of Bro. Havers, and if time were given to him, he should make out a list of Brethren in whose judgment and good taste Grand Lodge would have every confidence.

Bro. Roxburgh would object to any such course being taken, as it would imply an antagonism between Grand Lodge and the Board of General Purposes, and would be an insult to the members of the latter body, who were ready to devote time, trouble, and consideration, upon the several plans which might be brought before them. When they did make a selection, the scheme which they approved would be laid before Grand Lodge, and then every man would be able to judge for himself.

Bro. Gregory thought the course suggested by Bro. Whitmore unconstitutional, and read the Book of Constitutions to show that the management of everything connected with the building and furniture of the Craft was vested in the Board of General Purposes only.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal thought Bro. Gregory had strangely read the Book of Constitutions. There was no doubt that, ordinarily, the Board of General Purposes had the care of that building and of the furniture of the Craft, but here was a special case requiring a special aptitude, and therefore it was but reasonable that a special body should be entrusted with the consideration of it. He questioned, too, the advisability of taking the designs from the Craft only, and not throwing the competition open to architects generally. Why, for instance, should they exclude men like Scott and Butterworth from the competition, and so cut themselves off from getting the best design the profession could supply them. Indeed, he doubted if any architect of standing would submit plans to be decided upon by a body of men inexperienced in architectural matters as the members of the Board of General Purposes were. He therefore thought the suggestion of Bro. Whitmore a very proper and wise one. With regard to what had fallen from Bro. Havers, in reference to a Masonic party in Grand Lodge, he would tell him that if he wished to establish one, and make it compact, united, and strong, he could not do better than continue to display his hostility to him and the Brethren who generally acted with him. (Hear, hear). He had already, by his impertinences, driven one noble Lord from the room that night.

The M.W. Grand Master called Bro. Portal to order. He did think his observations Masonic.

Bro. Portal would willingly retract any observation that was not Masonic, but when the Earl of Carnarvon was leaving the room he told him (Bro. Portal) that he would not remain to be subject to such insolence. If there was a party in Grand Lodge, Bro. Havers was certainly not going the right way to disband and dissipate it.

Bro. Savage doubted the propriety of referring the question to so large a body as the Board of General Purposes. All power was in the hands of Grand Lodge, and he thought they might very well select three or four competent Brethren to decide the matter.

Bro. Whitmore said he had now a list of six members ready who should, he proposed, be associated with an equal number of Brethren selected from the Board of General Purposes, and so form a special committee for the consideration of the matter.

The M.W. Grand Master suggested that it would be better if the Board of General Purposes were to appoint a sub-committee, who might call in the assistance of other members of Grand Lodge.

Bro. Wyndham Portal, J.G.W., thought all difficulty would be got rid of if, in accordance with the Book of Constitutions, the Board of General Purposes were themselves to recommend to Grand Lodge the appointment of a special board.

Bro. J. Hervey thought the proposal of Bro. Whitmore anything but complimentary to the Board of General Purposes. The Board would, of course, in a matter of this kind, appoint a sub-committee, and as there were two architects of great experience on the board, they no doubt would be members of the committee, and in their hands the matter would be safe. The board had no indisposition to have other Brethren associated with them for the determination of a question like the present, but he must say that he regarded the proposal of Bro. Whitmore as a motion of want of confidence in the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. Barrett denied that either of the Brethren alluded to by the last speaker was an architect.

Bro. Whitmore quoted the formation of the Colonial Board as a precedent for his proposal.

Bro. Havers had that morning seen Bro. Hardwicke, who was on a sick bed, and he had told him that he would at all times be most happy to give the Board his advice and assistance, and that they might command his services. He believed that the other Brethren, who were on Bro. Whitmore's list, would be ready to do the same thing. The Board of General Purposes was still deserving of the confidence of Grand Lodge, and until they forfeited that confidence, a subject like the present should not be taken out of their hands. With regard to the charge that he wished to create a party in Grand Lodge, so far from that being the case, no one, as Bro. Portal himself knew, had laboured harder to avoid it. He denied that he had that evening at all referred to Lord Carnarvon, and he had made that statement in his lordship's presence, and it was one which ought to be enough between one gentleman and another. With regard to Bro. Portal himself, he had entertained the highest respect for him, and when on the Board of General Purposes, he had invited his counsel and assistance. He had, too, in writing under his hand received from him his consent to several things, which he afterwards opposed in Grand Lodge. What confidence then could he have in such a man.

The M.W. Grand Master, after some consultation with the Brethren on the dais, told Bro. Whitmore that he could not put his proposal before Grand Lodge, as it was not strictly an amendment, but a motion interfering with the constitution of the Board of General Purposes, and as such required the usual notice.

Bro. Whitmore said he must of course submit to the ruling of the M.W. Grand Master, but he at the same time most earnestly protested against it.

An amendment was then moved and seconded, to the effect, that the further consideration of the question be postponed until the next Grand Lodge, and a division having taken place, it was lost by a large majority. The original motion was then agreed to.

Bro. Havers then moved, "That in the scheme which they would have to consider, it would be desirable to proceed only with the view of providing fitting and appropriate accommodation to be devoted solely and exclusively to Masonic purposes."

Bro. Webb seconded the motion.

Bro. Savage thought it scarcely proper to determine a question of so much importance without proper discussion, a thing which they could not have at that late hour of the night; he would therefore move that the farther consideration of the subject be postponed until next Grand Lodge.

Bro. Havers hoped Bro. Savage would not press his amendment, as it would render the other resolutions inoperative.

After some conversation the amendment was negatived and the resolution agreed to, after which, Grand Lodge was closed in ample form at twelve o'clock.

Colonial.

CANADA.

The following List of all Lodges in Canada West to whom Warrants have been granted by the Grand Lodge of England, with the dates of the last Returns and Payments, was laid before Grand Lodge at the last quarterly communication.

No.	Place.	Last Name Registered.	Quarter in which payment was received.	Quarter in which such payment was made.
487	Toronto ..	Hamilton H. Killaly ..	1857, Sept.	1857, Mar.
*488	Niagara ..	D. Chisholm ..	1822, Sept.	1822, Sept.
489	Brockville ..	William B Simpson ..	1857, Mar.	1853, Mar.
490	Niagara ..	Alexander Gordon ..	1848, June	1848, June
491	Kingston ..	Robert Thornton ..	1857, June	1856, Dec.
*492	Fridsburgh ..	John Rieckly ..	1822, Sept.	1822, Sept.
493	Farnest Town	William J. McKay ..	do	do
*494	Grimsbly ..	Robert Neiles ..	do	do
*495	Toronto ..	Peter Secor ..	do	do
*496	Belleville ..	Auson Hayden ..	do	do
497	Cobourg ..	Robert N. Weddell ..	1851, Sept.	1846, June
*498	Oxford ..	Ebenezer Withers ..	1822, Sept.	1822, Sept.
*499	Richmond ..	S. Rider ..	do	do
500	Simcoe ..	Henry T. B. Schuyler ..	1856, Mar.	1855, Mar.
*501	St. Katherine's	J. H. Clenderman ..	1822, Sept.	1822, Sept.
*502	Murray ..	Thomas Galtloyter ..	do	do
*503	Ancaster ..	Edward Waud ..	do	do
504	Bolton, Albion	Robert M. Strype ..	1855, Dec.	1854, June
*505	Hallowell ..	E. D. White ..	1822, Sept.	1822, Sept.
*506	Westminster	Bartholomew Swart ..	do	do
*507	Perth ..	Samuel Wood ..	do	do
720	Lake Huron ..	James Gentles ..	1847, June	1846, June
738	Hamilton ..	W. W. Sumners ..	1857, June	1855, Sept.
779	York ..	William McGruer ..	1847, June	1845, Dec.
789	Toronto ..	Thomas D. Harrington ..	1850, Dec.	1850, Mar.
790	Richmond Hill	Charles-Kahn ..	1853, Mar.	1846, June
791	St. Catharines	Francis McDonald ..	1851, Dec.	1851, June
*796	Carlton Place	John McIntyre ..	1847, Sept.	1847, Sept.
797	Smith's Falls	Archibald Goodfellow ..	1850, Mar.	do
798	Toronto ..	William C. Chewett ..	1856, Sept.	1855, Dec.
*799	Whitby ..	Ezra Armes ..	1847, Sept.	1847, Sept.
800	Newcastle District	John Ross ..	1853, Sept.	1850, Dec.
833	Hamilton ..	James Black ..	1856, Mar.	1855, June
834	Peterboro' ..	Robert Blackett ..	1857, Dec.	1857, Mar.
835	Bytown ..	James M. T. Hannum ..	do	1857, Sept.
*836	Kemptville ..	Edgar S. Barnes ..	1850, Mar.	1850, Mar.
848	Guelph ..	Dwight Benedict ..	1853, June	1850, Sept.
849	Amhurstburg	Charles Bell ..	1850, Sept.	do
*850	Boumanville ..	James Crowfield ..	do	do
851	Dunville ..	David McIndo ..	1853, Mar.	1851, Sept.
*870	Sandwich ..	George Ham ..	1851, Dec.	1851, Dec.
*890	River Trent ..	Robert Francis ..	1853, Mar.	1853, Mar.
*891	Borelia ..	John Daniel ..	do	do
*892	Gosfield ..	John G. Munger ..	do	do
*893	Whitby ..	J. Keller ..	do	do
*894	Chippawa ..	George Gordon ..	1853, June	1853, June
895	London ..	Samuel Thornton ..	1857, Dec.	1857, June
896	Woodstock ..	Andrew Ross ..	1857, Mar.	1856, Sept.
*943	Chatham ..	Petitioners only ..	1855, Sept.	1855, Sept.
*944	Windsor ..	do ..	do	do
*945	Madoc ..	do ..	do	do
*946	Morpeth ..	do ..	do	do
*947	Consecon ..	do ..	do	do
*948	Stanley Mills	do ..	do	do
*949	Mercerville ..	do ..	do	do
*950	Port Sarnia ..	do ..	do	do
*921	North Goves Corners	do ..	do	do
952	City of Ottawa	James B. Reid ..	1857, Dec.	1857, June
953	Ottawa ..	William B. Galloway ..	1857, Sept.	do
*954	Hamilton ..	Petitioners only ..	1855, Sept.	1855, Sept.
977	Simcoe ..	Thomas W. Clark ..	1857, Sept.	1857, Mar.
*978	Newcastle ..	Petitioners only ..	1856, June	1856, June
1001	Stirling ..	do ..	1857, M r.	1857, June

This return is the best possible commentary upon the inefficiency of the Executive at home.

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

We hasten to lay before our readers the gratifying intelligence, that the Grand Master and Grand Officers of the State of New York held a meeting at Rochester, on the 15th inst., and adopted a resolution recognising the Grand Lodge of Canada. We felt sure that as soon as the union in Canada was consummated, all the Grand Lodges of the United States, at least, would extend

* Lodges marked thus have made no Returns since their Warrants were granted.

† Lodges marked thus appear to have had their Warrants granted without payment of Fees

to it the hand of fraternal recognition. The union of the fraternity throughout the Union is now complete, and a perfect chain of recognition exists, with only one exception. May this link be cemented and make the chain complete.—*Philadelphia Masonic Mirror and Keystone.*

NORTH ADELAIDE.

On Wednesday, Aug. 25th, North Adelaide was considerably enlivened by the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Masonic Hall. The members of the Prov. Grand Lodge met at the Lodge room of the Lodge of Truth, No. 993, Queen's Head Inn, Kermode street, where they were joined by his Excellency the Governor. Precisely at the hour appointed, the Brethren who were present, in full Masonic attire, moved up the hill in procession to the site of the proposed building. From 100 to 150 persons had assembled to witness the ceremony, and seemed to take a lively interest in what was going forward.

VICTORIA.

On Wednesday, Aug. 13th a farewell banquet was given to Capt. Clarke, P.G.M., who in returning thanks for his health said:—He spoke from the fulness of his heart, and indeed, could hardly utter his feelings towards his Brother Masons and fellow colonists who had declared their esteem for him so warmly. He esteemed the honour of his position the more highly because he had not been raised to the position he held as the nominee of an English Grand Master, but from the free choice of his Brethren in the colony. He had sought by every means furnished by Freemasonry to further the social welfare of the colony; for he had early detected in the system not only the incipient principles but the plan of the entire fabric of a renewed and perfect social state. He referred to the state of the colony at the period of his first connection with it, and he had then felt that the germs of this Order were calculated to effect great social good. There were men, he was sorry to say, who regarded this Order as a gross delusion; nay, some high in position, condemned it as a grand fallacy; but he would tell such individuals that they knew nothing of the matter, and they were the parties who laboured under the delusion. He had himself been twitted with indiscretion and folly in having identified himself with this Order, but he gloried in his position as a Mason, and his connection with so many Brethren whom he highly esteemed. He anticipated the greatest advantage to the country from the operation of Masonry, and in leaving the colony he felt the greatest confidence in leaving the interests of the Order in the hands of those who would henceforth fill the office of Grand Master. Referring to the project of amalgamating the three constitutions, and forming one Grand Lodge, he did not think that the time had arrived for effecting that object. He did not think that it would be beneficial to the interests of the Order to form a Lodge independent of the parent Grand Lodges. He did not apprehend any mischief, as some seemed to do, from the rivalry of the three Constitutions. So far as his observation went, he found that the Grand Masters invariably consulted and co-operated with each other. He instanced the case of Canada in proof that separation was not advantageous, and he expected that such arrangements in reference to fees and other matters, could be made with the parent Grand Lodges as would obviate some of the chief objections now entertained to a continuance of the connection. He therefore, as his last request, asked that any movement toward separation might be stayed until the representations from this country had gone home, and the opinions of the Grand Masters there ascertained. He was going home, as one who understood the position of the Lodges in the colony, and he pledged himself that as their representative, he would not fail to attend to their interests. In referring to his departure, he declared that his future was a simple blank. He could not say where his lot might be cast. As a soldier at the command of his Queen and country, he might in a few months be in Canada or in India, and therefore he would not have them calculate upon his return, but would have them fill the offices he had held without delay. He regretted his departure from Australia, and he trusted that circumstances would enable him at some future time to return; but whether his absence extended over five or ten years, he trusted that his career would always be such as to do honour to his Brethren, and meet their entire approval and confidence. Captain Clarke resumed his seat amid general and continued applause.

FREEMASONS AT BUENOS AYRES.—A letter from Buenos Ayres, in the *Havre Journal*, states that the Bishop of that place has excommunicated all Freemasons, and declared their doctrines incompatible with those of the Catholic Church. In consequence of this, the clergy have exhorted from the pulpit the wives and children of Freemasons to quit them, and servants to denounce them.

Mark Masonry.

CHESHIRE.

FLOWERY FIELD, HYDE.—*Fidelity Lodge* (No. 31).—A preliminary meeting of the above Lodge was held under charter from the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters for England, granted July 28, 1858, to Bros. John Zurker, W.M.; S. P. Leather, S.W.; John Brierley, J.W.; G. P. Cooks; J. Stoot; and W. Johnston; held at the White Hart Inn, Flowery Field, Hyde, on the 8th Sept., for the purpose of appointing and installing the officers. Several Brethren were proposed as members; and the prospects of establishing this beautiful and important degree on a firm footing, under the Grand Lodge in the province, are highly flattering. For many years there has existed a numerous Mark Lodge here; but in consequence of its being constituted entirely as a funeral fund, the greater part of the Brethren who have taken the degree in that Lodge (and this includes Brethren from all parts of the country), who had no wish to subscribe to the funeral fund, have been debarred from participating in the privileges of the degree as members; and as there is no other Mark Lodge within twenty miles, it is expected that a Lodge on a more liberal basis, and with a better system of working, will be highly prosperous, especially when it is called to mind that this degree is undoubtedly as much the completion of the F.C. as the R.A. is that of the M.M. The advantages of a union of the various Lodges under one head are also so self-evident, that we think we are justified in predicting for this Lodge a career of success.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

BATH.—*Royal Cumberland Lodge.*—(Time immemorial, now working under warrant from Grand Lodge). The Brethren of this rapidly increasing Lodge met at the Freemasons' Hall, on Monday evening, the 30th Sept. There were present the following Brethren: Bro. L. L. Bagshawe (acting Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.), W.M.; Bro. C. Haseler, P. Prov. S.G.W. (P.M.); Bro. S. Helier, I.G., No. 48 (Sec.); Bro. T. B. Moutrie (Steward, No. 48), M.O. and S.W. *pro tem.*; Bro. E. T. Payne (I.G., No. 61), J.W.; Bro. G. Reynolds, (No. 48), S.D., *pro tem.*; Bro. C. F. Marshall (S.D., No. 61), J.D.; Bro. F. Wilkinson, (J.D., No. 48), Sr.O.; Bro. J. George, (No. 48), Jr.O.; Bro. T. Carter (P.M.), I.G.; Bro. C. J. Vigne, visitor. The Lodge having been duly opened, Bro. W. Henderson, of No. 367, and Bro. — Randolph, D. Prov. G.M. for Somersetshire, were duly advanced to the degree of Mark Master, the ceremony being ably performed by the respective officers—the lecture being delivered by Bro. Payne, J.W. After some formal business had been transacted, the Lodge was closed at half-past nine.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*Fowke Lodge* (No. 19).—The first meeting of this new Lodge of Mark Masters were held at the Bell Hotel, Leicester. The officers nominated in the warrant are Bros. W. Kelly, Prov. G.M. of the Mark for Leicestershire, as W.M.; F. Goodyer, S.W.; and Geo. Bankart, J.W. The charter of constitution having been read, and the W.M. duly obligated, &c., a ballot was taken for the following Brethren of the John of Gaunt Lodge of Craft Masons (No. 766), as candidates for the Mark, viz.—Bros. T. Cooper, P.M.; J. J. Kinton, P.M.; E. Clephan, W.M.; W. B. Smith, P.M.; W. Millican, P.M.; J. D. Paul, J.W.; T. Sheppard, Sec.; W. Johnson, jun., S.D.; R. Brewin, jun., S.D.; D. Spooner, W. S. Bitterey, and George Hawkins as a serving Brother by dispensation. Nine of these Brethren being in attendance, were duly advanced to the Mark Master degree by the W.M., assisted by Bros. Underwood (D. Prov. G.M. and W.M., No. 21), as P.M.; Goodyer, S.W.; Bankart, J.W.; Vindram (J.W., No. 21), as Reg.; Pettifor (S.W., No. 21), as D.; and Hardy, as I.G. A code of by-laws having been proposed and ordered to be further considered at the next meeting, the Lodge was closed in due form.

Howe Lodge (No. 21).—This new Lodge was then opened, Bro. Kelly, Prov. G.M. presiding, who, after the charter of constitution had been read, proceeded to instal the W.M., Bro. Underwood, Mayor of Leicester, and D. Prov. G.M. of the Mark, for Leicestershire. A dispensation for the advancement of a serving Brother having been read, a ballot was taken for eleven members of St. John's Lodge of Craft Masons (No. 948), as candidates, all of whom were duly elected, and the following Brethren being present, were severally advanced as Mark Masters, viz.—Bros. H. Kinder, P.M.; C. Morris, P.M.; J. Holland, jun., S.W.; A. Cummings, J.W.; W. Wear, H. E. Emberlin, and James Pennock (Tyler). The proposed by-laws having been deferred for discussion until the next meeting, and some further routine business transacted, the Lodge

was closed in due form, and the Brethren adjourned to refreshment. It is proposed to establish a Lodge of Instruction for this degree, and for the Lodges to meet again shortly for the appointment of officers and for the admission of a further number of candidates.

KEY STONE LODGE.—(No. 3.)

This Lodge held a meeting of emergency on the 24th June last, the W.M. Bro. T. S. Barringer, P. J. G. D., having called the Lodge together in consequence of ten Brethren requesting to be advanced to the degree, when Bros. Sewell, Venables, Russell, Spratt, and Walls being in attendance, were advanced to the degree of Mark Master. The W.M. said he had great pleasure in informing the Lodge that the S.W. and Secretary had been selected by the Most Worshipful Grand Mark Master, Lord Leigh, to fill the office so recently occupied by himself (the W.M.) of J. G. D. in Grand Lodge, an appointment which he was sure would meet with the approbation of this Lodge, and he hoped of the whole Craft. The business being over, the Brethren adjourned to a banquet, provided by Br. Painter. Amongst the visitors were Bro. Lazarus, P. G. Organist, and Bro. James Cooper. This Lodge also held its regular meeting on the 30th Sept., Bro. T. S. Barringer P. J. G. D., W.M., in the chair, and Bros. Goggin and Wake being in attendance, were advanced to the degree of Mark Master; the ceremony being performed in a very able and impressive manner by the W.M. This being the night of election of W.M. for the ensuing year, the Lodge unanimously elected Bro. Edward Barrell, the S.W., and J. G. D., to fill that responsible office, and Bro. Thorn was re-elected Treasurer, and Brother W. Rice, Tyler. The other business of the Lodge being over, the Brethren adjourned to an elegant dinner, provided by Bro. Painter, the host, and one of the Stewards of the Lodge. The evening was one of the most delightful which could be spent in Masonry, and beginning as it does the season, the effect was more gratifying.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Howe Mark Master's Lodge.*—The Brethren of this Lodge assembled at the Masonic rooms, on Monday, Oct. 18th. Four Brethren were advanced to this degree. The W.M., Bro. A. McCracken, presided, and his officers were all well up to their duties. These rooms are admirably adapted for Lodge meetings. If Masonic meetings could generally be held in buildings such as this, the Order would be advanced, and the comfort of the Brethren greatly enhanced.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*The Fowke Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 19).—The second meeting of this recently established Lodge, was held at The Three Crowns Hotel, Leicester, on the 28th ult. There were present Bros. Kelly, (Prov. Grand Master of the Mark for Leicestershire), W. Kinton, as S.W.; Bankart, J.W.; Hardy, Clapham, Smith, Millican, Paul, Sheppard, Johnson, and Dithrey. The only visitor present was Bro. William Hands, of Lodge (No. 58), Hinckley, one of Nelson's veterans, having been a marine on board the *Victory*, and who was advanced to the Mark degree, so far back as the year 1807, in Lodge No. 8, attached to the 90th Regiment, at Gibraltar. The minutes of the former Lodge having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bros. C. J. Willey, S.W.; H. J. Davis, and S. Carter, of the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 766, and J. W. Smith, *L.L.D.*, S.W., of the Knights of Malta Lodge, No. 58, Hinckley, and Prov. G. Reg., who were duly elected; and Bros. Willey and Davis being present, were duly advanced to the degree of Mark Master, as was also Bro. Robt. Brewin, jun., S.D., of No. 776, who was balloted for at the first meeting. The W.M. then appointed and invested the officers of the ensuing year, as follows:—Bros. F. Goodyer, S.W.; G. Bankart, J.W.; E. Clephan (elected) Treas.; W. B. Smith, Sec.; W. Millican, Reg.; J. D. Paul, S.D.; T. Sheppard, J.D.; W. S. Bithrey, Dir. of Music and Cers.; W. Johnson and C. J. Willey, Stewards; Robt. Brewin, jun., I.G. The code of by-laws proposed at the former meeting was considered, and the various rules having been discussed *seriatim*, were unanimously adopted. The W.M. proposed, and the J.W. seconded—that Bros. Underwood, (Mayor of Leicester), Pettifor, and Windram, the W.M., S. and J.W., (and the founders), of the Howe Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 21, Leicester, be elected honorary members of this Lodge. After the transaction of further business of a formal character, the Lodge was closed in due form. Although the Lodge was only opened on the 9th September, it already numbers fifteen subscribing members, and several other Brethren are waiting for advancement. There can be no doubt that, as the merits of this beautiful, but (in England) long neglected degree, become more generally known among the Brethren, they will be properly appreciated by the Craft, and it is devoutly to be wished that the whole

of the Mark Masters Lodges in England may soon be united under one supreme authority, as nothing tends so greatly to check the progress of Mark Masonry in the country as the disunited and disorganized state of the Lodges. One country Lodge, "working from immemorial usage," some time ago granted a warrant for the establishment of at least one Lodge in another town.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Northumberland and Berwick-upon-Tweed Lodge.—This Lodge was duly opened on Wednesday, Oct. 27, in the Masonic Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by brother John Barker, as R.W.M.; Septimus Bell, as S.W.; H. T. Ludwig, as J.W.; Henry Hotham, as S.D.; C. J. Bannister, as J.D.; Andrew Gillispie, as Reg. and Sec.; and other Brethren. Bro. James Rutter, of the Zetland Lodge, Hong Kong, was, after a unanimous ballot, advanced to this degree by Bro. John Barker. The Lodge then proceeded to the election of R.W.M., Treasurer and Tyler, and the unanimous vote of the Lodge fell on Bro. Barker as R.W.M.; Bro. Gillespie as Treas., and Bro. Trotter as Tyler. The R.W.M. elect having thanked the Brethren, announced to them, that since their last meeting the M.V.G.M., Lord Leigh, had been pleased to honour the Lodge, by appointing one of its members to office, and that the selection had fallen on himself, he having been appointed G. Dir. of Cers. This announcement was received with applause, and the R.W.M. was congratulated on his promotion. After the transaction of other business, the Lodge was closed in love and harmony.

BERKSHIRE.

Newbury.—Porchester Lodge, No. 27.—The Most Worshipful Grand Mark Master of England, the Right Hon. the Lord Leigh, having by special warrant empowered Bro. H. E. Astley, Bro. E. S. Cossens, and Bro. B. Pinniger, as the first Right Worshipful Master and Wardens, to constitute a new Mark Masters Lodge, under the above name, being No. 27 on the roll of the Grand Mark Masters' Lodge of England, &c., the first meeting took place at the Three Tuns Hotel, Newbury, at high twelve, on Friday, the 12th Nov., under the superintendence of the Right Worshipful Brother W. W. Beach, M.P., P. G. M. M. Hants, W.M., No. 995, and the R.W. Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, G.M. Chaplain, P.M., Nos. 10, 460, P. Prov. S.G.W., Oxon, &c.

The charter having been read, the consecration was performed by those eminent brethren in the most impressive and perfect manner, and the Lodge was opened in ample form: the services, founded on Isaiah xix. 19; Isaiah xxx. 26; Luke ii. 17; Ezekiel xiv. 1 to 5; 2 Chron. ii. 11 to 16, and Rev. ii. 17, being conducted by the G. Chaplain. After which, the following Brethren were advanced to the companionship of this honourable degree, by Bro. Beach, R.W.M. presiding. Bros. L. How, No. 995; R. J. Knight, No. 995; J. Elford, No. 995; T. Deller, No. 839; W. H. Cave, No. 839; F. J. Temple, No. 995; R. Nicholls, No. 995; H. Fowler, No. 995; W. J. Ford, No. 995; R. S. Hulbert, No. 995; J. May, No. 995; R. A. Ryott, No. 839; J. W. Lamb, No. 995; F. Thomas, No. 839. The ceremonies lasted till four o'clock, when the companions retired to banquet; during which, Bro. Beach delivered a very instructive address on the history and principles of Freemasonry, founded on parts of the lectures appertaining to the F. C. degree, which was listened to with the greatest attention; and after several most loyal and Masonic expressions, he paid a well-deserved compliment to Bro. H. E. Astley, the Right Worshipful Master, who in a gentlemanlike address, responded to it; and having requested the use of the gavel, in a neat speech proposed the health of the Right Worshipful Master presiding. Bro. Beach also passed high encomiums on Bro. Cossens, who had been mainly instrumental in the formation of this, the first Mark Masters' Lodge in the province, for the unceasing zeal and assiduity he had displayed in the good cause, working willingly in the sweet labour of love, conducting the affairs with great success; and with much ability upholding the landmarks on which this ancient degree was founded, supported, and maintained. Bro. Cossens replied at some length, and made well-timed allusions to the further progress of Freemasonry within the province. The health of Bro. Portal was received with the greatest enthusiasm; he replied, as he always does, excellently.

The evening's pleasure was enhanced by some very suitable melodies from Bros. Fowler, Cave, Ryott, Cossens, and Knight, which gave unqualified gratification, and the brethren retired at an early hour, delighted with the day's labour and refreshment.

Several Brethren, with their usual zeal, came from Basingstoke, in an omnibus; and much amusement was created by their being mistaken for a party of Dissenting ministers on their way to a Chapel opening.

We understand that at the next meeting of the Porchester Lodge

a large number of M.M.'s will attend to be advanced, and that Bro. Beach will shortly be appointed the Prov. G.M. for Berkshire.

First Devon Militia Lodge of Mark Masters (No. 29).—This Lodge which is believed to be the only Mark Lodge attached to any regiment in Her Majesty's service, held a meeting, at Exeter, on Tuesday, the 18th of October last, Bro. Lieut. Ridgway, W.W., occupied the Chair; Bro. Capt. Davy, S.W., and Bro. Ensign Bowling, J.W. Upon this occasion Bro. Major Maclurean was welcomed and duly obligated as a joining Member, and the following were balloted for, and advanced to the degree, viz.:—Bros. Gapt. George Henry Woods, Lieut. Thomas Dimond Hogg, Dr. Brent, late of the Devon Artillery; Capt. Ducie and Colour-Sergeant Blanchard were also balloted for and duly elected as fit candidates for advancement, but being on duty were unable to attend. This promising little Lodge consists as yet, excepting Bro. Brent, wholly of officers in the First Devon Militia, in which gallant corps it may interest some Brethren to know that there is a very unusually large proportion of Members of the Craft, commencing with the Honorary Colonel Earl Fortescue, Provincial Grand Master for Devon. Whether this haven may have done ought to raise the character of the regiment, we will not say, but certain it is that during the last war, the first Devon won golden opinions, wherever they were quartered. The spirit of Masonry was silently evident among them, their square was true, their line as the plumb, and whilst the level of discipline was happily maintained, the compass of good feeling drew a circle uniting officers and men. It will be seen that the W.M. has been appointed Prov. G.S.W. of the Mark for Devon, an honour as unexpected by him, as it was complimentary to the Lodge.

AMALGAMATION OF THE MARK MASONS.

The following Address to the R.W. Masters of the various Mark Lodges, acting under the Scottish Constitution, urging the desirability of adopting measures to unite with the English Mark Lodges, has been widely circulated, and is worthy of the attentive consideration of our Brethren of the Mark:—

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As R.W. Masters of Mark Lodges holding under the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, we invite your attention to a subject which has for a considerable time occupied the minds of the London Brethren, viz.—the unsatisfactory condition of the Mark Degree in this country, arising from the anomalous position which the various Lodges under different jurisdictions bear to each other.

"You are aware that an organization of Mark Masons already exists under the title of 'The Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales,' representing twenty-one Lodges. These Brethren have, from an early period, desired an amalgamation of all interests, and the formation of one general body of English Mark Masters, practising the degree according to a uniform system. Hitherto we have not entertained this proposition; but we feel the time has arrived when such a union is not only desirable, but that the well being of Mark Masonry imperatively demands it.

"The details of the proposed union have not been arranged, but it is acknowledged that its basis is to be free, equal, and mutual; each Lodge to retain its individual existence as before; the code of laws for its government to be formed by a new Grand Lodge, composed of the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of all Lodges that may subscribe to this union; and the adoption of the laws and constitutions of the Craft Grand Lodge, as near as circumstances will allow, as the foundation of the new Grand Mark Lodge.

"Besides the Lodges comprised in the body alluded to, and our own, we believe there are only four or five others in the country that exist independently; and we have little doubt, when they are acquainted with the facts, they will be anxious to be parties to this general union.

"The proposition thus submitted to you has received the mature consideration of the Brethren here, and they are very sanguine as to the advantages that will result from its adoption. We have resolved, therefore, to lay the subject before our respective Lodges, at the ensuing meetings, when, if it meet their approval, of which we have little doubt, we propose to withdraw our allegiance from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland and join the other Brethren in the formation of a new Grand Mark Lodge, under whose jurisdiction we hope to see firmly united the whole body of Mark Masons in England.

"In thus stating our views and urging them upon your consideration, and that of your Lodge, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we are prompted by no feeling of hostility to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland; on the contrary, we are anxious to express our warmest gratitude to that body for the services it has willingly rendered to us in propagating the degree.

"Though we cannot in this paper discuss the subject in all its bearings, we submit to your attention a few of the reasons that have influenced us, assuring you that we are actuated only by a sincere desire to restore the Mark Degree to the important position it formerly held, and to promote the best interests of the fraternity.

"1.—As union is always desirable amongst parties leagued together for a common object, and as this desirability is increased by our Masonic tie, it is clearly our duty, as well as our interest, to show that the same perfect harmony may exist among Mark Masters as with any other body of Masons.

"2.—History and experience prove that divisions have never permanently existed in the Masonic body; that whatever circumstances have temporarily separated them, they have seen the wisdom of amicably settling their differences, and by a cordial union strengthening the general cause; that Mark Masters cannot be held to be an exception to this rule, nor can less advantage be

anticipated from the proposed union than has resulted from preceding ones.

"3.—The union contemplated is necessary to remove the anomaly of English Mark Masons being compelled to practise the degree under a disputed authority, or to apply to a sister country for warrants of constitution; either course, in the present advanced state of English Masonry, being open to grave objections, and derogatory to the national character.

"4.—By removing the differences now existing, all Mark Masters will be placed in a more equal and strictly Masonic position, the privileges of the degree more securely established, the practice of it by Lodge visitations made more agreeable, and its general principles more extensively promoted.

"5.—That great want in Mark Masonry, a uniform system of working, will by this means be materially facilitated.

"6.—A re-union with Craft Masonry will more easily and effectually be accomplished by a united body than by various sections maintaining different opinions and interests.

"7.—All Mark Lodges throughout the country will be represented in the government of the Order, the necessary laws for their guidance will be more properly formed, and each Lodge will have a voice in the distribution of the general funds.

"In conclusion, we commend the subject to your serious consideration, and as immediate action as well as unity of purpose is very desirable, the favour of your early reply directed to Bro. Sheen, at this address, will much oblige.

"We are, dear Sir and Brother,

"Yours faithfully and fraternally,

"C. J. HUGHES, R.W.M., St. Mark's Lodge, No. 1.

"J. R. SHEEN, R.W.M., Thistle Lodge, No. 3.

"H. A. ISAACS, R.W.M., Arnott Lodge, No. 4.

"J. DIXON, R.W.M., Southwark Lodge, No. 11.

"Sussex Stores,

"Upper St. Martin's Lane, London.—W.C.

"September 16th, 1858."

Thistle Lodge (No. 3, S.C.)—The Brethren of this Lodge assembled at Dick's Coffee-house, Fleet-street, on Friday, Dec. 3, under the direction of their R.W.M. Bro. Cotterell, when Bro. John Watson, No. 56, and Bro. Edmund Jefferies, No. 887, were duly advanced to the Mark Degree. It is needless to say that in the able hands of the R.W.M. this beautiful ceremony lost none of its attractiveness. It will be in the recollection of the Mark Brethren that a committee of this Lodge was lately appointed "to confer with the other Lodges on the subject of a communication from the Masters of certain Mark Lodges holding under Scotland, and to report thereon." The committee now brought up their report, which was received, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. We have been favoured with a copy, and, as we may regard it as rather an important document, we give it at length:—"The committee appointed to take into consideration the expediency of an amalgamation of the Anglo-Scottish Mark Lodges with the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales, beg to report that they have conferred with the other Mark Lodges in London holding under Scotland, and have also communicated with the several members appointed by the above-mentioned Grand Lodge as the representatives of that body. The result of these deliberations has more fully than ever convinced your committee of the policy of such union; for as it is admitted that the Mark forms a necessary portion of Craft Masonry, it must be obvious that union is the surest mode of obtaining the recognition and practice of the degree. Your committee, in calling attention to the conflicting condition of the Mark degree in this country, are of opinion that a more favourable opportunity than the present could not occur for such union. The obstacles which formerly presented themselves no longer exist, and it must be acknowledged that there are no points of difference between ourselves and the body referred to. Our connexion with Scotland arose from necessity—that necessity has ceased, and now that the number of Anglo-Scottish Mark Masters exceeds that of the total number of Scotch Arch Masons, the absurdity of the many being tributary to the few will be self-evident. Our relations with Scotland may be said to be confined simply to the transmission of fees, for we obtain in return no privileges whatever. On the other hand, the Grand Lodge are willing to receive us on just, fair, and equal terms. They propose to enrol our warrants on their lists, and register all our members free of charge. That each Lodge shall possess an equal right with themselves in the whole representative body, and in the framing or amending such laws as may from time to time be deemed requisite. Furthermore, although we join without any special condition as regards ourselves, we are to be accepted by them as having equal share in all their accumulated paraphernalia, books, documents, moneys, &c., and in the administration thereof. Irrespective of the advantages thus offered to each Lodge in its individual capacity, your committee feel assured that the proposed union will materially tend to popularize this ancient degree, place it in a more elevated position, cement a better understanding amongst Mark Brethren, and at the same time extensively promote the interests of Freemasonry in its widest sense. For these reasons,

and many others which might be adduced, your committee are strongly impressed with the necessity of the measure, and earnestly recommend to your notice the speedy adoption of so desirable an object. Signed, T. A. Adams; J. R. Sheen; Joseph Cotterell, December, 1858." The following resolution was then proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously:—"That this Lodge fully concurs in the recommendation of the committee, believing the union referred to in their report to be highly desirable. The R.W.M. is respectfully requested to consult with the Masters of the other Lodges as to the manner and times best suited for such change coming into effect; and he is hereby empowered to take such steps for carrying out that object as to him may appear expedient." The business being completed, the Brethren retired to the banquet room, where a repast of the usual excellence awaited them; and the usual Masonic toasts being given and duly acknowledged, the Brethren departed at high twelve, well pleased with the evening's proceedings.

EXETER.—*St. George's Lodge of Mark Masters (No. 15).*—A Meeting of this Lodge was held on the 19th Oct., at the Freemasons' Hall, Exeter; present, Bros. J. Huyshe, W.M., and P.G.M. for Devon; W. Cann, G.W.; F. C. Trower, J.W. and W.M. of the Portescue Mark Lodge; C. V. Laidman, Sec.; W. P. Scott, L.D.; J. T. Davy, J.D.; W. L. Channing, J.G.; J. Gregory, Tyler; also Bros. H. C. Lloyd, W. Wilcocks, W. W. James, Hunt, Hancock, Rodd, and others. Bros. Capt. W. Denis Moore of the Devon and Exeter Volunteer Rifles, and G. C. for Devon; Capt. Deacon, and Sidney R. Force were elected and duly advanced. Br. Dr. Brent, of the First Devon Militia Lodge, was elected joining Member. Bro. Wm. Cann was elected W.M. for the year ensuing, and upon the occasion gave evidence of his fraternal feeling and earnest of the future prosperity of the Lodge, by entertaining the Brethren at a sumptuous entertainment in his own house. Bros. Hunt, Hancock, and Rodd, of this Lodge, have recently obtained a warrant for the Sincerity Lodge of Mark Masters, to be held at Plymouth, which doubtless they will work with the same credit and success which uniformly attends the other Mark Lodges in the flourishing Province of Devon.

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that they have received and adjudicated upon the following complaints:—

"From the Lodge of Benevolence against the Royal Gloucester, Lodge, No. 152, Southampton, for having certified to the Petition of a Brother, that has been a regular contributing Member for the space of 19 years, whereas the Grand Lodge dues had only been paid for 17½ years. It appeared upon investigation, that the circumstances had arisen from an accidental error, and the Lodge books appearing, moreover, to have been kept with great regularity, the Board accepted the explanation offered as satisfactory.

Against the Cestrian Lodge, No. 615, at Chester, for having certified to the Petition of a widow, that her late husband had been a regular contributing member for the space of two years, whereas no payments had been made to the Fund of Benevolence for that Brother. The Lodge admitted that the Grand Lodge dues had not been paid, and the Board directed such dues to be paid forthwith, and inflicted a fine of one guinea, which sums have been paid.

Against the Lodge of Industry, No. 219, London, for certifying to the Petition of a widow, that her late husband had been a regular contributing member for the space of 12 years or upwards, whereas the Grand Lodge dues had been paid for 11½ only. Upon investigation it appearing, that although there was an error in the certificate, that no moneys, the property of Grand Lodge, had been retained, the Board cautioned the Lodge to be more careful for the future, and to examine their books previously to certifying to the correctness of a petition.

The Board further report, that they have carefully examined into the allegations set forth in the Petition of Brothers Thomas Page and John Robert Goepel, formerly of the Lodges then numbered 31 and 446, at Liverpool, and who were suspended from Masonry on the 5th March, 1823, and the Board recommend that those two Brothers be restored to their Masonic privileges.

The Board also report, that for a very considerable period they have had under their consideration the question as to how the property of the Society, including that newly acquired, may be most advantageously dealt with, both as regards a return for the outlay incurred, and in respect to the providing of fitting and appropriate accommodation for the Fraternity.

The Board are well aware that the accommodation now provided for the Craft is not such as ought to be afforded to the Members of

so large and so important a Society, and they regret that the want of a Library and Reading-room, together with appropriate dining and refreshment rooms for the use of the Fraternity when out of Lodge, has been so long and severely felt. Considering the present means of the Society, as regards the funds for *General Purposes*, and the advantage and convenience which such accommodation would afford, not only to London, but especially to Provincial Brethren, the Board are of opinion that the time has arrived when arrangements for obtaining it should be no longer delayed.

The Board, however, feel that before they can proceed further in the matter it is necessary that they should have—

- 1st. A decided expression of the opinion of Grand Lodge upon certain principles.
- 2nd. That they should have the sanction of Grand Lodge to take the necessary steps, and its authority to incur the necessary expenses to carry out the object they have in view.
- 3rd. That they should have the opinions of the Brethren generally, and the sanction and co-operation of the Provincial Brethren.

Acting, therefore, under that constitutional power which gives them authority to submit to Grand Lodge whatever may be deemed necessary or advantageous to the welfare of the Order, they submit to Grand Lodge—

- 1st. That it is desirable that the freehold property, now belonging to the Society, or such part thereof as may be necessary, shall be devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes.
- 2nd. They recommend that the subject should be referred back to the Board, with directions to report thereon to the next Grand Lodge, and to lay before it such a scheme as may appear to be practicable for the carrying out of the foregoing resolutions, and to authorize the Board to expend a sum not exceeding £300 for that purpose; and if they see fit to submit the subject to the public competition of the whole Masonic body, and to offer a sum not exceeding 150 guineas in premiums for the best design.
- 3rd. In order to guide them in their endeavour to carry out the foregoing resolutions, the Board desire to have the opinion of Grand Lodge—whether, in the scheme which they will have to consider, it will be desirable to proceed only with the view of providing fitting and appropriate accommodation, to be devoted solely and exclusively to Masonic purposes, which would absorb only a part of the present property, and may eventuate in the sacrifice of some portion of the income receivable for *General Purposes*—or whether such scheme shall embrace not only the arrangements above described, but also include very much improved Tavern accommodation, to which the public shall be admitted as heretofore.

Receiving such instructions, the Board will apply themselves with all diligence towards carrying out the objects in view, and in the preparation of such a scheme as may appear practicable to them, and will take especial care that the subject shall be brought fully under the cognizance of the Brethren generally, in order that their opinions shall be fully ascertained, and have their due weight in determining any plan which the Board may think it desirable to submit for the consideration of Grand Lodge.

The Board also report that the new edition of the Constitutions is now ready.

Masonic Charities.

Two new Charters for Lodges have recently been granted by the M. W. G. M.—No 1058, to be held at Dacca, and called the Good Hope Lodge; and No. 1059, to be held at Bombay, and called the Concord.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The October General Court of the Governors and Subscribers to this School, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Bro. John Hervey, P. G. D., V. P., in the chair, supported by Bros. Symonds, Barrett, Bisgood, E. Roberts, Binckes, Hopwood, Paas, Hewlett, Barnes, Young, Davis, Leveau, Kennedy, Dean, &c., &c., the attendance of Subscribers being more numerous than usual.

The minutes of the last Quarterly Court having been read and confirmed.

The following Report of the House Committee, recommending the admission of an increased number of pupils into the School, was read:—

“The House Committee, at an adjourned meeting, held at the School House, on Friday the 3rd September, unanimously resolved, That it is desirable that all the Boys now on the Institution, whose parents may desire it, should be received into the establishment at Hornsey.

“The House Committee beg now to submit for the consideration of the General Committee the following statements:—

Analysis of receipts and expenditure, together with a statement of the actual expenses for six months of this year, of the present limited establishment.

“The receipts and expenditure for six years only are given, viz., from March, 1851, to March, 1857, as at the former date, the education and clothing were considerably extended and improved, rendering reference to any previous year unnecessary.

“Statement of receipts and expenditure, and amount invested in each year from March, 1851, to March, 1857, showing the cost of the Institution under the old System:—

Gross Receipts.	Education.			Clothing.			Rent of Offices, Advertising and Printing, Secretary's Salary, Collector's commission, Preamble, and petty disbursements.			Gross Expenditure.	Investments.				
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	
1852....	1215	6	5	287	11	2	844	15	4	390	2	0	1031	8	6
1853....	1812	6	2	298	1	6	294	17	8	269	14	4	862	13	6
1854....	1740	5	4	259	2	9	310	10	0	244	12	11	814	5	8
1855....	1428	15	3	253	12	5	336	19	6	273	5	2	863	17	1
1856....	1451	18	3	277	12	1	294	5	6	282	14	6	854	12	1
1857....	1927	13	3	275	15	5	338	7	4	297	4	7	911	10	4

“In addition to the receipts as above shown, an amount of £1171 has been contributed in subscriptions and donations towards the Building Fund, which amount, with the sum of £1624 transferred from the surplus of the General Fund (as per resolution of the Quarterly Court of the 5th January, 1852), has been devoted, together with donations from Grand Lodge of £1350, to the purchase of the freehold property at Hornsey; which may be taken to represent a *bona fide* value of upwards of £4000. The total amount invested in the 3 per cent. consols up to the present date, being £13,500.

“An alteration in the period of keeping the accounts, viz., to the 31st December in each year, prevents any definite statement being rendered for 1857; the receipts, however, for the last ten months of that year, amounted to upwards of £2000—the receipts of the current year, being estimated at £2130.

“Cost of Maintenance at School House, Hornsey, for Six Months, ending 30th June, 1858.

	£	s.	d.
To Lady-Day	160	5	2
To Midsummer	162	8	6
For Six Months	322	13	8
Per Annum	645	7	4
Add 10 per cent for Incidental Expenses	64	10	8
Proportion of Clothing of said charges	709	18	0
Total cost at Hornsey	929	5	6
Cost of Education, Clothing, and proportion of fixed expenses of Forty-five Boys, not in the School House	572	1	3

Total Expenditure under present System ... £1501 6 9
“The disproportion in expenditure is amply compensated for by the great boon afforded to widowed mothers and parents, by taking the children completely off their hands and maintaining them.

“Estimated Cost of School for the total number of Boys to be received, Educated, Clothed, and Maintained therein.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries of Masters and Matron, and Wages of Servants	363	4	0
Coals	30	0	0
Medical attendance	30	0	0
Water Rate and Insurance	8	10	0
Add for Contingencies 10 per cent.	43	2	9
Books	26	0	0
Board of seventy-eight persons, including allowance of 10 per cent.	1014	0	0
Clothing on the average of the last six years	319	19	3
Fixed expenses on the average of the last six years	294	8	9

Total £2129 4 9

“By a reference to the accounts of past years, and by analysis of the results as shown from them, the House Committee have thus endeavoured to afford the means of comparing the past and present condition of the School, and have also submitted an estimate of the

expenses to be incurred with the view of materially increasing the efficiency of the establishment.

"When the disadvantages under which those boys labour, who are removed from the constant control and supervision, which can only be bestowed in the case of an united establishment are taken into consideration, it is believed that but one opinion can prevail, as to the policy advocated by those who have for a long period devoted their energies to extend in every possible manner the benefits afforded by the Institution, than which, none is more deserving of the support of the Craft, or more calculated to produce results, the importance of which, cannot be over-estimated.

"The outlay necessary to provide accommodation for seventy Boys, according to plans and elevations prepared by Mr. Edward Roberts the architect, will not, it is calculated, exceed £5100; in raising which sum, the House Committee do not apprehend there will be any difficulty. They are also of opinion, that a more reasonable time than the present could not have been selected for submitting the proposal, when the Craft at large appear to be actuated by a determination to increase their efforts, in support of the School, and other Charities connected with the Order; and so to place them on such a satisfactory basis, as to enable them to challenge comparison with any similar institutions."

After a short discussion, in which Bro. Symonds eloquently advocated the proposed alteration, the report was approved, adopted, and re-committed to the General Committee, to be carried into effect—two Brothers only dissenting.

Consequent upon this resolution, certain alterations in the by-laws were agreed to, with the view of increasing the number of Boys to be admitted.

A question then rose upon the remuneration to the Collector, which was referred to the General Committee for consideration, with directions to report to the next quarterly Court.

Bros. Hopwood, Robinson, Hewlett, Robins, Barnett, and Purdy, having been appointed scrutineers, the election of eight Boys on the funds of the Institution, out of a list of sixteen, was proceeded with; and shortly after three, the election was declared to have fallen on the following:—Storey, Streud, 3968; Bradley, London, 1904; Bick, Harrogate, 1778; Bayly, Southampton, 1672; Stean, London, 1611; Crocker, Fareham, 1279; Firminger, Sheerness, 1129; Martin, Truro, 1073. The unsuccessful candidates polled as follows:—Davis, 441; Johnson, 231; Stark, 209; Webber, 143; Clotworthy, 121; Adams, 109; Rogers, 72; Paul, 31.

Votes of thanks, having been given to the chairman and the scrutineers, the proceedings were brought to a close.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

A Quarterly Court of the Subscribers to this School was held on Thursday, the 14th October, Bro. Udall, P. G. D., presiding.

On the minutes being read, a short conversation took place, in which Bro. B. Head acknowledged he was in error, when he stated at Ipswich, that the circular of Bros. Symonds, Binckes, and Lyall, regarding the Masonic Schools, had been issued without the authority of the Committees.

The minutes of the various Committee meetings were then approved, thus sanctioning the appointment of Mdlle. Mesnard as French teacher, with a salary of £25 per annum for not exceeding twenty-five pupils, and £40 not exceeding fifty. The gratuitous services of Bro. Matthew Cooke, as teacher of music, were accepted—£10 per annum being allowed in lieu of travelling expenses.

The report of the Audit Committee was then read, showing a balance in hand of £1143 6s. 4d.; and the Treasurer was requested to sign cheques for £494 3s. 1d., the charges of the previous quarter, and to purchase £500 three per cent. consols.

The following children were then admitted into the School without election—Emily Martha Reynolds, Hythe; Mary Castle, Margate; Kate Amelia Abbot, Colchester; Emily Sarah Wild, Woolwich; Eliza Hart, Mary Johnson, London; Nora Primrose Stewart, Colchester; and Mary Blanche Robinson, Hull—leaving three vacancies still existing in the School.

Bro. Udall then brought forward a motion for altering the law, declaring that no child can be admitted a candidate above 10½ years of age, or elected after 11—contending that it would often be a benefit, not only to the child, but to the school, to admit a child above the stated ages, who might probably have been fairly educated in the lifetime of her parents.

Bro. Binckes seconded the motion; and instanced the case of two children as a great hardship, one having been excluded by a day—the other by a week or two only.

The resolution was unanimously adopted; and after some formal business, the meeting adjourned.

The Provinces.

(From the Masonic Mirror.)

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

NEW MASONIC HALL AT WHITBY.

We announced a few weeks ago that the members of the Lion Lodge, No. 391, had taken steps for the erection of a New Masonic Hall on the West Cliff, and that it had been determined to lay the foundation stone on the 8th of September, that being the day fixed for the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, in Whitby. For several weeks past the officers have been actively engaged in forming the preliminaries, and making the necessary preparations for carrying out the object, and as the day approached, the interest increased. Wednesday, September 8th, the long and joyously anticipated day, arrived, and the unusual activity that prevailed at an early hour indicated that the event was to be commemorated in a manner worthy of the occasion. Business of all kinds was entirely suspended. The shops were closed, flags and banners were displayed in every direction, and the streets presented an animated appearance, immense numbers of people having arrived by rail and steam boats from the neighbouring towns. During the early part of the day the weather was rather unsettled, and threatened disappointment; but as noon approached, the heavy clouds dispersed, and the sun shone in all his splendour during the whole afternoon. In accordance with the arrangements, at one o'clock a Provincial Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, was held in the Lion Lodge, No. 391, when the Brethren, who amounted to upwards of 300, assembled, and transacted the ordinary business under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, and Provincial Grand Master of the two Ridings. After the closing of the Provincial Grand Lodge, a procession was formed, the Brethren of the order appearing in full Masonic costume. They moved along Baxtergate, up Brunswick-street, and Skinner-street to the West Cliff the whole of the thoroughfares being crowded with people, the windows and every available spot being thronged with anxious spectators, while a few more daring than the rest ventured upon the housetops. On arriving near the site of the proposed building, the Masons opened right and left, and formed an avenue, and inverting the order of procession, entered the appointed place, previously to which the two platforms that had been erected to accommodate a very large number were crowded principally by the fairer sex. The scene at this moment was most imposing and interesting, and only they who have witnessed the occurrence of such events can form any idea of the excitement and pleasure produced and manifested. We have never seen a larger and more fashionable audience drawn together in Whitby on any occasion whatever. All being arranged, a voluntary was played on the harmonium by Bro. H. Deval, Mus. Doc. and Provincial Grand Organist.

His Lordship was then presented with a handsome silver trowel with an ivory handle, and proceeded to lay the foundation stone in the usual form. Beneath the foundation stone was deposited a bottle containing a parchment, on which was detailed the names of the trustees, architect, builder, shareholders, the date of laying the stone, by whom laid, with a copy of the local journals, and a number of coins. Also a square of glass with the following embossed upon it:—"The foundation stone of this Masonic Hall, erected by and for the use of the Brethren of the Lion Lodge, Whitby, No. 391, was levelled in presence of George Marwood, Esq., D. Prov. G. M., the rest of the Prov. G. officers and a numerous assemblage of the Craft, by the Right Hon. Thomas Dundas, Earl of Zetland, the M. W. Grand Master of Masons, and Prov. G. M. for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, on Wednesday, the 8th September, A. L. 5858. A. D., 1858. Samuel Flincoft, W. M.; William Stonehouse, S. W.; Samuel Burn, J. W.; Bro. J. Dobson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, architect; Bro. W. Falkingbridge, builder."

The M. W. Grand Master called upon the Prov. G. Junior Warden, Bro. Flincoft, and enquired if he had proved the stone with the plumb and rule; also to the Prov. G. Senior Warden, Bro. Lord Lodesborough, if he had proved the stone by the level. Being answered in both cases in the affirmative, his lordship then proved it himself by the square, and stated he had found it correct, and the workmen had done their duty. His lordship then strewed corn and poured oil and wine upon the stone, saying: "This corn, the emblem of plenty, the Masonic symbol of the giving of bread that came down from heaven, I scatter in the humble hope that the Most High will bless the inhabitants of this town with abundance of corn; the wine, as a symbol of joy and gladness; and the oil, of peace and comfort."

After a few further remarks, he called upon the D. Prov. G.M., to address the Brethren.

The R.W.D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Marwood then said,—“By command of the M.W.G.M., and in his name and that of the Provincial Lodge, I address you, Brethren of the Lion Lodge—I most heartily congratulate you on the auspicious commencement you have this day made towards the erection of a building to be dedicated to Freemasonry, in which building you will, I trust, for many a year to come meet together, and working in all brotherly love and harmony, enjoy many an hour of social intercourse, and by every means in your power encourage the practice of those precepts inculcated by our ancient and honourable institution. Surrounded as I am by so many good and experienced Masons, it would on any other occasion, be unnecessary for me to dilate on the ancient history of Freemasonry, or the grand principles on which it is founded; but as I see here so many of the uninitiated, who know little or nothing of the origin, the tenets, or the practical utility of Freemasonry, I cannot refrain from saying a few words to inform them, and remind you, that Masonry has existed from time immemorial, and that after the completion of King Solomon's temple, 2868 years ago, many of those who had for years been employed in the erection of that wonderful temple, formed themselves into companies, and travelling over the world, devoted themselves to the science of architecture, and erected many temples for the service of the Most High, which in grandeur, in beauty of design, and harmony of proportion, have never been surpassed, and will, I fear never again be equalled. It is only natural to suppose that, living and labouring together with one common object in view, the members of each community became to a certain degree a peculiar people, bound to each other by the tie of kind and brotherly feeling, dwelling together in love and harmony, and ever ready to relieve the necessities and soothe the afflictions of a brother. It is likewise only natural to suppose that labouring for years, as so many of them did, solely on works dedicated to the worship of the Most High, their hearts were filled with reverence for the almighty Creator, and obedience to His divine command. The constant practice of the arts and sciences would tend to refine their minds and manners, until by their good conduct, their brotherly love towards each other, and general benevolence, they had gained the respect and esteem of the rest of mankind. In the course of time many good and influential men, though not architects or masons, were anxious to be members of so honourable a fraternity, and being admitted, became what we are now—Free and Accepted Masons. Although no longer a community of operative masons, we profess the same tenets, and maintain the same principles, as our ancient Brethren. Our duties as true Masons are, reverence and obedience to the Most High, brotherly-love, charity, and truth to our fellow-men. On these grand principles, has our Order been founded, and limited to no sect, rank, or nation. Masonry has become diffused over the whole world, and endeavours, as far as human powers can effect, to bind man to man in one social bond of brotherhood. Although when we consider the many conflicting interests and opinions that excite the minds and passions of men, it may seem impossible by any tie, to bind the hearts of all men in peaceful unity; our Order endeavours to accomplish this, and strictly forbidding all topics of political discussion or religious controversy, offers in a Mason's Lodge neutral ground, on which men of all creeds and opinions may meet in friendly and social intercourse. In a Mason's Lodge, the strifes and contentions of the world being strictly excluded, after the most exciting periods of public life, the brethren can again meet to compose all differences, to renew old friendships or form new ones, to give the hand of brotherhood to each other; and parting in peace and harmony, with hearts warmed by sympathy for all their fellow-creatures, they can return to the world, better fitted for the duties of their respective stations. We wish it to be fully understood by all here present, that we do not, as Masons, arrogate to ourselves the character of being better than other men are. Far from us be any such intention. There are many thousands who have not joined our fraternity, who are as good and true men as many of us can be; but we believe that the true practice of Masonry has a natural tendency to refine and improve the hearts of all those who truly follow its precepts—that it awakens in our minds feelings of brotherly love and universal benevolence, thereby enabling us to become better members of society than we were before. The speculative Freemasonry of the present day has been justly denominated a peculiar morality—not the cold morality of the schools, but the genuine morality which springs from religious feeling, instilled into our hearts by the perusal of the volume of the sacred law, which holy book is ever in our Lodges the unerring standard of truth and justice—the one grand light to rule and govern our faith. That holy book teaches us every duty we owe to the Most High, and likewise to our fellow-men. It inspires us with awe and reverence for the Great Architect of the Universe: it orders us to practise truth, justice, and charity to our fellow-men; not merely the

charity of alms-giving, but likewise the charity of opinion, of kindly sympathy and assistance to any one in affliction. It is our bounden duty to give relief to all who are in distress, ever remembering how it is recorded in one of the most beautiful passages of the holy volume—“Beware that thine eye be not evil against thy poor brother and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the Lord against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give unto him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him, because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.” Brethren, we profess as Masons, a sincere desire to benefit our fellow-creatures. Let me strongly urge upon you all to prove, by deeds of kindness and benevolence, that you practise what you profess. Be ever ready to assist the poor and needy; so that (as is stated in one of our ancient charges) when a man is said to be a Mason, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrows, to whom the distressed may prefer their suit, whose heart is guided by justice, and whose hand is extended by benevolence. Let me likewise exhort you to be just and upright in all your actions, to be loyal subjects and peaceable citizens, to be true to your brethren and to the Craft, and by general good conduct maintain the honour and reputation of our ancient fraternity. And may the great Architect of the universe ever continue to support our Order, cementing and adorning us with every moral and social virtue.”

After the invocation for the divine blessing by the Rev. E. Gambier Pym, the anthem was sung, and the procession marched along George Street, North Terrace, East Terrace, down the Crescent, and New Road, to the Pier, and thence to the Angel Hotel. As the procession passed the North Terrace, the Russian gun, which had been temporarily placed that morning on the West Cliff, was fired several times, to the great gratification of the thousands who were assembled on the Cliff.

WORCESTERSHIRE.—A Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Dudley Arms Hotel, Dudley, on Tuesday, September 14, under the presidency of Bro. Henry Charles Vernon, the Prov. G.M. who was supported by his officers, by Bro. H. A. Bowyer, the Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire; Bro. Col. Vernon, Prov. G.M. for Staffordshire; Bro. Randolph, D. Prov. G.M. for Somersetshire. The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened and conducted in strict conformity with the law, and was therefore not so numerously attended as on some previous occasions, but the R.W. Prov. Grand Master explained that it had been his intention to allow all Master Masons to be present immediately after the opening and transaction of the formal business, and such would be the course pursued in future. The usual reports having been presented, the R.W. Prov. Grand Master proceeded to appoint his officers for the ensuing year, as follow:—Bro. Roys, D. Prov. G.M.; Rev. A. Davies, No. 730, Prov. S.G.W.; Wood, W.M. 349, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. J.W. Herbert, P.M. 813, and W.M. 1041, Prov. G. Chap.; W. Mansfield, P.M. 313 and 730, Prov. G. Treas.; Bristow, P.M. 813, Prov. G. Reg.; W. Howells, 730 Prov. G. Sec.; C. Clarke, W.M. 813, Prov. S.G.D.; Hopkins, W.M. 772, Prov. J.G.D.; Morris, P.M. 813 Prov. Grand Supt. of Works; Brooke, W.M. 824, Prov. D.C.; Horton, W.M. 858, Asst. Prov. G.D.C.; W. Wigginton, J.W. 819, Prov. G.S.B.; J. Fitzgerald, P.M. 523, Prov. G. Orgt.; Clunterbuck, 72, Prov. G. Purst.; Bros. Davison, Poole, Wright, James, Pitt, and Russell, Prov. G. Stewards; Stanley and Smith, Prov. G. Tylers. It was resolved that £50 should be voted from the funds of the Prov. G. Lodge to make the Prov. Grand Master a Life Governor of the Girls' School, he having been in like manner made a Life Governor of the Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows, on a previous occasion.

DURHAM.—On Tuesday, the 5th of October, the Provincial Grand Lodge for the county of Durham, was held in the Hall at the Mechanics' Institute, Darlington, when about 150 Brethren from the various Lodges in the province, together with visiting Brethren from neighbouring provinces, attended. The business had been greatly facilitated by the committee, when the various demands on the funds for charitable purposes were examined into and prepared for the meeting, over which Bro. H. Fenwick, M.P., and D. Prov. G.M., presided. The various Lodges in the province were found to be in a flourishing state, both in number and funds, and large sums had been appropriated to the charities of the brotherhood during the past year. The Lodge was opened by the Prov. G.M., in his usual effective manner, who, after other business had been disposed of, appointed his officers for the ensuing year, viz.—Bros. H. Fenwick, M.P., D. Prov. G.M.; G. S. Ransom, Prov. S.G.W.; John Shelly, Prov. J.G.W.; Joseph Dodds, Prov. G.R.; J. Kenyon, Prov. G. Chaplain; J. Cundell, Prov. G. Treasurer; W. H. Crooks, Prov. G. Secretary; Benjamin Levy, Prov. S.G.D.; R. Taylor, Prov. J.G.D.; G. A. Middlemiss, Prov. G.S. of W.; E. D. Davis, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Watts, Prov. G. Org.; G. Jones, P.G.S.B.; — Foster, Prov. G.P.; Wm. Lawes, Prov. G. Tyler. After the closing of the Lodge, upwards

of 100 of the Brethren adjourned to the Sun Inn to dine, when a pleasant evening was passed, the Prov. G.M. presiding, supported by the D. Prov. G.M. The Brethren separated at an early hour.

LEICESTERSHIRE.—The annual meeting of the Brethren of this province was held at the Masonic Hall, Bell Hotel, Leicester, on Tuesday, the 5th Oct. The Lodge having been opened in form, the Master Masons (not members of the Provincial Grand Lodge) were admitted to seats at the west end of the room, at the back of the Senior Warden, to witness the proceedings, and were required to retire before the Lodge was closed. The D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, announced that their noble and highly respected Prov. G.M. (Earl Howe) had fully intended presiding in person at the meeting, and had made every arrangement for so doing; but that he (Bro. Kelly) had received a letter from his lordship, conveying the intelligence, which they must all deeply regret, that owing to a sudden attack of gout in the knee having come on in the night, which confined him to his bed, he was unable to be present. The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Hinckley, in August last, having been read and confirmed, the reports from the Lodges were presented. It appeared that since the revival of the Knights of Malta Lodge, No. 58, Hinckley, on the 20th July last, under the mastership of Earl Howe (after having been dormant for four years), eight initiations and three joinings had taken place; the number of subscribing members was now sixteen; and several other gentlemen being candidates for admission into the Order, there was every prospect of this ancient Lodge once more attaining a prosperous and stable position. In St. John's Lodge, No. 348, Leicester, one initiation had taken place during the past year; the number of members being thirty-eight. In the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 766, Leicester, there had been an increase during the year of ten members, viz., seven initiations and three joinings; the present number of members being forty-three. The auditor's report on the Treasurer's accounts was then presented, and the accounts passed; a vote of thanks being accorded to Bro. Underwood (mayor of Leicester), for his services as Treasurer, to which office he was unanimously re-elected. The following Brethren were then appointed and invested as Prov. Grand Officers for the ensuing year.—Bros. W. B. Smith, P.M., No. 766, J.G.W.; Rev. John Owen Picton, M.A., No. 766, G. Chaplain; Jos. Underwood, P.M., No. 348 (re-elected), G. Treas.; C. Morris, P.M., No. 348 (re-appointed), G. Reg.; F. Goodyear, P.M., No. 766 (re-appointed), G. Sec.; T. S. Cotterell, P.M., No. 58, and J. W. Smith, L.L.D. (of the midland circuit), S.W., No. 58, S. and J. G. Deacons; Robt. Brewin, jun., No. 769, G. Dir. of Cers.; A. Cummings, J.W., No. 348, Assist. ditto; H. E. Emberlin, No. 348, G. Sword Bearer; W. S. Bithrey, No. 766, G. Orgt.; J. D. Paul, J.W., No. 766, G. Pur. ; W. May, P.M., No. 58; M. Nedham, Sec., No. 348; T. Sheppard, Sec., No. 766; J. Holland, jun., S.W., No. 348; C. J. Willey, S.W., No. 766; and J. Bouskell, No. 348, G. Stewards; J. Pennoek, and G. Hawkins, Grand Tylers. The report from Bros. Lyall, Binekes, and Symonds, respecting the Masonic schools, was read and discussed, and some explanations relative to the origin, design, and present condition of those excellent institutions, given by the D. Prov. G.M., and by Bro. Leveau, P.G., Sword Bearer, who was present as a visitor. The opinion of the members was, that however desirable the formation of a Committee might be in the larger Masonic provinces, it would not be expedient in so small a one as Leicestershire; but that the subject should be referred to the W. Masters of the three Lodges at present existing, with a strong recommendation that they should exert themselves, at the proper time, to promote the interest of the charities among the members of their respective Lodges. The D. Prov. G.M. was requested to communicate this opinion to Bro. Symonds. The Prov. Grand Lodge having been closed in due form, the Brethren, with some additions, adjourned to the banquet, under the presidency of the D. Prov. G.M. A profuse supply of venison and game, and some fine fruit, had been furnished by the noble Prov. G.M., whose absence was deeply regretted by all. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, interspersed with songs from several of the Brethren, and a most eloquent and admirable speech on the beauties of "Freemasonry, as the handmaid to religion," delivered by the newly appointed Prov. Grand Chaplain, who will doubtless prove himself to be a valuable acquisition to the province. The next quarterly communication of the Prov. Grand Lodge, will be held in the Lodge room of the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 766, in January next.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).—A Provincial Grand Lodge for the West Riding of the county of Yorkshire was held in the Music Hall, Sheffield, on Wednesday, the 6th Oct., at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. The Lodge was opened in the three degrees by the W.M. and brethren of the Britannia Lodge, No. 162, soon after which the D. Prov. G.M. and the Prov. G. Officers entered the Lodge. Bro. Geo. Fearnley, M.D., the D. Prov. G.M., having taken his seat on the dais, was

attended by the following Prov. G. officers, viz.—W. Bro. H. Richardson, Prov. S.G.W.; W. Bro. Aston, Prov. J.G.W.; W. Bro. Woodford, M.A., P. Prov. S.G.W., as Prov. G. Chaplain; W. Bro. Dixon, Prov. G. Treasurer; W. Bro. Bailes, Prov. G. Reg.; W. Bro. Gill, Prov. G. Sup. Works as Prov. G. Secretary; W. Bro. Goldthorpe, Prov. S.G.D.; W. Bro. Salmund, as Prov. J.G.D.; W. Bro. Thornton, Prov. G.D.C.; W. Bro. Gath, Prov. G.S.B.; W. Bro. James Peace, as Prov. G.O.; W. H. Barnes, Prov. G. Pur.; Bros. Cocking, Seed, Geo. Brooke, Prov. G. Stewards, &c., &c. Between sixty and seventy Brethren were present. At the right of the D. Prov. G.M. sat Bros. Hopwood, J.G.D., and Symonds, who attended as a deputation from the committee of the Boys' School, in order to bring forward more forcibly the claims of that most excellent charity. Those Brethren having been saluted by the Brethren present, the D. Prov. G.M. introduced the subject by a few remarks, in which he expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing two Brethren from the Grand Lodge of England present at one of their meetings in West Yorkshire. He felt certain that every Brother present would feel equally gratified with himself at such a visit, and he confidently anticipated that they would show to those two Brethren that they were true and upright Masons, and that it was their earnest desire to carry out the principles of Masonry to their fullest extent, not only by words but by deeds; and that they would show by their votes this day that they had always at heart the desire to aid those excellent charities, for the support of which Masons were so distinguished in this country. Bro. Hopwood addressed the Brethren on the subject which had brought him and Brother Symonds so far from their usual abode. The main object was to support the schools, and to call upon the Lodges throughout the country to be more and more earnest in their endeavours to support the Masonic charities. He had had the pleasure many years ago of seeing that great and eminent Mason, the Chevalier Ruspini, the founder of the Girls' School, and he might relate it as a singular and striking fact, that two of the Chevalier's granddaughters, who had become orphans, were actually trained and educated in that very school which was founded by the exertions of their relative. Having gone into some particulars and details, Bro. Hopwood sat down amidst the applause of the Brethren. Bro. Symonds next spoke on the subject. He referred to a circular which had been signed by himself and Bros. Lyall and Binekes, relative to the two schools; and also to a statement which had been made, that the circular had been issued without the authority of the committee of the schools, but that it was the act of the three Brothers only who had signed it. In reply to this, Bro. Symonds read an extract from the minutes of the committee, empowering himself and Bros. Lyall and Binekes to act on behalf of the institution by submitting its claims upon Provincial Lodges, and to report the result of enquiries, &c. The worthy Brother then followed up the arguments which had just been advanced, and in eloquent terms advocated the cause which he had in hand. At the conclusion of his address he was warmly applauded. The D. Prov. G.M. next proceeded to refer to some letters, apologising for absence. He had also to state that last evening he saw Lord Goderich, P.G.W., at Newsbury, and his lordship begged him to inform the Brethren that nothing but an unavoidable engagement would have prevented him from being present on this occasion. (Hear, hear.) He had also the gratifying fact to announce, that at this, as at the preceding Prov. Grand Lodge, there were no petitions for relief. Bro. Joseph Batley, P.M., No. 342, next rose to propose the motion of which he had given notice, viz., "That a grant of money from the funds of Provincial Grand Lodge be voted to the Masonic charities." He began by saying that he thought the better way would be for the Lodge to support the charity in particular at present; and when it was borne in mind that the Girls' School was in a much more flourishing condition than the Boys', and that the former had long had a building of their own, whilst that of the latter was quite new, he thought they would agree with him that they ought to make an effort to place the Boys' School on an equality with that of the Girls, in point of capacity. After some remarks on this subject, he concluded by proposing the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this Provincial Grand Lodge, it is highly desirable that an effort should be made by the Craft on behalf of the Boys' institution, to increase its accommodation for inmates to an equality with that of the Girls' School. That with this view, this Provincial Grand Lodge requests the committee of governors of the Boys' institution to organize a canvass for subscriptions, to enlarge the present building to the requisite extent. And, feeling confident that such an appeal to the Brethren will be liberally responded to, this Provincial Grand Lodge grants the sum of £100 from its funds in aid of the proposed enlargement. The votes in respect of this grant to be secured in perpetuity to the Prov. G.M. and D. Prov. G.M. of this province in equal proportions." Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P. Prov. S.G.W., seconded the resolution, which was carried.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

On Tuesday last, the 12th October, the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the western division of the county of Lancaster was held in the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool, when upwards of 150 of the Brethren were present.

Among the Brethren present were, Br. Sir Thos. G. Hesketh, R.W.D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. Thos. Littledale, Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. Hy. W. Collins, Prov. J.G.W.; Bro. Horatio Gambell, Prov. G.P.; Bro. Eskersley, Prov. G.S.B.; Bro. Hugh R. Edwards, Prov. S.G.D.; Bro. James Billinge, Prov. G.S.B.; Bro. Thos. Wylie, Prov. G. Sec.; Bro. Joshua Walmsley, Prov. G. Treas.; Bro. Jas. Hamer, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. J. Pepper, Prov. G. Sec.; Bro. S. G. Hess, Prov. G.D.; Bro. Horace S. Alpass, Prov. G. Sec.; Bro. William Allender, Prov. G. Sec.; Bro. William Mason, Prov. G. Sec.; Bro. William Davies, Prov. G.D.

The Lodge was opened shortly before eleven o'clock, in solemn and ancient form, after which Bro. Thos. Wylie, Prov. G. Sec., read the report of the proceedings of the last Provincial Grand Lodge, held on the 20th of October, 1857, at the Adelphi Hotel, in which document, reference was made to the death of the late R.W.D. Prov. G.M., the Rev. Gilmore Robinson, and Bros. Joseph Perrin and Arthur Henderson, Prov. G. Reg. The proceedings of Grand Lodge during the year called forth no particular comment. The Brethren throughout the province had exhibited the greatest unity and cordiality. During the year, two warrants had been granted, one to the Derby Lodge, 1026, held at Bootle, and the other to Lodge 1032, at Chorley. There were now 27 Lodges connected with the province. The report concluded with a reference to the advantages arising from the establishment of the Prov. Grand Lodge in that building, as well as the good likely to accrue from the various Lodges holding their meetings there instead of at hotels and public houses which had long been the subject of remark by those unacquainted with the intentions and purposes of this noble Order.

Bro. Wm. Allender, treasurer of the fund for the building of the intended hall, read a statement of the accounts, from which we gather the following particulars:—

Donation from the Prov. Grand Lodge, £52 10s.; from the members of Lodge No. 35, £152 2s.; No. 173, £12; No. 181, Warrington, £10; No. 711, £5; No. 245, £366 12s.; No. 263, £38 5s.; No. 294, £104 18s.; No. 310, £269 10s. 6d.; Lodge of Instruction, No. 310, £18 11s. 6d.; No. 368, £325 18s. 6d.; No. 864, £6 1s.; No. 880, £2 2s.; contributions by ladies and the Masonic amateur performances, £126 7s.; interest in the bank, £41; which amount the Treasurer said would cover all the incidental expenses in the purchase of the land and premises in Hope-street. Total amount collected, £1546 12s. 6d. The land and premises cost £1600, and they had been compelled to borrow £100 from the educational fund to complete the purchase; but he had no doubt the result of the amateur performance, on Wednesday evening, at the Theatre Royal, together with further contributions, would fully cover the cost of the premises.

Bro. Thomas Wylie read a communication from the committee and governors of the educational institution in London, soliciting the aid of the Prov. Grand Lodge in Liverpool. It was urged respectfully by one of the Brethren, that as they had an educational institution of their own in this province, a suitable reply should be made to that effect; but afterwards the sum of £10 10s. was voted to the Boys' School, and a similar sum to the Girls' School, to be paid out of the Grand Lodge funds.

During the proceedings, Bro. Wylie suggested the propriety of establishing a library for the use of the Brethren in the new hall.

Bro. Joshua Walmsley, Prov. G. Treas., was re-elected Treasurer. Fifty guineas were afterwards voted to the intended new hall fund, and a further sum of £25 towards the alterations which had been made in the present building.

The Lodge afterwards resolved itself into a court of governors of the West Lancashire Educational Institution for the Education and Advancement in Life of Children of Distressed Masons, when the report of the institution was read by Bro. H. Gambell, the Secretary. The report embodied the proceedings of the various courts which have been held during the year, wherein a number of children had been recommended to the funds of the institution. Upwards of £150 had been received that day in subscriptions, and seven children had been recommended and placed on the funds. A committee was afterwards appointed for the ensuing year. Bro. J. Brabner was again appointed treasurer; and Bro. Gambell, secretary. Bro. Henry W. Collins was elected solicitor to the trust; Bro. Alex. C. Jeffrey, surgeon; and Messrs. Moss & Co., the bankers. The fund now amounts to upwards of £2580.

The proceedings of Grand Lodge closed shortly before three o'clock, when the Brethren adjourned to the Adelphi Hotel to dine.

At the banquet in the evening, Bro. Sir Thos. G. Hesketh, Bart.,

occupied the chair, and Bros. Thomas Littledale and Henry W. Collins the vice chairs. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and heartily received, the chairman said, it afforded him pleasure in giving the first Masonic toast of the evening, the health of "The Earl of Zetland, the M.W.G.M.," who was ready at all times to attend to his Masonic duties, and preside, with dignity, over the proceedings of the Grand Lodge and Masonry all over the kingdom.

The Chairman—"The next toast I have the pleasure in giving demands the highest consideration of every Mason, for his lordship always took the greatest interest in Masonry.—"The Right Hon. Lord Panmure, K.T., R.W.D.G.M." (Cheers).

The Chairman said he had great pleasure in giving them the health of the Right W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. le Gendre N. Starkie, who had always the interest of the province at heart. He very much regretted he was not among them; but, though absent, he was sure to be thinking of them, and was with them in heart. (Drunk with great applause.)

Bro. Littledale said the first toast he had the pleasure of proposing was the health of the D. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Sir Thos. G. Hesketh, Bart., who so ably filled the chair in the absence of the R.W. Prov. G.M. The Brethren of Lodge No. 35 might well feel proud of him, as he had been initiated in their Lodge, and had ably worked his way to the position of Master of that Lodge.

The chairman, in returning thanks, regretted the absence of the R.W. Prov. G.M., whose position he so imperfectly filled. He felt great pleasure in being surrounded by so able a body of Prov. G. officers, who at all times rendered his office easy. He concluded by giving "The West Lancashire Institution for the Education and Advancement in Life of Children of Distressed Masons," coupled with the name of Bro. Joshua Walmsley, Prov. G. Treas., who was the originator of the institution.

Bro. Walmsley said, when he first mentioned the idea of the institution to an influential brother some years ago, his reply was, that they would not get £50 in fifty years towards such an undertaking; but he had the pleasure of informing them they were now in the receipt of upwards of £150 in twelve months. He considered, after all, they were placed in a better position than the institution in London, because the children of every Brother, to whatever religious faith they belonged, could be sent to the school best suited to his wishes. At present some were sent to the Collegiate Institution, and some to the Mechanics' Institution; and who can tell whether, from their scholarships, we may not have a Lord Chancellor or an Archbishop from among us? (Cheers).

The chairman next gave "Bro. Stephen Blair, and Bro. Lord Chambermere, R.W. Prov. Grand Masters of East Lancashire and Cheshire;" to which Bro. Lambert responded, and, in a long and fervent speech, spoke of the superiority displayed by the Brethren in connection with West Lancashire, over the Brethren in the adjoining province, by the establishment of such an institution as the one they had the pleasure of just toasting. As to the working of the various Lodges of West Lancashire, they could not be surpassed by any province in England; and the devotion of the Brethren to the Order was further exemplified by the purchase of the premises in Hope-street, and their beautiful Lodge room.

The R.W. Bro. Thos. Littledale responded to the toast, "The V.W. Prov. G. Wardens, Prov. G. Chaplain, and the other Grand Officers."

Bro. Atherton to that of "The Ladies," in a humorous speech, which was loudly applauded throughout. Bro. W. Allender, to "The Grand Stewards of the Province."

After which the Brethren separated shortly after eight o'clock.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed was held in the Masonic hall, Blacket-street, Newcastle, on the 8th October, in the Lodge room of Lodges No. 24 and No. 173. The number of Past and Present Grand Officers, Worshipful Masters and Past Masters, as well as Brethren generally, present, was very large.

For the first time, to our recollection, a better separation of real members of Grand Lodge, from non-voting Brethren who are allowed by courtesy to attend Past Grand Lodges, was attempted, and we think successfully.

The Grand Lodge, on entering the hall, was received with due honours. The Prov. G.M., the Rev. E. C. Ogle, then proceeded to open his Lodge in due form, assisted by the following officers:—Bros. Richard Medcalf, Deputy Prov. G.M.; E. D. Davis, Prov. S.G.W.; John Hopper, Prov. J.G.W.; John Barker, Prov. G. Treas.; Thomas Fenworth, Prov. G. Reg.; William Berkley, Prov. G.S.; J.T.M. Harrison, Prov. G.D.; William Dalziel, Prov. G.D.C.; T. Haswell, Prov. G.O.; J. D. Brown, Prov. G. Standard Bearer; Dunne, Prov.

G. Sword Bearer; D. W. Spencer, Prov. G. Asst. G.D.C.; T. Alexander, Grand Steward; J. G., Clarkson, Grand Steward; H. G., Ludwig, Grand Steward; Bro. Richardson, P. G. Pursuivant; and Bro. Dickson, Grand Tyler; and on the dias—Bros. Mark L. Jobling, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Benjamin J. Thompson, P. Prov. J.G.W.; William Johnston, P. Prov. S.G.W.; William Punshon, P. Prov. J.G.W., &c., &c.

After the Lodge was opened and roll of Lodges called, to which all answered, but Lodge No. 161, Whooler, which was not represented.

The report of the Fund of Benevolence was read, showing it to be in a very satisfactory state, there being funds in hand to the amount of upwards of £350, of which the committee recommended £300 to be invested on mortgage. The report was unanimously agreed to, and many congratulatory remarks made on the prosperous condition of the province, which since 1849, has been able to raise the fund to this amount.

A discussion then took place on a circular read by the Provincial Grand Secretary, as to organizing a committee to support the Masonic schools. The general feeling was, that in lieu of the London Brethren of appointing a Secretary, who was to be paid a commission for his exertions, that the Grand Lodge of England should award to country Secretaries who, by their exertions raised a given sum for each charity, the wearing of the charity medal, with clasps for each additional sum, &c.; in fact, that some honorary distinction be awarded in lieu of money, as it was thought that, in this province at least, more Brethren would work harder in such a cause for honour than for money. The Grand Lodge, as a commencement, and to put in a practical form their sympathies with the Masonic schools, at once decided upon becoming Life Governors of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, and voted for this year £10 to the Boys' and £10 to the Girls' reserving themselves to make up, in fourteen years, the sum requisite to constitute this Provincial Grand Lodge Life Governors for the Girls' School. This proposal was carried *nem con.*

The active business before Provincial Grand Lodge being thus brought to a close, the Provincial Grand Master announced that he would proceed to invest the Grand Officers for the ensuing year, requesting the Lodge, however, to proceed to the election of their Treasurer.

The V. W. Bro. William Berkley, proposed, and the Prov. J.G.W. Bro. Hopper, seconded: that Bro. John Barker, the present Grand Treasurer, be re-elected. This proposal having been put from the chair, was unanimously agreed to.

The Provincial Grand Master then invested the following as the Officers for the ensuing year:—V. W. Bros. Richard Medcalf, as Deputy Prov. G.M.; Bro. J. J. Challoner, as Prov. S.G.W.; Henry Hotham, as Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. John F. Bigge, as Grand Chaplain; John Barker, Prov. G. Treas.; B. J. Thomson, G. Sec.; Frederick Welford, Prov. S.G.D.;—Twizel, as Prov. J.G.D.;—Johnstone, (architect) as Prov. G. Sec. of Works; William Dalziel, Prov. G.D.C. Thomas Alexander, Assist. Prov. G.D.C.; T. Haswell, Prov. G. Org. T. Clarkson, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; Dixon, Popplewell, and four others whose names we could not catch, as Grand Stewards; William Richardson, Grand Pursuivant; and Alexander Dickson, as Grand Tyler.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed, and the Brothers, to the number of over seventy, adjourned to the White Hart Hotel, Bro. Joels, where they were served with a very excellent banquet. The chair being taken by the Prov. Grand Master, and the vice chairs by the Prov. G. Wardens.

The loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the healths of the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master were severally proposed, by Bros. E. D. Davis, P. Prov. S.G.W.; and William Berkley, P. Prov. S.G.W., and duly responded to; that by the Provincial Grand Master, by a very eloquent and Masonic speech, full of that kindness and gentlemanly feeling that so distinguishes our Provincial Grand Master and endears him to all the Brethren in his province. The Officers and Lodges duly followed, and were responded to; and the Brethren retired, after spending a pleasant evening, at the early hour of ten o'clock.

WARWICKSHIRE.—The Prov. G.M. for Warwickshire, the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, appointed Wednesday, Oct. 13th, for the annual meeting of the Lodges of this district, which received a hearty response from the members, who met at the Masonic rooms, recently fitted up by the Howe Lodge, not only for its own use, but for such other bodies of the fraternity as may desire to avail themselves of its admirable appointments. Not only is the hall well suited for its more immediate object by the provision of everything necessary for carrying out the rituals in the best manner, but being exclusively devoted to Freemasonry, adds to the importance of the ceremonies. The erection of the buildings, their proper adornment, and furnishing them with all requisite apparatus, have been the work of several years. On this occasion the finishing stroke was given by providing

such further conveniences and elegancies as added grace to the reception of Prov. Grand Lodge and its illustrious Prov. G.M. The Brethren assembled at noon, and the Howe Lodge having been opened in due form by its esteemed W.M., Bro. Weiss, the officers of Prov. Grand Lodge formed in procession, and on entering the room were received with the usual Masonic greetings. All having respectively assumed their proper stations, his lordship opened the proceedings, by calling on the Prov. G. Chap. to invoke the blessing of the Great Architect of the universe on the labours of the day. This being done, the business of the province was at once transacted, and the accounts were read and approved. The funds were announced as being in a most satisfactory state, there being a balance in hand of nearly £150, a good example for some other provinces. His lordship then commenced the selection of officers for the ensuing year, by appointing Bro. C. W. Hoskyns, D. Prov. G.M., in place of Bro. Boughton Leigh, who had tendered his resignation, after having held this honourable position for ten years. The Rev. Bros. Smithers and Bedford were invested as Grand Chaplains; Bro. D. Hopkins was installed as S.G.W., and having been duly invested, addressed the Prov. G.M., gratefully acknowledging the honour, and respectfully requesting permission to resign his new position, in consequence of unavoidable removal from the district. This favour having been kindly accorded, his lordship, after some flattering and congratulatory comments, presented him with a jewel, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. Dr. Henry Hopkins, P. Prov. S.G.W., No. 51, on his retiring from the province of Warwickshire, by a few Masonic friends, as a token of esteem." Bro. Hopkins again addressed the Prov. G.M. and Prov. G. Lodge, expressing his gratitude for the kindness shown to him, and for the good and truly Masonic feeling shown by so handsome a present. After this his lordship appointed Bro. Blenkinsop to the chair of the S.W., just vacated. Suitable appointments having been made to the other offices, a committee was chosen to prepare an address for presentation to Bro. Boughton Leigh, on his retirement from the office he has so long held, and also to devise means of acknowledging the services of Bro. Lloyd, who had most efficiently performed the duties of Treasurer for many years. The Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in due form, and with solemn prayer. The Brethren were then invited to the banqueting room, where, by the kindness and with the accustomed hospitality of the Howe Lodge, a cold collation had been prepared; and after a few minutes devoted to refreshment, formed in procession to accompany the Prov. G.M. to St. Philip's church. Prayers were read by the Rev. —Ashton, one of the curates of the parish, in the unavoidable absence of the rector, the Hon. and Rev. Bro. Grantham Yorke; and the sermon was preached by one of the Chaplains, the Rev. Bro. Bedford, which was so admirable and so completely in conformity with, and explanatory of Masonic principle; that on the proposition of the R. W. Lord Leigh, the chaplain kindly consented to allow its publication at the expense of the fraternity, for distribution among its members. Dinner was afterwards served at the Royal Hotel, to which nearly a hundred Brethren sat down.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

The Grand Lodge of the province was summoned to meet as a quarterly communication, on Friday, October 22nd, in the Masonic Hall, Ryde, when there were present, the R. W. Bro. Thomas Willis Flemming, Prov. G.M.; the V. W. Bros. Hyde Pullen, Deputy Prov. G.M.; and J. H. Hearn, P. D. Prov. G.M.; Bros. George Wyatt, Prov. S.G.W.; G. F. Harrington, Prov. J.G.W., and many Brethren of the province, as also visitors. The great object of the meeting was to promote and establish a Relief Fund for the province, and the better to aid it, to hold a festival for its inauguration.

After the transaction of routine business, the Brethren adjourned to the Pier Hotel, where a banquet was prepared, to which fifty Brethren sat down. The Earl of Carnarvon, who had been specially invited by the Provincial Grand Master, presided on the occasion, supported by the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and all the Officers. There were also present Bro. B. Humphreys, of Bursledon; Bros. Duff, Mc.Lachlan, Galt, Wood, Rustrick, Heather, Sherry, Hollingsworth, White, Abrahams, Rake, Perkins, and others from the province of Hampshire.

Bro. Lord Carnarvon in calling the attention of the Brethren to the first toast, said he could not conceive any two words to come so connectedly together as the "Queen and the Craft," in the island Her Majesty delighted to honour as her favourite residence, and in which the excellent Prov. Grand Master kept Masonry in such good order.

The noble earl next in proposing "The Most Worshipful the Earl of Zetland," said that, although in Grand Lodge he might have occasion to differ upon some points with the Grand Master, he was ready to acknowledge his great and high qualities, and fitness for the high position he occupied. The noble earl then read the following

communications from the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master to the Provincial Grand Master:—

“*Aske, Oct. 9th, 1858.*”

“DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 7th instant. I have not yet received from your Deputy a printed copy of the Rules of the Society you have established in your province for the purpose of affording relief to the widows and orphans of Brethren, but I am sure such a fund cannot fail to be of the greatest service, and will reflect credit on the province of the Isle of Wight. I am convinced also, that you and the Brethren who have forwarded so laudable an undertaking will not be unmindful of the old established Masonic charities which are open to the whole kingdom; and on behalf, and for the extension of which exertions are now being made in most of the Masonic provinces.

“I rejoice to hear that Lord Carnarvon is to preside at the opening dinner, at Ryde, on the 22nd inst.; for from his known kindness and urbanity, as well as from his powerful eloquence, I anticipate the best results from his advocacy of beneficent undertaking. I beg you, Right Worshipful Sir, to express to the Brethren, on the 22nd instant, my entire approval and my most sincere wishes for the success of their benevolent intentions.

“I remain, dear Sir, and Brother,

“Your faithful servant and Brother,

“Thomas Willis Fleming, Esq.”

ZETLAND, G.M.”

“SIR AND BROTHER,—I am greatly pleased to learn through you, the most masonic and charitable resolution of the Brethren in the province of the Isle of Wight, and it must be gratifying to you to see your suggestions so well carried out. I heartily trust that the scheme may succeed, and the example of the Brethren in the Isle of Wight be followed by other provinces.

“I am yours fraternally,

“*Invermark, Brechin, Oct. 11th, 1858.*”

“PANMURE.”

In answer to the M. W. G. M.'s hope that the establishment of the fund would not lead to a neglect of the old established and universal charities of the Order, it was necessary to say this was for local cases, which were not all or insufficiently relieved by the other charities.

The health of “The Grand Master” having been drunk,

“The Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers” was the next toast, in connection with which the noble earl named Bro. W. R. Wood, Grand Steward. That worthy brother was entitled to notice not only as an officer of Grand Lodge, but as an active member of a Brighton Lodge, and more especially as being the instrument of affording to the children of the Freemasons' Girls' School a day's holiday and festival in that delightful town, a few weeks since; he was particularly deserving the esteemed regard of his brother Masons.

Bro. Wood, said, that the mention of the *fete* to the children of the school, took the toast out of the category of routine toasts, and enabled him the better to address them. The effect of that day's exhibition would be of vast service to Masonry, and he could have wished the world at large to have witnessed the happy and gratifying sight. With reference to the prospects of Masonry in Brighton, Bro. Wood said that, in addition to the two long established Lodges, the new one recently formed was most promising, and an application had been made for the opening of a fourth for which Lord Yarborough had signed a recommendation.

Lord CARNARVON then rose and said that, at every meeting there was some ostensible cause to bring the Brethren together, and the meeting of that day was to consolidate and firmly establish a charity promoted by his excellent friend the Prov. Grand Master, and his able deputy. The idea of founding this fund, originated in the case of a widow of a deceased Brother, whose income, insufficient for support, just exceeded the limits allowed to candidates for the Benevolent Institution; it was too much to entitle her to seek relief from that fund, but too little to provide for her necessities. The case was put before the Brethren of the province, and the R. W. Prov. G. M., desiring to give wider scope to the efforts then made, and to enable the Brethren to meet similar cases of need, determined on making an attempt to form a local relief fund. The rules were so framed as to meet any case that might present itself in the province. It was desirable not to leave such cases to individual efforts, but commit them to universal action. After some lengthened observations on the apathy exhibited by Provincial Brethren in the business of Grand Lodge, and pointing out the necessity of some plan by which they might be able to take a more active part in the government of the Craft, and the election of the executive, the noble earl, previously calling on Bro. Pullen to read the list of contributors gave, “The newly-established Charity and the Prov. Grand Master.

The subscriptions announced were—Bros. Fleming, Prov. G. M., £21; the Earl of Carnarvon, £10 10s.; the Earl of Yarborough,

£10 10s.; Hyde Pullen, D. Prov. G. M., £10 10s.; J. H. Hearn, P. D. Prov. G. M., £5 5s.; Helby, £5 5s.; Harrington, £5 5s.; Wood, £5 5s.; Duff, £5 5s.; Humphreys, £5 5s.; Easty, £5 5s.; McLachlan, £5 5s.; Le Marchant Thomas, £5 5s.; White Popham, £5 5s.; the Ryde Lodge, No. 999, £5 5s.

The R. W. Prov. G. M. then said no one could rise with more gratified feelings than he did on this occasion. He was pleased to find the plan of this new charity met with universal approval; he tendered his thanks to the kind friends around him for their generous support—they aided every effort he made in the cause of charity. He was proud to say that Masonry was making great and steady progress in the island. Gentlemen of high social position, long connected with the island, seeing their care of the distressed, the widow and the orphan, had joined the Order, but there were still, however, others in the island who he desired and hoped to greet with the name of Brother. He should not have countenanced the present movement if it could be considered as opposed to the charities already established—but it was well known that cases like the one mentioned, occasionally arose which imperatively called for assistance, and to such cases their attention would be confined. The Prov. G. M. then proposed the health of the noble lord who had not only honoured them with his presence and support, but had kindly undertaken the duties of presiding over the meeting.

Lord CARNARVON, in acknowledgment said, the duties of chairman were generally so easy, that he was often inclined to believe that chairman, like ladies in their youth, were not saluted by the words of truth; but the hearty good will with which he had been received, dispelled any doubt of the sincerity with which the toast had been drunk. It was most gratifying to find that on every occasion the provinces of the Isle of Wight and Hampshire united in giving mutual support and countenance to each other's meetings. Their Grand Master—active as he was—would be of little use but for his Deputy. They had in Bro. Pullen an officer who possessed all the requirements for his position—great prescience, regularity, and knowledge of the institution. During the period he held the office of Deputy, their accounts and meetings had been well managed, and the establishment of the new Lodge in Ryde, which was the means of bringing many gentlemen into Masonry, was the work of Bro. Pullen.

Bro. Pullen said, the working of Masonry was to him a great delight—the pleasure, great at all times, was much enhanced on that occasion by seeing the support thus given to the cause of charity in the Isle of Wight. With regard to the charities generally, he could say, that the more frequently they were brought before the Brethren, the more they would be benefited; he confidently believed their newly organized charity would, so far from injuring, rather aid the others. He had undertaken the stewardship of the Boys' School festival; and acknowledging the support he had received on a previous occasion from the Hampshire Brethren, and knowing their great services, he tendered his thanks to them for the support given to this local effort.

This was acknowledged by Bro. Abrahams.

Bro. Fleming, in recognition of old services, proposed the health of Bro. Hearn, who in return said, he was gratified to find his services of past times thus acknowledged. He on every occasion, whether in the province or in the Grand Lodge of England, gave support to the great principles on which the Order was founded. The time had now arrived when the provinces need more regular attendance of their representatives in Grand Lodge, a duty that had been much neglected, and hence the interests of the Provincial Lodges had not been attended to.

The health of “The visitors,” and “The officers of the province,” followed. The Chairman, Prov. G. M., and several other Brethren, departed at nine o'clock; some few, however, under the presidency of Bro. Wyatt, prolonged their enjoyment for another hour or so.

The entire subscriptions reached £150.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The following Regulations are proposed to be adopted by the Prov. G. Lodge of East Lancashire, for concentrating the votes of Lodges, Chapters, and Subscribers, in the Province of East Lancashire, submitted with a view to secure the more speedy election of candidates from the province.

1. At the quarterly meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, to be held in March in each year, the candidate to be supported by the province at the ensuing election shall be determined; and notice shall be given to each Lodge in the summons convening such meeting, that the selection of a candidate will be made at such quarterly meeting.

2. The candidates so elected shall receive the united support of all the Lodges in the province.

3. The Prov. Grand Master, or his Deputy, may from time to time appoint one or more members of the Prov. Grand Lodge to assist the Prov. Grand Secretary in superintending the collection of the voting papers, to manage the election, and to see that the Lodges and Chapters are not in arrears with their returns and payments to Grand Lodge, or Grand Chapter, and such committee may, with the approbation of the Prov. Grand Master, or his Deputy, adopt such measures generally, as may promote the election of the candidate.

4. The Prov. Grand Master or his Deputy, may appoint some member of the Prov. Grand Lodge to attend each election for the purpose of recording the votes, and promoting the election of the candidate. The member so appointed shall have a discretionary power to expend a sum not exceeding £20, from the Benevolent Fund of this province, in obtaining votes in support of the candidate at each election. The reasonable expenses of the member so deputed, shall be paid out of the funds of the Prov. Grand Lodge.

5. Each Lodge shall, as soon after the receipt of the voting paper from the Grand Lodge as possible, forward the same, properly signed and marked for the selected Candidate, to the Prov. Grand Secretary, in order that the same may be examined and recorded. The W.M. of each Lodge must make the requisite returns and payments to Grand Lodge, prior to the day of election.

6. A written report of the result of each election shall be made at the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge, held in June in each year, and the substance of such report shall be entered upon the minutes, and a copy thereof sent to each Lodge in the province.

OXFORDSHIRE.

A Special Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall Oxford, on Wednesday last, October 27th, to express sympathy with the W.M. Grand Master, on the recent attacks made upon him, and to declare the unabated confidence of the Brethren of his administration. The chair was occupied by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Atkins Bowyer, who was supported by Bro. R. J. Spiers, D. Prov. Grand Master. Bros. Codrington, M.A., of Brazenose, Prov. S.G.W.; Looker, (No. 873), Prov. J.G.W.; Wyatt, Prov. G.W., Isle of Wight, Rev. G. R. Portal, M.A.; and Rev. H. A. Pichard, M.A., P. Prov. G. S.Ws; Bro. Rev. R. W. Norman, M.A, Prov. G.C.; Bro. Rev. J. S. Sidebotham, M.A., P. Prov. G.C.; Bro. Hester, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. Bevers, (No. 425), Prov. G. Par.; Bro. Talbot, Prov. G.D.C.; Bro. Rev. Septimus Andrews, M.A., Christ Church College; Rev. C. M. Style, M.A., St. John's College. Bros. Bennet, B.A., University College; Holmes, J.W., (No. 425), Prov. G. Stewards. Bros. Martin, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Hobbs, Assist. Prov. G. Sec.; Joy, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Thompson, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Randall, Prov. G. Treas.; Owen, P. Prov. S.G.D.; Symonds, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Houghton, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Havers, P.M., (Nos. 85 and 873); Thurland, Park, Fowler, and many other Brethren of the Province.

The Provincial Grand Lodge having been duly opened—

The Prov. Grand Master said—Brethren, we meet on the present occasion under very different circumstances to those which usually call us together,—under circumstances of great importance, and which, I am happy to say, are of very rare occurrence. I have thought it necessary, in order that we may discharge a duty to ourselves, as well as to others, to call you together that we may express an opinion on a subject so important as that which I am about to bring before you. I trust that in the consideration of the subject our feelings may be so restrained that we may use no terms not befitting in us as Masons (cheers); but I must be allowed to say that I feel the greatest indignation at the unfounded attacks which have been made on the Grand Master. You are aware of the resolution to be brought under consideration from the summons calling you together, but you may not all be as well acquainted with the article which has called for it, and which appeared in the *Masonic Observer*. In that publication are these words—“We had occasion this time last year to draw attention to the unblushing effrontery with which the principal appointments in Grand Lodge were prostituted to political purposes; we are sorry to be compelled to recur to this very scandalous subject.” I am not aware who wrote that article, and I can only trust that either now or hereafter he will be convinced there was no ground for such an accusation against the noble Brother who has felt it his duty to appeal to the sympathy and support of the Craft. (Cheers.) However deeply I might have felt on the subject, I should not have thought it necessary to call you together—I should not have felt called upon to vindicate the character of the noble lord—had not the attack been brought before the Grand Lodge by the Grand Master himself, who appealed to the support of the Brethren, and utterly repudiated the charge as false and unfounded. (Loud cheers.) Such a charge would, if true, as the Grand Master himself stated, render him incapable of longer holding his distinguished position as the head

of the Craft. Those best acquainted with the Grand Master can bear testimony that a more high minded nobleman and gentleman could not exist, and that he is utterly incapable of overstepping his duty or of transgressing the solemn obligations he has taken to administer the affairs of the Craft with impartiality and justice. (Cheers.) It is not among those who are acquainted with the Grand Master—who know his honour and his truthfulness—that such an attack can do any harm—it being well known that throughout life the noble earl has borne the highest character for honour; and even in his connection with the turf—that rock upon which so many fair reputations have been wrecked—the voice of slander has never dared to breathe one word derogatory to that character. It is not amongst those who know his lordship, I repeat, that we need say anything in his defence; but the circulation of the gross and wicked attacks made against the Grand Master is not confined to those who know him, or even to this county—but it extends to the most distant provinces and the colonies, where those who are unacquainted with his lordship, upon reading these charges may, as a matter of course, attach some degree of credit to them. I might enter into further explanations upon the subject, but that I believe it will be better brought before you by asking the Prov. Grand Sec. to read that portion of the proceedings of the last Grand Lodge relating to it.

Bro. Pickard, Prov. G. Sec., here read the speech of the M.W.G.M., from the *Masonic Observer* of Sept. The denials of the Grand Master of the truth of the charges brought against him being loudly cheered.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. then proceeded to say, Brethren—I have now placed you in possession of all the facts to be brought before you, and though I feel strongly on the subject, I am not here to force my feelings or opinions on any one. We are met calmly to consider the subject, and I trust that, in the remarks I have felt it my duty to make, I have used no expression which can offend against the charity of Freemasonry. (Cheers.) I will now move the resolution which I propose to offer for your approval, “This Prov. Grand Lodge desires to express its sympathy with the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, under the groundless personal attack recently made upon him in the *Masonic Observer*; and to declare its unabated confidence in his lordship's just and impartial administration, as well as its determination to support his lordship in his rightful authority.” (Cheers.) Brethren, I now leave the resolution in your hands, awaiting your verdict with perfect confidence, I having only been actuated by what I feel to be my duty as a man and a Mason in calling you together to defend the character of a brother in his absence, being ready at all times to repel the slanderer of his fair fame. (Cheers.)

Bro. Codrington, Prov. S.G.W., claimed the privilege of seconding the resolution. He felt he could add nothing to the facts which had been so ably brought before the Brethren, and he felt that they must all approve of the resolution which had been brought under their consideration through the kindness of their excellent Prov. Grand Master. (Cheers.)

Bro. Rev. G. R. Portal, P. Prov. G.W., said he felt this to be an occasion of the greatest importance, and that no steps ought to be taken without the most earnest and careful consideration. He was not there to defend the attack which had been made on the Grand Master, that was very far from his purpose. It was at all times most mischievous and wrong to impute motives to any one when in the discharge of their duty; and above all, was it so to impute motives to the head of a Craft, whose purity should always be dearest to his heart. (Cheers.) But they were not only asked to express their sympathy with the Grand Master under the attacks to which he had been subjected, which he would gladly do, but they were asked to go further, and do other things to which he could not consent. In the first part of the resolution which he held in his hand, he was asked to sympathize with the Grand Master under the groundless personal attack recently made upon him in the *Masonic Observer*. As he had said, he was not going to defend that attack; but if he was asked to say that it was groundless, he could not give his vote for the resolution. He felt that the Grand Master was entitled to their unqualified sympathy under the attacks which had been made upon him, as would be any person who had been attacked by statements which were untrue; and his lordship having denied the truthfulness of the statements in the paragraph in the *Masonic Observer* complained of, was entitled to their sympathy. But it was one thing to accord that sympathy—and it was another thing to say that there were no grounds for the statements made. Why it was notorious that both the late and present Deputy Grand Masters, the late Senior Grand Warden the Earl of Durham, and Junior Grand Warden Bro Fenwick, were members of the same political party to which the Grand Master belonged. They were bound to accept the explanation of the noble lord, that in making those appointments he was not influenced by political motives—they were bound to believe the Grand Master, that he did not even know the politics of many of his officers when he appointed them; but they could not, therefore, say the charges

brought against him were groundless. They might say that the charges were made under a false impression; but with the facts he had mentioned before them, surely they could not maintain that they were groundless. So much for that part of the resolution. They were next called upon to declare their confidence in Lord Zetland's "just and impartial administration." He could not consider, even admitting that political considerations had never guided him, that Lord Zetland's administration had been just and impartial, as he would endeavour to point out in a few words. He did not think that there was much justice or impartiality in appointing Lord Durham to office, he never having filled a Master's chair, as was required by the Book of Constitutions. Then again, there were the Deacons and other officers, if they were not appointed by the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master he could not explain the manner of their appointment, unless it was conducted by a clique who selected them from a few favoured Lodges, with which they were themselves connected, and who influenced the Grand Master in the business. It was invidious to mention names—but why were men like Lord Carnarvon, Bro. Beach, Bro. Best, or Sir Edmund Lechmere, and others, never offered office? He did not know that any of these Brethren would have accepted office; but still its not being offered was a flagrant instance of the want of impartiality, and if they said that Lord Zetland was not to blame, they could only come to the conclusion that he did not act for himself, but allowed himself to be guided by evil counsellors. Again, he could not endorse the statement that the administration of the affairs of the Craft was impartial, when he could scarcely recollect a single case where a resolution brought forward by an independent member of Grand Lodge, was not opposed by the executive. The first time he spoke in Grand Lodge was to second the motion of Bro. Spiers for the publication of a pocket edition of the Book of Constitutions, of which up to that time a large portion of the Brethren were in ignorance. That was opposed by the executive on the ground that if men became acquainted with the Constitutions, it would lead to greater discussion in Grand Lodge. He (Bro. Portal) next brought forward a motion, that a paper of the business should be placed in the hands of each member of Grand Lodge as he entered the room. Before that time they had been kept in ignorance of the business to be brought before them until they were called upon to decide upon it. This too was opposed upon the same ground by the executive. Why, what was Grand Lodge for if not for discussion? Well, that was carried, and then Lord Carnarvon, being desirous that the country Brethren should know what business was to be transacted in Grand Lodge, moved that the business papers should be circulated amongst them prior to the time of meeting. That motion was also opposed by the executive—by those by whom the Grand Master was surrounded, and it was with difficulty carried—so that it was owing to the exertions of the independent members that they were now acquainted with the business to be transacted in Grand Lodge before it was brought forward. Then came the crowning monstrosity—the secession of the Canadian Lodges. That large province was lost to Masonry, solely owing to the neglect of the Grand Master, and yet they were now asked to express their confidence in him. Fourteen years ago, when the Grand Master was called to power, Canada was a large and flourishing province; and now, in 1858, at the utmost there were but two Lodges which acknowledged English authority. The Board of General Purposes had investigated the matter, and they found that the neglect was not in the Grand Secretary's office, but that the memorials of the Canadians had been before the Grand Master for many months without his taking any notice of them. Now, would any man of business say, that because he could not grant all the requests made to him, that the best way of treating communications was to leave them entirely unanswered? The resolution before them next called upon them to pledge themselves to support Lord Zetland in his rightful authority. Of course rightful authority should be supported; but might there not be some danger of the rightful authority of others than the Grand Master—the rightful authority of Grand Lodge—being threatened? Why, no sooner was any resolution displeasing to the executive brought forward, than they advise the Grand Master not to put it to Grand Lodge, on the plea that it was against the ancient landmarks. The Book of Constitution declared Grand Lodge to be the governing power—the supreme authority rested in Grand Lodge, and not with the Grand Master. He could give them an instance how that authority was set aside. At the June meeting of Grand Lodge, two years since, he (Bro. Portal) in order to allay the feeling existing amongst the Canadians, moved a resolution, expressing the opinion of Grand Lodge that the colonies should have the power of virtually appointing their own Prov. Grand Masters, subject of course to the approval of the Grand Master, but Lord Zetland refused to put the resolution to Grand Lodge, on the plea that it was opposed to the ancient landmarks. Yet two years afterwards his lordship made the very concession which he had declared to be opposed to the

ancient landmarks. His lordship had changed his mind, but only when it was too late to be of any use. It was like a physician, who having prescribed a wrong medicine for a disease, afterwards altered it, but only when it was too late, the patient being already too far gone. They all knew, that concessions which would at one time have satisfied all reasonable complaints, often became worse than useless by delay. Then let them look at the question of the right of adjournment of Grand Lodge. Bro. Warren, whom he was glad to see present, maintained that Grand Lodge—if it could not finish the business in one evening, had the right to adjourn for a week or fortnight, but the Grand Master ruled the reverse, and at the following meeting, Col. Burlington and others, amongst whom was himself, claimed that they ought to have the right of adjournment, and brought forward a substantive motion on the subject, but the Grand Master refused to put it, as being against the landmarks. So that in fact the Grand Master filched away the privileges of Grand Lodge, and arrogated them to himself. Now, on the last occasion of the meeting of Grand Lodge, Sir Lucius Curtis brought forward a vote of confidence in the Grand Master, and though the Book of Constitutions declared that no motion could be made without previous notice, was allowed to put it to the Brethren.

The Prov. G. Master—"No; not allowed to put it. The Grand Master called Sir Lucius to order, but the acclamations of the Brethren drowned his protest, and it was through those acclamations it was put." (Cheers).

Bro. Portal continued—He was not so much complaining of the motion being allowed to be put, as contrasting it with what took place at a later period of the evening, when some impertinent letters, which had been addressed to Bro. Harrington, in Canada were laid before Grand Lodge. These letters had embittered the feelings of the Canadians, and were regarded by Bro. Harrington as personally offensive. Now anything more impertinent than these letters he had never read, and those with whom he acted wished to express their opinion regarding them. They maintained that when papers were laid before Grand Lodge, they should be allowed to express an opinion upon them; but they were not so allowed, on the ground that they had not given notice of motion, though they had the precedent of Sir Lucius Curtis that evening; and of Lord Panmure and others, on previous occasions, for bringing forward motions upon papers before Grand Lodge without previous notice. In the face of these facts he would gladly join in a resolution of sympathy with the Grand Master under the attacks made upon him, in the fullest confidence that they were unfounded; but believing that the rightful authority of Grand Lodge was in greater danger than that of the Grand Master, he would rather cut off his right hand than hold it up for the motion as it stood. (Cheers).

Bro. Spiers, D. Prov. G. M., looked upon that meeting as one of the greatest importance to the whole Craft. He could not agree with the opinions expressed by Bro. Portal, though he was gratified to hear that Brother express his sympathy with the Grand Master under the attacks to which he had been subjected, and upon which it behoved that Grand Lodge to express an opinion, as an impression had got abroad that the province of Oxford was in some degree mixed up with an opposition from which the attacks had emanated. He was sure that they would be glad to hear both sides of the question before arriving at a decision, in which he trusted they would be unanimous. He had some experience in Grand Lodge, of which he had been a member fourteen years, for during the whole of that period he had not missed attending the quarterly communications upon more than three or four occasions. During that time his memory extended over many similar attacks made upon the Grand Master. First they had Bros. Dr. Crucifix, Lee, Steavens, Whitmore and others, who indulged in attacks upon the Grand Master and his supporters. There had been little guerilla fights with Bro. Scarborough and others, but he considered the attacks now made to be of a more mischievous and dangerous character, because they were supposed to emanate from men of education and high position in society. It was therefore incumbent upon them to take notice of them, and acting according to their conviction, if they believed the charges to be unfounded, to express their opinion to that effect. In the first portion of the motion before them, they desired to express their sympathy with the Grand Master under the groundless attack recently made upon him, and having taken that step, to express their confidence in his lordship, and their determination to sustain him in his rightful authority. They were not met to consider whether the Grand Master had given office to persons of his own political opinions, but whether it was true that he had prostituted the powers of his high office to political purposes. He looked upon it as a very different thing to say that Lord Zetland had given office to whigs, and to say that he had prostituted his powers to the purposes of the whig party (hear, hear). He had observed for many years the appointments which had been made in Grand Lodge; he believed that they

had always been given without reference to politics, and that the majority of Prov. Grand Masters were opposed to the Grand Master in politics. He looked upon the office of Prov. Grand Master as far more important than that of Grand Warden. A Grand Warden was generally a member of one of the Houses of Parliament, and the sphere of his duties was in London, where he had little influence. While the Grand Wardens had no power in their hands, the Prov. Grand Masters had the appointment of all the Prov. Grand Officers, as well as the general direction of Masonic affairs in the provinces, and therefore the opportunity of showing favouritism if they desired it; and yet he believed that the politics of the majority of the Prov. Grand Masters were opposed to those of the Grand Master. He had looked over the list of appointments to the office of Grand Warden, and he did not feel that there had been any preponderance given to one party over another. Now, the first appointment made by the Earl of Zetland was that of a nobleman opposed to him in politics, Earl Howe, as Deputy Grand Master. The next Deputy Grand Master, Lord Yarborough, was so attentive to his duties, and so liberal a supporter of their charities, that he had been looked upon by the Craft as the future Deputy Grand Master, long before he was appointed. Then, with regard to Lord Panmure, he was sure there was not one of them who did not rejoice that a man of such great administrative talent and of so distinguished a position, had been induced to accept the office of Deputy Grand Master. He, for one, though differing with that noble lord in politics, felt proud that so distinguished a nobleman and statesman should be placed in the position he held. Then, with regard to other appointments, one of the last was that of a Brother who had been initiated in that province, and who they esteemed most highly—Bro. Wyndham Portal, who was made a Grand Warden. That Brother was considered a liberal conservative. He had not always been so denominated, and though now a progressive reformer, he certainly never could be considered to belong to the same school of politics as Lord Zetland. (Cheers.) He would now proceed to notice the action of the Grand Master in Grand Lodge. Bro. Portal had brought forward some few questions which it was held were opposed to the landmarks of the Order, and considered they had not been fairly treated in Grand Lodge, but they must remember that the Grand Master was not solely responsible for that. They could hardly expect a man to give up his whole time to the Craft, and he believed that it would have been hardly possible to find a nobleman who would have given up more of his time to Masonry, and who was more devoted to its interests, than Lord Zetland. (Cheers.) They knew that the sovereign of a kingdom must mainly depend on the advice of his ministers with regard to the course of his government. So must the Grand Master also, in a great degree, depend upon his ministers; for he could not go continually about amongst the private Lodges, as could other members of the Craft. Though in some instances he might think that Lord Zetland had listened too much to the opinions of others, yet he thought on the whole, they had reason to be entirely satisfied at the manner in which the noble Lord filled his high position. He (Bro. Spiers) though he might have regretted some of the decisions come to in Grand Lodge, had felt, as an old conservative, that the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge had a right to take further time for reflection if they desired to do so. He certainly would not say that he had been satisfied with the management of their colonial affairs; but when a Colonial Board was moved for, it was at once acceded to, and that most gracefully—(cheers)—and the Grand Master appointed its first president from amongst those who led the opposition: indeed, he believed that it was through the exertions of Bro. Burlton that the Board was established. No doubt the Craft had reason to complain of the long period in which Bro. White had been allowed to hold the position of Grand Secretary; but they all knew how difficult it was to persuade men that the time had arrived when they ought to retire from the active duties of life, and give way to younger and more active men. Though he believed it would have been more for the interest of the Craft if Bro. White had retired eight or ten years earlier, yet now that the remedy had been applied through the recommendation of the Grand Master himself, they should speak of Bro. White only with respect, for there could be no doubt of the valuable services which he for many years rendered to the Order—and that he was a man of more information, and of greater Masonic knowledge, than any other man in the Craft. (Hear, hear.) A great deal had been said about Canada, and the great loss which this country and the Craft had sustained by the withdrawal of the Canadian Lodges from English rule. Though he was sorry that the Canadians had separated from England in the way they had done, and great care would be required in adjusting their relations in future—he did not regret that Canada had established a Grand Lodge of her own. As the Colonies were now being taught to rely upon themselves, and to become independent of the government of the mother country, though we hoped still to be able to retain them as friends and allies—so did

he consider that the time had arrived when Canada should have aⁿ independent Grand Lodge of her own, and no longer have to send to England for her certificates—nor called upon to send her the monies she has been accustomed to receive. The time had come when the Canadians should have the control over their own funds, and he therefore did not regret that Canada had become detached from England—though he regretted that the separation had not taken place in terms of friendship. He confidently looked, however, to a return of friendship between the Masons of the two countries, when animosities were forgotten—heat of temper allayed—and each party would be ready to concede something to the other. (Cheers.) He thought that they had a right to expect that those who had assisted in the separation, should now direct their attention to the best means of restoring peace and harmony between the Grand Lodges of the two countries. (Cheers.) What had taken place during the last two or three years had given him great pain, and certainly had not tended to exhibit to the Masonic world the British Lodges as actuated by loyalty to their chief—by charity—and brotherly love. (Hear, hear.) If the public saw them seeking every opportunity of opposing those in authority—if they saw them attributing bad motives one to another—how could they do otherwise than look upon the brotherly love and charity which they professed, as nothing more than a name—having no foundation in reality? (Cheers.) He called upon them to support the Grand Master, by adopting the resolution in its entirety; and above all, he asked those brethren who had assisted in bringing things into their present position to consider the dangerous course they were pursuing—and to pause ere they forfeited the good opinion of the Brethren with whom they had hitherto acted, as well as that of the great body of the Craft. (Cheers.) Let them consider that the opinion of other persons might be correct as well as their own; and stop, ere it was too late, in a course which was fraught with the utmost danger to the prosperity of the Craft. (Cheers.)

The Rev. R. Norman having been out of England, had listened with great attention to the observations which had fallen from Bros. Spiers and Portal. It appeared they all agreed in one thing, that nothing could be more un-masonic than the spirit exhibited in the paper of which they were complaining. There was a wide and decided difference between open manly criticism and anonymous slander. He by no means concurred in every act of the Grand Master, but they were met, not to consider that, but to express their warm sympathy towards him under the attacks to which he had been subjected in this periodical. Bro. Spiers had spoken as though they knew who were interested in the publication; as though they knew the writer of the article complained of. He begged them to banish all such ideas from their minds, and speak only of the article itself. The question laid in a very small compass—the assertions in the *Masonic Observer* were either true or they were untrue. If true, the Grand Master was not fit to preside over them; and if untrue, they were bound to express their sympathy with the Grand Master, and their determination to support him. (Cheers.) Bro. Spiers had drawn a distinction between the position of Provincial Grand Master and that of Grand Wardens, showing that the sphere of utility of the former was wider and more extended, but that would be no excuse for political favouritism. Though the influence of a Grand Warden might be less extensive than that of a Provincial Grand Master, still the same care should be exercised in his appointment. But it was denied that politics had had anything to do with the appointments, and they were bound as Masons to accept that denial. He could not but regret that the Canadian Masons had separated themselves from the English, for he knew that Freemasonry was nowhere more fully carried out than in Canada and the United States. The Masons there did not hold their meetings in hotels, but they had buildings of their own, which were mostly of considerable size, and often of beautiful architectural proportions. He had spoken to many Masons, and he knew that, individually, the colonial Brethren held the kindest feelings towards their English Brethren—and he was very hopeful, from what he had seen, of the future prospects of Canadian Masonry. If the statements in the *Masonic Observer* were untrue, they ought to express their deep sympathy with the Grand Master, and he was sure that that sympathy would be nowhere more sincerely felt than among the colonial Masons. In order to show to the colonies that the Masons of England were but one family they would cordially support the noble Brother whom they had placed at their head—even though he might occasionally err in his judgment, as all men would; and, above all, they would support and protect him against coarse and unfounded anonymous personal attacks. (Cheers.)

Brother Randall, Prov. G. Treas., supported the motion in a speech of considerable warmth.

Bro. the Rev. H. A. Pickard, would suggest whether, in order to show their feelings more strongly, they could not introduce some

word which would add to the force of the censure they intended to convey. He would propose to insert the words "and libellous," after "groundless," so that it would read "That this Prov. Grand Lodge desires to express its sympathy with the M.W.G.M. under the groundless and libellous attacks recently made upon him." (Cheers.)

Bro. Looker, Prov. J.G.W., seconded the motion, and could not too strongly express his indignation of what had taken place. He seldom saw the *Masonic Observer*, and never wished to see it, and he believed the Brethren of his Lodge (the Cherwell,) universally condemned it.

Bro. Thompson, P. Prov. G.W. thought there was no necessity for introducing any further words in the resolution, as it was strong enough as it stood.

Bro. Dr. Hester, P. Prov. G.W., considered the word "libellous" a very proper one to introduce into the resolution.

The Prov. Grand Master then put the question for the insertion of the words "and libellous," which was carried.

The Prov. Grand Master was much pleased that Bro. Portal had conceded the point, that the attack was void of truth, and that the Grand Master was entitled to their sympathy. He had listened attentively to the speech of Bro. Portal, and though he could not agree with it, he desired to give it all the weight and authority it deserved. There was one thing he had particularly observed. It appeared to him that the executive were systematically accused of subservency to the Grand Master, and opposition to the interests of the Craft, and that as soon as a man was promoted, no matter how zealous for their interests, or how independent he had shewn himself, he became an object of attack. (Hear, hear.) He thought that most unjust, though personally he did not feel aggrieved, as he felt the accusation could not touch him. He believed all the Grand Officers to be actuated by a high sense of duty, and that when they opposed propositions brought before Grand Lodge, they did so because they believed they would be thereby best serving the interests of the Craft. He had always deprecated these attacks, and he had told Bro. Portal that he thought it most unjust, because Brethren were placed in positions of eminence, to suppose they were always actuated by unworthy motives.

Bro. Portal wished to explain. He had not attributed motives to the dais, and when speaking of the executive he did not allude to the dais generally. He spoke of the executive, meaning the President of the Board of General Purposes, the Grand Registrar, and the Grand Secretary, who were generally understood to be the council of the Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Master thanked Bro. Portal for his explanation; he knew that he did not allude to himself, but he knew that the M.W.G.M. often consulted the Prov. G. Masters, though he had not yet done him that honour, and probably never might have occasion to do so. He thought the accusation unjust to the dais generally, but was glad to accept the explanation of Bro. Portal. He had called the Prov. Grand Lodge together not under light circumstances, but under a deep sense of duty, and he was glad to see how well his call had been responded to. He should not detain them after the many eloquent speeches they had heard, but at once put the resolution, leaving to the Prov. Grand Lodge to express their feelings by their acts.

The resolution was then put, and carried amidst loud applause—Bro. Portal alone dissenting.

Bro. Spiers then moved that the resolution should be embodied in an address, and presented to the Grand Master. The Rev. Bro. Pickard seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The Provincial Grand Lodge having been closed in ancient and solemn form, a vote of thanks was, on the motion of Bro. Hester, given to the Prov. Grand Master for calling the Brethren together, and the meeting separated.

SUFFOLK.

The annual P.G.L. was held at Ipswich on the 24th September, by the Grand Registrar, acting as P.G.M., who proceeded to appoint his Grand Officers as follows:—

Rev. F. W. Freeman, (No. 757) D. Prov. G.M.; Spencer Freeman, (No. 757) Prov. S.G.W.; J. S. Gissing, (No. 96) Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. J. Sanderson, (No. 522) Prov. G. Chap.; J. K. Sidgwick, (No. 757) Prov. G. Reg.; E. Dorling, (No. 522) Prov. G. Sec.; J. Richmond, (No. 272) Prov. S.G.D.; J. Ludbrook, (No. 544) Prov. J.G.D.; T. Downes, (No. 417) Prov. G. Supt. of Works.; J. Tracy, (No. 131) Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Harding, (No. 417) Asst. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. H. G. Ball, (No. 522) Prov. G. Orgt.; W. H. Sams, (No. 910) Prov. G. Sword Bearer; W. C. Randall, (No. 272) Prov. G. Purst.; Alexander Robertson, Prov. G. Tyler. Prov. G. Stewards:—Bros. Bowles, (No. 417); Jennings

and Turner, (No. 522); Harris, (No. 131); Breckles, (No. 96); Cade, (No. 272).

At the banquet, in giving the toast of the M.W.G.M., the G.R. said, the Earl of Zetland had filled the office of Grand Master for many years, and he would venture to say, that it would be impossible for the duties of his high office to have been better discharged by any Grand Master. Not only did he pay the utmost attention to the various reports and correspondence laid before him, but he deemed no sacrifice too great to make when he believed he should be thereby serving the interests of the Craft; and he often travelled nearly 200 miles to and from Grand Lodge to preside over its meetings. The many years which the Earl of Zetland had served the Craft, ought to have been a sufficient guarantee when taken in conjunction with the high personal character which his lordship bore, of the integrity with which he had conducted the business, to have protected him from any attack upon his honour (hear, hear). He regretted that it had not been so, and he could not forbear from calling their attention to an attack which had been made upon his Lordship in a publication which was probably unknown to the majority of the Brethren present, and which he trusted would continue unknown. To reply to that attack might be unnecessary where his Lordship's character was known, but it was understood that the *Masonic Observer* was gratuitously circulated in the colonies and other districts where his Lordship's qualifications for his office and high honour are comparatively unknown; but amongst the Masons of England generally, he was sure that such attacks would have no weight. That publication, notwithstanding the honourable character of Lord Zetland, had presumed to accuse his Lordship of having prostituted to party purposes the powers with which he was invested, in the appointment of Grand Officers. He (Bro. Roxburgh) thought it but right, as the poison had been spread, to take every opportunity of applying the antidote, believing that it would be impossible throughout the length and breadth of the land, to find a nobleman more distinguished for his impartiality than Lord Zetland. He ventured to assert, that no appointment made by Lord Zetland had ever been dictated by political motives—indeed, many of the highest appointments had been conferred upon his lordship's political opponents—whilst in the majority of instances, he believed his lordship had no knowledge of their opinions. Could the Grand Master have been capable of the conduct attributed to him, he would, as he had himself stated in Grand Lodge, be unfitted to fill the office he held, and his election would reflect on the Grand Lodge itself, which had year after year unanimously re-elected his lordship as Grand Master. (Hear.) The noble lord had felt that these attacks upon his conduct and honour could not be passed over in silence—he felt that charges so groundless and scandalous should be brought before Grand Lodge; and having done so with that manliness and straightforwardness which always distinguish him, the Grand Lodge repudiated with one voice the impertinent and scandalous charges which had been made through that trumpety publication. He could only imagine that the charges had been made with the view of casting a firebrand amongst the Craft. He looked upon the publication, however, as only fitted to light a cigar; and he was sure, that if such attacks were continued, such would be the feeling of the Craft—that it would only end in smoke. There were publications of a different class in the Craft—publications which honestly and independently reported the proceedings in Masonry—to which there could be no objection—but this paper assumed to itself the title of being the Grand Lodge Chronicle, as though it were authorized by Grand Lodge, whereas it held no authority whatever from the Grand Lodge, or from any member of the Executive. (Hear, hear.) He would not further detain them, but conclude by proposing the health of the M.W. Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, feeling sure that so long as the noble Earl continued to hold the high office to which the Brethren had called him, he would, as he had hitherto done, continue to receive the cordial support of every true and well-thinking Mason. (Cheers.)

Bro. Havers, in returning thanks for his health said, They were probably most of them aware that a most unwarrantable, unfounded, and wicked attack had recently been made upon the M.W. G.M., the Earl of Zetland. Those who had taken the trouble to examine into the merits of this charge, knew it to be but a silly refurbishing up of an old lie. It had been sufficiently cotradicted—and thus much he would say, that England's peccage, amid all its proud names, did not possess one nobleman whose honour was more pure and spotless, and whose integrity and singleness of purpose was more unquestionable, than the nobleman whom they hailed as their chief. The Grand Master was not the only one amongst us who was held up to obloquy by the writers of a certain publication; the Grand Officers generally, and the Executive especially, were doomed to

find that they could do nothing right—not their judgment only, but their motives were impugned; and that with no sparing hand. They would however assure them and the Brethren generally, that regardless of taunt and insinuation—indifferent alike to the praise or blame of those who work for themselves and not for Masonry—they would pursue their course steadfastly and patiently, feeling perfectly confident that the Craft generally will do justice to those who endeavoured faithfully to serve them. The editor of the *Freemason's Magazine*, on the other hand, deserved great praise for the course he had lately adopted.

The Grand Register had now to draw the attention of the Brethren to an institution which, in a country like England, was of the greatest importance, and which had been not unjustly denominated the fourth estate in the realm. It was a great blessing to any country to be possessed of a free press, in which all subjects might be fairly discussed, and criticised freely, honestly, and independently. No country, except England and America, was in possession of such a press; and he was happy to say that there was a Masonic journal which, for independence and ability, might fairly take a position by the side of any other journal published in the kingdom. He drew a wide distinction between a journal such as that to which he had alluded in the early part of the evening, as making unfounded accusations against the Grand Master—and one which gave full, faithful, and honest reports of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and fearlessly, honestly, and independently criticised in a just spirit, those proceedings, without acrimonious or party prejudice. It was a fate to which all public men must submit, to have their acts criticised—indeed, it was the penalty which they paid for the position which they held. At the same time, all such criticism should be conducted in a spirit of fairness, and they ought not to be subjected to having their motives maligned and misrepresented—and still less, should the head of a body like the Freemasons of England, be subjected to such imputations as those to which he had already alluded, from a journal professing to represent the opinions of the Craft. To a Magazine published fairly, and conducted with honesty and independence, there could however be no objection, and he spoke his own opinion boldly when he stated, that he considered they were bound to support—so as to render it a permanent success—a Magazine which was honestly and fairly conducted. Masonry ought to have its organs as well as any other class of the community—for it was not necessary, because they had such organs, that anything should be published that would betray their secrets. And here he might observe, that the *Freemasons' Magazine* was allowed to publish the proceedings of Grand Lodge on the responsibility of the proprietor, to see that nothing appeared at all inconsistent with the principles of their Order. That that had been done honestly and independently, there could be no doubt; and he was glad to see Bro. Warren present on that occasion, and to give him a welcome to Suffolk, he was sure he might say in the name of the Brethren—(Cheers)—as well as of himself; and he would ask them to drink the health of that Brother, coupled with an honest and independent press, which it should ever be their duty to support, whilst they scouted all libellous and scurrilous publications. (Cheers).

Bro. Henry George Warren felt some difficulty in acknowledging the toast which had been so kindly proposed and responded to. He was proud of his connection with the press, and of the position which he had the honour to hold in Grand Lodge, and so long as he continued to hold his position, it would be his utmost endeavour, whilst speaking boldly and independently, to abstain from anything bearing even to semblance of anonymous slander. (Applause).

CHESHIRE.

The annual P.G.L. was held at Crewe, on the 22nd September, by F. M. the Viscount Combermere, P.G.M. At the banquet, after the toasts of the M.W.G.M. and the D.G.M., Bro. Lord de Tabley rose and said, Had he known that he should have been called upon for the toast of the evening, he should have endeavoured to have been somewhat prepared. However inadequate he might feel for the task, he most cheerfully obeyed the call, especially as it was his first visit to the Prov. G. Lodge. No words of his could picture the enthusiasm with which at all times the health of the noble lord was received by the Craft. Much indeed might be said how the attention of the world had been directed to the exploits and great achievements of his noble Brother in the army, as well as the immense benefit resulting from his patronage to the Craft. We had heard of the deeds and glories of the Crimea, the wonders achieved at Sebastopol; but we cannot forget the successes of Torres Vedras, Talavera, Seringapatam, and Burtpoor, where the gallant nobleman at the head of the table acted so distinguished a part, and for which his fellow men and country have ever been grateful—time can never erase his great deeds and actions. They all were proud to

see him there and looking so well; long may he continue to enjoy the same rude health, and delighted they shall be to see him presiding again and again as their Provincial Grand Master.

Lord Combermere, Prov. G. Master, in rising, said, He could not do justice to his feelings for the enthusiasm with which his name had been received, and for the manner in which Lord de Tabley had named his services as a soldier and a Freemason. He hoped in the former situation he had zealously done his duty; in the latter appointment, as Prov. G. Master, he had done all in his power to revive Masonry, since the Duke of Sussex did him the honour to install him, with the assistance of his distinguished Brethren. He recommended uniformity of working, constant and persevering attention, and the non-admission of unworthy persons. So far, he must say, they had been properly acted upon. One great pleasure had occurred to him after the lamented death of Bro. Finchett Maddock, in having written to Bro. Antrobus, offering the appointment of D. Prov. G.M.; two days afterwards he received communications from almost every Lodge in the province, urging his elevation to the office. This was indeed gratifying to him, and he felt sure was flattering to Bro. Antrobus, in whom he had great confidence. He was glad that Bro. Lord de Tabley had joined the Crewe Lodge, under Bro. Antrobus's able supervision, and he had great pleasure in proposing Bro. Antrobus's health, with Masonic honours.

Bro. Antrobus, in returning his warmest thanks to the Brethren said, That if the recommendation to his lordship for the appointment had come from his immediate neighbourhood, Macclesfield and Congleton, he could have understood the feeling displayed; but arising from the whole of the Province, was indeed highly flattering and overpowering. He again begged to return his thanks to them for their very kind wishes, and to his lordship for the honours thus conferred.

Bro. Willoughby returned thanks to the toast of the Provincial Grand Officers.

The Prov. G. Master then proposed "The health of Bro. Lord de Tabley," in very complimentary terms, assuring him how delighted he and the Brethren were to have him in the province.

Bro. Lord de Tabley said he thanked them from the bottom of his heart for the honour just conferred. It was with great pleasure that he found himself enrolled as a Freemason in Cheshire. He was not a young man. Upwards of twenty-four years ago, he was initiated in the Apollo Lodge at Oxford; since then he had resided much abroad. After his return, he again desired to belong to the Cheshire Craft, and accepted the invitation to be present at the Crewe meeting, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. Antrobus, and the government of the Provincial Grand Master. He hoped to derive practical lessons in the working of the Lodge, and no exertions or efforts on his part should be wanting. He trusted it would not be the last time he should meet the Cheshire Masons in Prov. Grand Lodge.

The Prov. G. Master then said, Brethren, I have some distance to go, and I must beg your kind indulgence. I have known some of your fathers and grandfathers. May the Great Architect of the universe bless you all.

The noble and venerable lord then quitted the room amidst the respectful cheers of the Brethren.

The Lodge was then left under the Dep. Prov. G. Master, who afterwards ably occupied the chair.

SUSSEX.

A P.G.L. was held at Brighton, on September 24th, by Captain Dalbiac, D.P.G.M., who passed a very kind eulogium upon his predecessor, Col. MacQueen, and his G. Officers, and then appointed and invested the following for the year ensuing: Bros. John Bacon, Nos. 394 and 1034, Prov. S.G.W.; James Powell, No. 45, Prov. J.G.W.; Wm. Watkins, No. 45., re-appointed Prov. G. Chaplain; Wm. Verrall, re-elected Prov. G. Treas.; Henry Verrall, No. 338, Prov. G. Reg.; Gavin E. Pocock, Nos. 338 and 390, re-appointed Prov. G. Sec.; Wm. R. Wood, No. 394, Prov. S.G. Deacon; C. Woolven, No. 394, Prov. J.G. Deacon; E. E. Scott, No. 338, re-appointed Prov. G. Supt. of Works; H. Schilling, No. 338, re-appointed Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; G. Wellerd, No. 47, re-appointed Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Bowmer, No. 47, Prov. G.S.B.; Kuhe, No. 338, re-appointed Prov. G. Organist; Butcher, No. 390, re-appointed Prov. G. Purs.; Bros. Ridly, Nos. 394 and 1034, Goodeve, No. 45, Burchell, No. 47, Collins, No. 45, re-appointed P. G. Stewards; Penfold, No. 390, re-appointed Prov. G. Tyler.

Bro. John Bacon, Prov. S.G.W., then moved the following resolution, which, being seconded by Bro. Powell, Prov. J.G.W., was carried unanimously:—"That the best thanks of this Prov. Grand Lodge be presented to the Right Worshipful Bro. Colonel James MacQueen, upon his retirement from the appointment of D. Prov.

G.M., for the ability, impartiality, and courtesy at all times shown by him during the period of his presiding over the Freemasons of this province, as the Deputy of his grace the Duke of Richmond."

Bro. Pocock, the Prov. G. Sec., then rose, and after dilating on what the Masons of Sussex had already done in aid of the Charities, proposed—"That two governorships for fifteen years in the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their Widows, be purchased from the funds of this Provincial Grand Lodge, at a cost of £20; and that the privileges of one be given to the Worshipful Master (for the time being) of the Lodge of Union, No. 45, and of the other to the Worshipful Master (for the time being) of the Derwent Lodge, No. 47;" which was carried unanimously.

The D. Prov. G.M., having announced the next Provincial Grand Lodge would be held at Hastings, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

The Prov. Grand Lodge held its annual meeting on Tuesday, the 26th Oct., in the Shire Hall, Stafford. There was a large gathering of the Brethren of the county on the occasion, and many delegates and visitors from other provinces were present.

The following Brethren were appointed officers of the P.G.L. for the ensuing year:—R. W. Bros. Thos. Ward, D. Prov. G.M.; C. T. Davenport, S.G.W.; Henry Hall, J.G.W.; Bros. Rev. J. Downes, G. Chaplain; Wm. Lloyd, G. Treas.; George Sargeant, G. Reg.; Fred Dee, G. Sec.; Geo. Spilsbury, S.G.D.; F. Gough, J.G.D.; Jos. Knight, G. Supt. of Works; Samuel Hill, G. Dir. of Cers.; Geo. Waring, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; S. P. Goddard, M.D., G.S.B.; Edwin Shargood, Org.; J. W. Hancock, G. Pur.; Carlo Bregazzi, G. Std. B.; Henry Bagguley, G.G. Tyler.

The D. Prov. G.M. proposed, and Bro. A. Glover seconded that the sum of fifty guineas be given as a donation to the Masonic Boys' School, and the Masonic Girls' School. These donations would constitute the Prov. G.M. a life governor of those institutions. The Proposition was carried unanimously.

No further business coming before the Grand Lodge, it was duly closed.

The banquet took place in the Shire Hall, which had been most handsomely decorated in Masonic style, with banners, emblems, and devices, floral and otherwise, for the occasion. The ladies, the wives and daughters of Masons, contributed the floral decorations of the walls, and graced the banquet by their presence in the galleries. The tables ranged round the entire hall, and nearly 110 Brethren took their seats. The Prov. G.M., after the ordinary toasts had been given and responded to, said, it was now both his incumbent duty and his highest pleasure to propose a toast, which would be received with as much respect as it would undoubtedly be with enthusiasm. He would detain them as briefly as possible, and endeavour to confine his remarks to what was absolutely necessary to be said in proposing "The health of the Most Worshipful Grand Master the Earl of Zetland." (Loud cheering). It needed nothing further than the bare proposal of the toast to ensure it a warm acceptance at the hands of so many Brethren assembled around the festive board; but it was next to impossible for him to avoid referring to a circumstance in connection with the M.W.G.M., which had been the cause of a feeling in the minds of a number of the Brethren throughout the country which he was sure none of them shared. (Applause). That circumstance was the unfortunate, and he firmly believed ungrounded accusation, that the M.W.G.M. in his appointments had been actuated by political motives. As he had said, he firmly believed that their Most Worshipful Grand Master had never for a moment made his high office subservient to such an end—(loud applause)—but that in all his appointments he had been guided solely and entirely by the pure and single desire to advance the interests of Freemasonry. (Applause). No doubt difficulties had sometimes arisen in the execution of the duties of his office which required no ordinary judgment and discretion to surmount, and perhaps in the exercise of that judgment and discretion he may not—as who could—gain the most perfect unanimity of all over whom he presided; but of this he was certain, that their Most Worshipful Grand Master, was too excellent a man, and too well understood the principles and precepts of the Craft, ever for a moment to forget what was due to the whole body of the Brethren, or to make his position subservient to political purposes. (Cheers). He believed in the integrity and impartiality of his whole conduct—(hear, hear)—his courtesy, kindly feeling, and gentlemanly conduct were well known, and in the most difficult of circumstances he hesitated not to say, that he had always done what he considered best for Freemasonry. (Cheers). He scouted the idea that the Grand Master had ever made appointments out of political motives,

and he asked them all to join with him in drinking to the health and happiness of him who had been for so many years at the head of the Order; and who, as long as he remained in that distinguished position, would, he was sure, always exert the powers of his influence and his talents to promote harmony, brotherly feeling, and success amongst all the Brethren. (Loud cheers)

ESSEX.

A Prov. Grand Lodge was held on Thursday, Nov. 4th, in the Comdale Hall, Romford, the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. John Bagshaw, M.P., presiding, supported by Bros. John Hervey, P.G.D., acting as D. Prov. G.M.; W. Pulteney Scott, S.G.D.; R.A. Burton, P. Prov. G.W. and G.Reg.; Peter Matthews, P.Prov. G.W.; Aug. U. Thiselton, P. Prov. G.Reg.; Rev. C. W. Arnold, Prov. G. Chaplain; J. J. Simpson, P. Prov. G.W.; Wakeing, Prov. G.W.; Capt. Burney, Prov. G.D., &c., &c.

The Lodge having been duly opened, The Prov. G. M. said, that the most important item in the business of the day was the appointment of the Prov. G. Officers. That was always a most difficult task, and one which he had endeavoured to discharge as far as possible so as to give satisfaction to every Brother. There was one office which of all others was the most important, that of D. Prov. G. Master which, he regretted to say, had upon this occasion become vacant, owing to the retirement, from advancing years and debility, of their esteemed Brother Major Skinner, after the discharge of the duties for upwards of seven years, to the entire satisfaction, not only of himself, but he was sure he might say, of every Brother (Cheers). When he first entered on his duties as Prov. G. M., he found Bro. Skinner the most popular man amongst the Lodges; he had visited the whole of them, and was generally appreciated wherever he appeared. He had great gratification in confirming him in his office, and indeed without the assistance of Bro. Skinner, he should have felt some difficulty in undertaking the rule of the province. He had felt it his duty to accept the resignation of Bro. Skinner—though with great reluctance—and looking at the importance of the office, he had determined not to fill it up for the present. He could not find words to express the loss that he, and he was sure he might say all the Brethren, felt at the loss of the services of Bro. Skinner—(hear, hear)—but he was sure they would not be doing justice to their feelings if they did not put a resolution on the records of Grand Lodge, expressive of their thanks to Bro. Skinner for his long and valuable services, and their deep sympathy with him in his indisposition. He had not prepared any formal resolution, but would suggest that a Committee consisting of the Prov. G. Master and the Prov. G. Warden, be appointed to draw it up.

Bro. Peter Matthews, Prov. G. W., seconded the motion.

Bro. Burton, Prov. G. Reg. trusted that some more lasting memorial than a mere vote of thanks would be presented to Bro. Skinner.

After some conversation with regard to the most appropriate testimonial, it was resolved that the Committee should consist of the Prov. Grand Master and Wardens, and the masters of the various Lodges in the province, with power to add to their number.

The Prov. Grand Master then proceeded to appoint his officers:—Bros. G. Addison, Prov. S.G.W.; Hall, Prov. J.G.W.; Mann, Prov. G. Sec.; Rev. C. W. Arnold, Prov. G. Chap.; C. Owen, Prov. G. Reg.; J. P. Saul, Prov. S.G.D.; Webb, Prov. J.G.D.; P. Matthews, Prov. G.D.C.; J. Matthews, Assist. Prov. G.D.C.; Chas. Ind, Prov. G. Purst.; Bro. Pattison, was re-elected Prov. G. Treas.

The Prov. Grand Master then said that he had returns from various Lodges laid before him, and he was happy to say that the province was generally in a prosperous condition, and that the Lodges were in good working order. In some of the Lodges there has been an increase in the number of members, and in others a slight decrease; but he looked not so much to numbers as to the regularity of the working, and he hoped and trusted that the Brethren would be careful to elect only those to office who could efficiently discharge their duties, or otherwise Masonry would only become a byword and a sneer.

Bro. Burton, Provincial G. Reg., called attention to a circular which he had at the desire of the Prov. G.M., addressed to the various Lodges of the province calling their attention to the position of the charities, and to the fact that, though the Brethren of Essex were benefited by them to the extent of £60 or £70 a-year, the total subscriptions did not exceed £20, and suggesting a subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum from each member of a Lodge as an amount capable of doing much good. The only reply they had yet received was from No. 343, Chelmsford, in which they had obtained eight annual subscribers of £1 ls. each for the schools; subscription of 10s. per annum for the annuity fund; and 17s. 6d. which had been paid over

towards a fund for subscribing to the charities in the name of the Lodge.

The Prov. G. Master suggested that as they had now a new Prov. Grand Secretary, the attention of the Lodges should be again called to the subject.

Bro. Capt. Burney stated that the matter had been under the consideration of the Colchester Lodges, and a considerable amount subscribed, but it had not been transmitted to the Prov. Grand Registrar, as it was thought more desirable that the proxies for votes should be kept direct in their own hands, and he would suggest a little alteration in the circular to that effect.

Bro. Addison stated that the matter had been also brought before the Romford Lodge and he believed every member had subscribed, and their subscriptions had been forwarded direct to London.

Bro. Hall might mention that the subscriptions from the two Colchester Lodges, consequent upon the receipt of the circular, had amounted to between £30 and £40. (Hear, hear).

The Lodge was then duly closed.

DEVONSHIRE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Exeter, on the 20th of October. Present—the R.W. the Lord Fortescue, K.G., Prov. Grand Master, on the throne; the R.W. the Rev. John Huyshe, D. Prov. G.M., and the following Prov. Grand Officers:—Bros. Capt. W. S. Jervis, R.N., S.G.W.; the Hon. Augustus Bampfylde, J.G.W.; C. J. Laidman, G. Reg.; William Denis Moore, G. Sec.; W. W. James, S.G.D.; J. C. Wilcocks, J.G.D.; G. W. Turner, G. Dir. of Cers.; Capt. F. C. Trower, G. Sword Bearer; J. J. Clase, G. Pursuivant; James Gregory, G. Tyler; John Ash, W. L. Channing, John Gamball, R. R. Dodd, John Barrington, G. Stewards; and several Past Grand Officers.

Representatives of Lodges Nos. 46, 122, 123, 129, 185, 224, 270, 300, 312, 509, 610, 650, 719, 1012.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form with solemn prayer. The minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the 23rd August, 1858, were read and confirmed. The committee appointed at the last Provincial Grand Lodge to consider and report on the subject of the notice of motion given by Bro. Bridges, W.M. of No. 1012, presented the following report:—"At the Provincial Grand Lodge, of the 23rd August last, a committee was appointed to obtain full particulars of the plan and operation of the Girls' and Boys' Schools, and to consider and report on the subjects of Bro. Bridges' notice of motion, to the Provincial Grand Lodge on the 20th of October. The committee consisted of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. William Cann, the Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. Bridges, Bro. Bremridge, Bro. Dr. Scott, and Bro. W. W. James—three to be a quorum. The subjects submitted to the Committee were the following suggestions:—1. That a donation of £10 be given to the Girls' School. 2. That a similar donation be given to the Boys' School. 3. That the Provincial Grand Lodge become an annual subscriber of two guineas to the Girls' School; two guineas to the Boys' School; two guineas to the Annuity Fund; and two guineas to the Widows' Fund. Upon which the Committee beg leave to report to the Provincial Grand Lodge that they have had before them the rules of two schools, and the published balance sheet of each, and with these helps and the personal explanations which they have been able to obtain, and also having reference to the constitution of the Provincial Grand Lodge, they have, after careful consideration, arrived at the conclusion—'That the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge cannot be pledged to any annual subscription.' The Committee, therefore, cannot recommend to the Grand Lodge the adoption of the suggestions of Bro. Bridges in that respect; and there is the less reason for doing so in reference to the Annuity and Widows' Fund, inasmuch as the Committee find that £115 has been granted to the Annuity Fund, and £35 to the Widows' Fund, including the munificent addition to the Provincial Grand Lodge grant, made by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master. And in reference to the proposed donation of £10 to each of the schools, the Committee is of opinion that those establishments, however excellent in themselves, are not capable of that degree of local application which is contemplated by the particular institution of a provincial fund. But, in coming to this conclusion, the Committee desire to express their sense of the importance of the subject brought forward by Bro. Bridges; and they take leave to draw the attention of the Provincial Grand Lodge to a consideration of the means by which a similar provision to that made by the metropolitan institutions, for the education, clothing, and advancement of the children of worthy Masons, who need aid in that respect, may be carried out in this extensive and important province. The committee find that the particular

fund of this province is raised by a tax only equal to a fourth part of that which the constitutions permit, and having regard to the dignity of the purple, they are of opinion that the fees of honour are unnecessarily and unusually low. The Committee, therefore, suggest to consideration of the Provincial Grand Lodge that the annual dues of every member of particular Lodges be increased from the present rate of 6d. to 1s., and that all the fees of honour be doubled. And that the increased payments of both kinds be specially appropriated to a fund for the clothing, education, and advancement of the children of Brethren of inadequate means. The Committee, further suggest that this fund might be materially increased if private Lodges would also institute fees of honour for their several offices. These sources of income would form a nucleus to which the Committee cannot doubt that many private subscriptions would be added, sufficient to form a very important fund. If the Provincial Grand Lodge is disposed to receive these suggestions favourably, the Committee further recommend that a small committee be appointed to draw up a plan of operations by which the object of the fund may be best attained; and that such plan, together with the question of the increased dues and fees of honour, be submitted, in due course, to a future assembly of the Prov. G. Lodge.

"JOHN HUYSHE, D. Prov. G. Master,

"Chairman of the Committee.

Exeter, 8th October, 1858."

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that the report of the committee be received and adopted. In the course of the debate on the foregoing motion, the R.W. Prov. G. Master stated that, if within a twelvemonth private subscriptions in aid of the suggestions of the committee could be raised to the extent of £150, his lordship would add £50 to that sum.

On a motion duly made and seconded, that a committee be now appointed under the suggestion of the committee, it was moved, as an amendment that, before proceeding to the appointment of a committee to carry out the general recommendations of the report, it is expedient that that particular recommendation which suggests that the fees of honour on admission to office in the Provincial Grand Lodge be doubled, be forthwith adopted, to take effect from this day. The amendment having been carried, the original motion was put and carried. On a motion duly made and carried, it was resolved that the former committee be reappointed; three to form a quorum, with power to add to their number.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved, that it be an instruction to the committee to consider and report on the propriety of placing the disposal of the intended fund on a wider basis than the strict limits of the report, so as to include relief to indigent Masons, their wives, widows, and families. The Prov. G. Master declared it to be his intention to hold a Provincial Grand Lodge for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee and proceeding thereon, on the Wednesday in the ensuing Epiphany sessions, viz. Wednesday the 5th of January, 1859. The following Brethren were then declared to be the Provincial Grand Officers for the year ensuing, and were respectively duly invested.

By Patent—The Right Honourable the Earl Fortescue, K.G., Prov. G.M.; the Rev. John Huyshe, M.A., Dep. Prov. G.M.

By Appointment and Election—The Hon. Augustus Bampfylde, S.G.W., No. 312; the Viscount Villetort, W.M., J.G.W., No. 224; the Rev. William Yate Daykin, G. Chap., No. 1012; Dr. Brent (on ballot duly taken) G. Treas., No. 650; Bro. John Pope, G. Reg., No. 129; Bro. William Dennis Moore, G. Sec., No. 129; Bro. George Pycroft, S.G.D., No. 650; Bro. H. W. Clarke, W.M., No. 129; J.G.D., Bro. Samuel Cave, W.M., No. 122, G. Sup. of Works; Bro. J. J. Clase, G. Dir. of Cers., No. 185; Bro. John Ash, Asst. G. Dir. of Cers., No. 83; Capt. John Tanner Davey, G. Sword Bearer, No. 610; J. J. Wickham, G. Organist, No. 719; Bro. William Hunt, G. Pursuivant, No. 224; Bro. James Gregory (by election), Tyler, No. 185; W. L. Channing, No. 46; J. Gambell, No. 83; R. R. Dodd, No. 224; Lord Graves, No. 224; John Burrington, No. 46; Thomas Dimond Hogg, No. 312; Grand Stewards.

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

Notice was then given, that at the Provincial Grand Lodge, to be held at Exeter, on Wednesday, the 5th day of January, 1859, or at some adjournment thereof, the following amendment in the By Laws will be proposed—

1st.—That, in the by-law No. 2, of the Prov. G. Lodge, the sums directed to be paid by Brethren on their first appointment to office in the Prov. G. Lodge, shall be doubled.

2nd.—That under the head, in the said by-laws, of "Fees payable to the Provincial Grand Lodge," the annual subscription from each member of the Lodge shall be 1s. instead of 6d.

STONEHOUSE.

LODGE OF SINCERITY.—(No. 224.)—The Lodge was convened by a notice issued on the 26th October by Bro. W. H. Evens, jun., P.M., P. Prov. S.G.D., from which the following is an extract:—

"The marriage of our W.M., Lord Valletort, having just been announced, it has occurred to me that it would be a particularly graceful and fraternal act on the part of the Brethren of the Lodge of Sincerity, over whom he presides, to join in presenting to him their congratulations on the happy event, in an address which may serve to assure him of our brotherly love and form a pleasant souvenir of his year of office in No. 224."

It was agreed to present an address, illuminated and emblazoned, at the regular meeting of the Lodge, on the 8th instant; but it being found, after the summons for the meeting was issued, that the address could not be got ready, a copy on vellum was made and presented.

The Lodge was opened in due form, in the absence of the W.M., by Bro. W. Hunt, P.M.; assisted by the officers, as follows:—Bros. R. Robinson Rodd, S.W.; Lord Graves, J.W.; Robinson Ridlay, S.D.; H. Emlon Barton, J.D.; Rev. G. Knowling, M.A., Chaplain; J. Cree Hancock, P.M., Secretary; there were upwards of forty Brethren present.

The arrival of the W.M. having been notified, he was received by the Brethren standing, and on receiving the gavel from the P.M., was saluted in proper order.

Bro. W. Hunt, P.M., then said:—"Worshipful Master, I am delighted to see you again in that chair, and especially on this happy occasion. On behalf of the Brethren of your Lodge, I have to ask you to receive an address of congratulation on your marriage. But, in the first place, Worshipful Master, permit me to address a few words to the Brethren. Brethren—although I regret that the duty of presenting to our Worshipful Master the address of congratulation on his marriage has not fallen upon some more experienced and able Brother, I must say I deem myself fortunate that so distinguished an honour should have devolved on me by virtue of my position as the immediate Past Master of the Lodge; and moreover, in some respects, I may be the most fitting person amongst us to perform this "labour of love," for in addition to having stood sponsor to our worthy and noble Brother's admission into this Lodge, I think I may venture to assert that not one of you has known him longer, or had better opportunities of becoming acquainted with his many excellent qualities. The acquaintance of which I speak goes back to a period anterior to his admission into Freemasonry, and is founded on observations and facts, having reference as well to his conduct as a son and a nobleman, as to his character as a member of our ancient and honourable order; and I can with confidence add, that the longer and better I know him, in any and every relation of life and society, the greater is the respect and esteem in which I regard him.

"As we only realize a fair idea of the value of a thoroughly good picture or highly finished work of art by such a close, steady, and continued inspection as brings out its most delicate touches and recondite beauties, so are there true-hearted, sterling, ingenuous, and well-balanced men, for whom our admiration and respect are ever increasing in the same ratio as our means of knowing and appreciating them. (Cheers.)

"Worshipful Master and Brethren,—One of the advantages of Freemasonry is its connecting people of different colours, countries, religions, creeds, and classes by an additional bond of brotherhood—its creating a link of mutual interest between persons who without it would have remained strangers—its originating new ties of kindred feeling and sympathy, and so contributing to strengthen the coherence of society and add to the sum total of human kindness, and therefore of human happiness. This advantage springs out of, and is maintained by, the exercise of its first leading principle—"brotherly love," which teaches us "ever to regard the interests of our Brethren and fellows as inseparable from our own," which prompts to the exercise of good offices and the interchange of kindly feeling; makes us rejoice with our Brethren when they are in the bright sunshine of prosperity and happiness; and mourn with them, and, if possible, help them, when under the dark clouds of affliction and distress. It is, Worshipful Master, this first principle of Freemasonry that has prompted the preparation and presentation of this address. In the right of our fellowship—in the bonds of the Order—we claim to share in the satisfaction and

joy consequent on the accession to your happiness in attaining the blessedness and the dignity of being a married man. (Applause.)

"Residing, as we do, in the vicinity of Mount Edgcumbe, and participating with our neighbours in the respect and esteem in which the noble family connected with that charming place are so universally and deservedly held, we should doubtless have rejoiced at any event calculated to enhance the happiness of that family. But how much greater must be our satisfaction, when that event is no less important and joyous than the happy marriage of so prominent a member of the family as the heir to its honours and its fortunes; who to his elevated social position superadds the high advantages and claims of great intelligence, moral worth, and the kindness yet dignity of disposition and manner that ever characterise noble natures; and to whom we are bound by the strong and 'indissoluble chain' of fraternal affection, and to whom, also, we owe allegiance, as the Worshipful Master of our Lodge

"You, then, Worshipful Master, will be pleased to accept this address, as the sincere though inadequate expression of our feelings; which, as it was suggested by the first leading principle of our Order, has been written under the direction of another fundamental principle of Freemasonry—"truth." It is in these words—"To the V. W. Bro. Viscount Valletort, Prov. J.G.W., and W.M. of the Lodge of Sincerity, No. 224."

"We, the Freemasons, being members of the Lodge of Sincerity, No. 224, beg most cordially to offer you our hearty and fraternal congratulations on your marriage.

"We venture to hope that this union may mark the commencement of a long series of happy years yet to come, for you and your noble bride, and that you may be enabled, as time rolls on, to look back to the year in which you presided over the Lodge of Sincerity, as one to which memory will recur with grateful remembrances.

"Connected as your family is with this neighbourhood, and eminent as the names of your noble father and mother have become for the practice of every social and moral virtue, especially those truly Masonic ornaments, charity and benevolence—we cannot allow this occasion to pass without including them in our congratulations; with a confident belief, that an example so excellent will be emulated by yourself in the long and bright career which we trust lies before you.

"It is with feelings of great pleasure and satisfaction that we meet you, Worshipful Master, this day, feeling assured that to whatever Masonic rank you may be advanced, none will ever be regarded by you as more valuable than that conferred by the free and unsolicited voice of your Brethren of this Lodge.

"With a fervent prayer that the Great Architect of the universe may be pleased to bestow on you and your family every happiness, both present and future, we beg to subscribe ourselves, Worshipful Master, your faithful and attached Brethren, Wm. Hunt, P.M., Prov. G.D., Devon; R. Robinson Rodd, S.W.; Prov. G.S.; Graves, J.W., Prov. G.S.; L. P. Tripe, P.M., Treas., P. Prov. G.S.D.; Walter Darnant, P.M., P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; W. H. Evens, jun., P.M., P. Prov. G.S.D.; A. Narracott, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.B.; Peter Ellison Rowe, P.M., P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. R. Phillips, P.M., P. Prov. G. Treas.; Thomas Russell, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.D.; Edwd. W. Cole, P.M.; Samuel Cave, W.M., No. 122, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; R. Dowse, M.D., P.M., Nos. 176, 491, and 723; James Hughes, P.M., Steward; George Knowling, M.A., Oxon, Chaplain; R. Lidstone, W.M., No. 270; James Gilbard; R. J. Squire; Robinson Ridley, S.D.; H. Emlon Barton, J.D.; John Honey, Steward; J. R. Newcombe; V. Narracott; William Rennell Coleridge; Paul Oliver; R. E. Knowling; C. Spence Bate; Henshaw Russell; Kadri Bey, Colonel (Turkish Service); J. P. Mann; Robert H. Rae; Samuel Triscott; E. M. Russell Rendle; Henry Charles Lopes; G. Sidney Stode; Arundel Rogers, Nos. 224 and 10; John Rogers, P.M., Tyler; John Cree Hancock, P.M., Secretary."

"Worshipful Master, so far as this address goes, it is, I am quite sure, a faithful reflection of the feelings of every member of the Lodge of Sincerity; some of the Brethren of the Lodge are non-resident, and others are abroad on service in the navy and army. Our only regret is that words will not more fully convey the sentiments we entertain towards you. Were it possible to have made it a perfect photograph of our feelings, the address would be far stronger in expression than it is possible to render it by any words. You, I am persuaded, will accept our offering in the kindly and fraternal spirit in which it is made, and with a sincerity corresponding to our own, you will, amongst the many congratulatory addresses presented on this auspicious occasion, ever regard that of your devoted and attached Brethren of Lodge No. 224, with even something beyond ordinary esteem. Your early return to Mount Edgcumbe

after your marriage, is hailed with delight, as indicative of your disposition to make this neighbourhood your principal place of residence. It is of great importance to any neighbourhood, for very strong reasons that I will not now detain you by enumerating, that it should have resident noblemen and gentlemen. I think also, that the interest in this case is reciprocal, and that it is of importance to these persons themselves that they should live principally amongst their tenantry and country neighbours. Everyone has a desire to distinguish himself, to exert influence—in fact to be somebody in his day and generation; and I contend that so far as the owners of land and the rich are concerned, this natural, and when properly directed, laudable, ambition, would have the best chance of being effectually and usefully gratified by their living principally in the districts in which their lands and property are situated. The influence which would be great and most useful in a rural or provincial district is far too often lost, or next to lost in the crowds of a metropolis.

"It is our hope and prayer, Worshipful Master, that you may long enjoy all the pleasures of the condition of life into which you have recently entered, and that from time to time we shall continue in this Lodge to receive the advantage of your presence and wise counsels; and that your wife, Lady Katharine, may long be the sharer of your happiness, become more and more attached to our neighbourhood, and henceforth be the worthy coadjutor with your most excellent mother, and so assist you in practically carrying into effect that virtue which has been justly denominated the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart—'ever blessed charity.'

"Before resuming my seat, I would congratulate the Lodge and you on your attainment of so high a position in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon; and I will venture to hope that this and every accession of Masonic honour may act as inducements to seek and obtain those larger, more extensive, and purer views of Freemasonry which the inquiring and diligent alone attain, so that the things hidden from the careless and indolent may to you be 'familiar as household words,' so that you may be able to guide and instruct the less informed, and diffuse light over the paths which to others are dark and obscure. Truly and well has it been said of the attainment of Masonic knowledge, 'that the labour of such a pursuit is itself refreshment, and the reward great.' Fresh flowers bloom at every step, and the prospect on every side is filled with beauty and enchantment, so that the pursuer, ravished at the sight, will rush on with enthusiasm from fact to fact, and from truth to truth, until the whole science of Freemasonry lies before him invested with a new form and sublimity." (Applause.)

The V. W. Lord Valletort, rose and thanked the Brethren for this expression of their congratulations to him on his marriage. He had come to the Lodge prepared to receive some such mark of their fraternal consideration, but was not prepared for so complimentary a speech as that with which the worthy Past Master had presented the address. Nothing could have been more unexpected, or more utterly unlooked for, than the hearty demonstrations of welcome which Lady Katharine and he had met with on their arrival at Stonehouse, and which were therefore all the more gratifying to them. Among the crowd of gentlemen who received them at the Hall, he was much pleased, though not surprised, to recognize more than one face rendered familiar to him by the meetings of No. 224; for where should he expect to find true and hearty friendship, if not among the Brethren of his own Lodge. He felt, as he stated in his reply to the address from the inhabitants of Stonehouse, that he was indebted chiefly for that mark of their good will to the respect and esteem with which they regarded his parents; but in the case of the present address, as coming from Freemasons and Brethren of the same Lodge, he hoped he might consider it of a more personal character, though, at the same time, it was most pleasing to him to see his parents so prominently mentioned in it. It was a great pleasure to him to have been chosen as Master by the members of that Lodge, and his only source of regret was that this was the first time that he had met them since his installation banquet. He was sure, however, that they would believe his absence to have been most involuntary, and acquit him of anything like neglect or indifference to the duties of his office. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) That applause assured him that he was not mistaken in counting on their indulgence, and now that he had the pleasing prospect of residing permanently at his home, he anticipated with some confidence that his attendance for the future would be more regular. (Applause.)

A Brother having been proposed as a joining member, and a statement made respecting the recently held Provincial Grand Lodge, the W. M. closed the Lodge in due form at half-past eight o'clock.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

On Tuesday, October 26th, the brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire, met for the appointment of officers and the

transaction of other business, in the Shire Hall, Stafford. The Right Worshipful the Prov. G. M. Col. Veran presided on the occasion, supported by the Right Worshipful D. Prov. G. M. Bro. Ward, and a large body of the Past and Present Grand Officers. After the opening of the Grand Lodge, the consecration of the New Lodge, the Staffordshire Knot, was impressively performed by the Prov. G. M.; the Prov. G. Chap. Brother Downs; the Prov. S. G. W. Brother A. Glover; the Prov. J. G. W. Bro. C. Davenport, &c. The musical arrangements were under the management of the Prov. G. Oig Bro John Emery, jun., assisted by Bro. Edwin Sharpool. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the brethren of the Prov. G. Lodge, to the number of nearly 100, sat down to a very sumptuous banquet, the R. W. Prov. G. M. presiding. On the withdrawal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured, being alternated by glees and songs effectively rendered by Bros. Porsall, Glydon, Pendleton, Baker, &c., under the able direction of Bro. Sharpool.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

CONSECRATION OF A MASONIC HALL.—On Tuesday, Oct. 26th, the ceremony of consecration of the Freemasons' Hall took place in Newport, Monmouthshire. Besides the members of the Order in the town, a number of Brethren from various parts of the country attended the celebration, and walked in procession to Stow Church, attired in the insignia of the Craft. After the dedication of the building was performed, Bro. the Rev. G. B. Roberts, of Cheltenham, preached an able sermon, having previously intoned the prayers.

HALF YEARLY MEETING OF MARK MASTERS.

THE Half-yearly meeting of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters was held at the Freemason's Tavern, Great Queen Street, on Wednesday, Dec. 8th, when, in the absence of the G. M., the throne was occupied by Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, Deputy G. M.; Bro. W. W. Beach, M. P., Provincial G. M. of the Mark for Hants, acted as S. G. W., and Bro. Burrell as J. G. W.

The minutes of the last Grand Lodge having been read, Bro. Portal, G. Chap., desired before their confirmation to ask the Grand Reg. a question regarding the position of the Anglo-Scotch Mark Lodges referred to in the minutes. It had been stated to him that Bro. Bagshawe, W. M. of the Royal Cumberland Mark Lodge, Bath, had been affiliated to an Anglo-Scotch Mark Lodge at Bristol, he wished to know if this report had reached the Grand Reg., and whether in such cases of affiliation any oath of abjuration was required inconsistent with good faith and allegiance to this Grand Lodge.

Bro. Ridgway, Grand Reg., had received communications on the subject, but had preferred to treat the acts alleged as an attempt on the part of Bro. Bagshawe, to promote the efforts now being made towards an union of all English Mark Lodges, rather than as a breach of faith towards his brethren. He was aware that brethren joining or advanced in Scotch Lodges did formerly, if not still, bind themselves not to enter Lodges under the English constitution, therefore, it would appear that the Bro. in question, who yet belonged to one of our Lodges, could not have joined the Scotch; but as a warden of the Bath Lodge was then present perhaps he could give more definite particulars. Bro. Ridgway in remarking incidentally on the hoped-for fusion of the Scotch and English Mark Lodges, gave some interesting statistics of the Grand Chap. of Scotland, showing its utter insignificance in point of members, antiquity, and otherwise, and the consequent absurdity of its pretensions to govern much more important bodies of English Masons. Of these statistics we have availed ourselves in a leading article, so that they need not be repeated here.

Bro. Payne stated his conviction based on Bro. Bagshawe's own words, that although the Master of the Scotch Lodge at Bristol had paraded this Bro. in the Magazine as a pervert, yet, nothing was further from his intention than to abjure the English body, or, in fact, to do aught else than try to convince the Anglo-Scotch Mark Masters of their error.

Bro. Lambert, Past G. S., remarked he had that day read in the Magazine the report of a formal resolution come to by one, at least, of these Lodges, namely the Thistle, to join the Grand Lodge.

The Deputy Grand Master reminded Grand Lodge that the case of Bro. Bagshawe would more correctly come before him as Prov. Grand Master for Somerset. It had been brought before him in that capacity, but his Lordship regretted that in consequence of the extent to which he had recently been occupied in London, he had not been able as yet to organize his Provincial Grand Lodge; the brethren might, however, rest assured that he would thoroughly sift

the matter. The Deputy Grand Master desired to express his very great satisfaction at the facts laid before them by the Grand Reg.

The minutes were then confirmed.

Bro. Barker, W. M. of the Newcastle and Berwick Lodge, and Grand D. C., rose in pursuance of his notice, to propose a resolution having for its object the more full representation of County Lodges in this Grand Lodge, which he proposed to effect by allowing each Lodge to appoint some Bro., resident in or near London, to act as its proxy or representative in Grand Lodge; the Master and Wardens generally residing at too great a distance to enable them to attend the meetings.

Bro. Payne seconded the proposition the more readily, because his Lodge had especially deputed him to bring this very matter under their consideration.

Bro. Beach concurred in the principle, but feared it could not be carried out to the extent proposed; the power ought to be restricted to voting on specific questions, such as the election of Grand Master and the general Board.

Bro. Burringer, P. M. of No. 3, thought it could not be entertained; it was against the book of Constitution.

Bro. Portal, Grand Chaplain, concurred with the S. G. W., and although he was a strong advocate for a more effectual representation of the County Lodges, both in Craft and Mark Masonry, he did not think he could go to the extent proposed by the resolution, and he would suggest they should content themselves on this occasion with the evident approval of the general principle, and that the motion should be withdrawn with a view to another of which all could approve, being brought forward on a future occasion.

Bro. Ridgway, Grand Reg., suggested they had not only to consider how each Lodge might best secure its vote on any point being recorded, they had also as a matter of general policy and as the best means to knit together the several Lodges, to show how desirous they were to confirm the confidence now felt in this Grand Lodge by those Lodges working at a distance.

Bro. Burrell fully concurred in these remarks, and he also felt that as much as possible should be left to Provincial Grand Lodges.

The Deputy Grand Master said he would depart from the usual course adopted by those who occupied the chair in order to express the great gratification he felt at the complexion this discussion had assumed. It must be evident that a feeling less selfish could not have been evinced, and the County Lodges must see clearly how agreed the London Brethren were in their desire to secure them additional benefits. He had, however, grave doubts as to the propriety of a general proxy. He would speak from his knowledge of the working of the proxy system in the House of Lords. It was there circumscribed with great jealousy. No more than two proxies could be held by one peer, they must be delivered in a particular manner, and could only be used on particular occasions. In this Grand Lodge it appeared that whilst the general principle was recognized, great doubt had been expressed as to the details of its working; would it not, therefore, be better to withdraw the motion and appoint a small Committee to submit one to be more fully considered on a future occasion?

Bro. Cossens, S. W. of the Porchester Lodge, Newbury, thought that where the officers of a Lodge did not take the trouble to attend the Lodge, they deserved to lose their votes: he had come specially from Berkshire to attend this Grand Lodge, and should endeavour as often as possible to do so. He hoped that the anticipated increase in the number of Lodges in Berkshire, would justify him in expecting shortly a Provincial Grand Lodge of their own.

Bro. Barker was fully satisfied with the manifest acceptance by Grand Lodge of the principle of his motion. Desiring to remark that the word representation more clearly conveyed his meaning than the word proxy, he would ask permission to withdraw his motion and propose instead that the appointment of a small Committee thereon, be left in the hands of the Earl of Carnarvon.

His Lordship promised to undertake the task, and the motion was agreed to be withdrawn.

After the transaction of sundry other business the Grand Lodge was closed.

At a meeting of the EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT, held Nov. 29, Br Havers spoke as follows upon Masonic parties:—

United and faithful, we may boldly defy difficulties—disunited and unfaithful, we shall become an easy prey to designing men. The danger we have to guard against is a danger from within, and not a danger from without. (Hear, hear.) Internal disunion and not external aggression is what we have to fear. We have a cause common to one and all—and in that cause we must labour. In private Lodges nothing so certainly and so speedily ensures decay and ruin as the existence of "party" within it; and just so it is with the

Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.) Nothing can or will be so ruinous. It checks progress, it embarrasses the conduct of affairs, it hinders needful reforms, provokes contentions, and is directly opposed to the spirit and letter of our ancient laws. In such a society as ours, difference of opinion cannot fail to occur; let us endeavour to conduct these differences to a peaceful and Masonic issue. (Applause.) As a violation of our first principles, "party" should not be heard of or tolerated amongst us. (Cheers.) I do not believe—I cannot believe—I will not believe—that there is, or can be, an individual amongst us who would prefer his own personal interests to the interests of our noble institution—(hear)—who would sacrifice the interests and destroy the harmony of this noble institution to satisfy selfish ends. No such man is or can be amongst us; if such a one there ever should be, I would proclaim him recreant throughout the length and breadth of the land, an enemy to our order, false to his oath, and traitor to the society to which he has solemnly sworn fidelity. (The speaker was here greeted with a tremendous outburst of applause and a hearty round of "good fire.") Brethren, societies, like nations, have their periods of difficulty; and these, like storms, recur with some degree of seeming regularity. Pondering over some of our recent difficulties, and endeavouring to explain to myself their origin and their causes, I have been reminded of a story which bears date anterior even to that claimed by Masonry. It relates that Jove, in one of his joyous moments over a bowl of nectar, determined to send a present to the poor mortals below. He commissioned Momus—there were no Pickfords in those days—(laughter) to be the bearer of his message, who descended from Olympus, carrying with him a large bundle, which, being opened, presented to the eyes of the gaping multitude myriads of—spectacles! Now these spectacles were composed of different coloured glass, so that each one looking through only his own glasses, saw objects in a different colour from that in which they appeared to his neighbours; and thence arose great diversity of opinion. Now, I really think that some of these spectacles are in use amongst the Masonic fraternity in the present day; and hence, in surveying our Brethren, some look yellow, some green, others black, and some very blue. (Laughter.) It is to the use of these several glasses that I ascribe many of our recent difficulties. (Hear.) If we would only look occasionally through our neighbour's glass, and get him, if he will, to take a peep through ours, and see how we judge of each other's acts, depend upon it we should be none the worse, and Masonry would be all the better for the exchange. (Hear, hear.) No feuds are so bitter as family feuds. Masons, we know, can love each other with the love of brothers; let us not emulate the quarrels of blood relations. Life is not too long for us to spend so much of our time in bickering and quarrel. (Applause.) Let us here, on this appropriate occasion, on this spot, consecrated for the time to the true work of Masonry—let us bury all our animosities, let us resolve to work together in kindness and in brotherly love, to treat each other with courtesy and forbearance, and let the new year which is about to commence prove a new era in Masonic unity. (Applause.)

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MASONIC OBSERVER.

Sir and Brother,

The notice of motion standing in my name on the Agenda paper for last Grand Lodge—the object of which I fear has been misunderstood—was in my opinion rendered imperatively necessary by the grossly unfair manner in which the reports of the proceedings at the Quarterly Communications had been sent forth to the Craft in the authorised official publication. In that of March of the present year I am made to appear as the utterer of a deliberate falsehood with regard to the report of the Board of General Purposes, the accusation being given prominent place enough in the speeches of the two brethren who urged it, but not one word by way of explanation as to the grounds of my assertion, or of my justification thereof being permitted to me. Two other brethren have similar cause of complaint with myself, and at the meeting of G. L. on the 1st instant, Bro. Rev. G. R. Portal made an appeal to the M. W. G. M. on the same subject. Now, as Grand Lodge secures the services of a most able reporter, and as no one will for a moment believe that that worthy brother delivers anything but a most faithful transcript, the fault must rest with those who arrange the compilation. With the present position of affairs in G. L. the greatest care should be taken in observing the most perfect impartiality by those charged with the duty of preparing the Minutes for publication—and I hesitate in believing that such is not the case. It is, however, so strange that these errors are all on one side—and the

strong prejudices of the brother who is the ruling genius of the official bureau are so notorious, while his abilities are equally unquestioned—that it seems impossible that they can be the result of carelessness. Grant that they are, I hold that in such a case the culpability is almost as great as the design wilfully to injure, and argues but little in favour of that improved efficiency we were led to expect would follow from the change in the Secretarial department. Your variable contemporary who amidst all his eccentric changings and windings has ever prided himself upon the scrupulous correctness of his reports, now that he has yielded to the seductive blandishments of that power which bears sway in high places, has laid himself open to the same charge; but in his case, I will not believe, intentionally. In the report, in the *Freemason's Magazine*, of the proceedings of the last meeting of G. L. all mention is omitted of the disgracefully offensive remark of Bro. Havers which led to the regretted withdrawal of Lord Carnarvon. The remarks I addressed to G. L. on the Canada question are given so boldly as to wear the appearance of mock-heroic; and the explanation I gave with reference to the remarks of Bro. Havers on my conduct as a member of the Board of General Purposes with respect to the Property question not noticed at all.

For myself, sir and brother, I don't at all feel affected by these things, and am grieved at the necessity of introducing anything of a personal character. But from recent experience it does seem that the system pursued by that "party" which is banded together against those who seek to further improvement, is one not only of abuse but of misrepresentation. The pages of the *Freemason's Magazine*, and especially the numbers of November 10th and December 8th teem with aspersions on the members of what it has pleased some to term the "Observer party," of a most virulent and uncharitable kind. The animosity displayed is almost rabid, but is rendered amusing by the complacency with which the writers—while violating the greatest of the Masonic virtues—charity—charge us with forgetfulness of our obligations. Surely, sir, if ever the exhortation as to the "mote" and the "beam" were applicable, it is so in the fullest force here.

With regard to the criticisms upon the conduct in G. L. of the independent members on the proposition of the M. W. G. M. for the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada, one would have scarcely conceived the possibility of the most bitter malevolence urging speakers or writers into so gross a distortion of facts for the purpose of founding thereon a fresh attack upon their opponents. The case of the Lodges still hailing from England at least rendered worthy of consideration the suggestions of Bro. Dobie, supported as they were in the most moderate and conciliatory manner by Lord Carnarvon. Bro. Havers, however, could not resist the temptation to make a fierce personal onslaught—at all times apparently so especially gratifying to him—and torturing a mere suggestion for dignified delay into an expression of opposition, sought to fasten a charge of inconsistency on the noble Earl, and thus embittered the discussion on this grave and important question. The writers in the *Freemason's Magazine*, taking their cue from their acknowledged chief, have adopted a similar course, and page after page of anonymous slander and malicious invective is the fare with which its readers are regaled.

A reference to the wording of Bro. Portal's notice of motion on the Canada question will show that the M. W. G. M. is therein "requested" to do exactly what the former brother and his friends urged in G. L.—are "to take the necessary steps for establishing masonic relations with the G. L. of Canada," in preference to rushing into recognition with fiery and inconsidered haste: while the readiness with which the amendment for delay was withdrawn in deference to the earnest appeal of the G. M., ought to have sufficed to satisfy every candid mind as to the non-existence of "party" motives. But the names of faction in high places were not to be appeased, but must stalk abroad in all their hideous shadowy proportions, delighting in the outrage of feeling and propriety.

I am not about to make any *ad misericordiam* appeal to your readers. The sound judgment and discrimination of the brethren will, I am convinced, sooner or later do justice to those who in their efforts for conservative and progressive improvement have met but with the fate of all who have had the courage to suggest the possibility that if the dust of ages were swept away the beauty of the fabric would be more plainly discernable.

In the next number of your publication I shall ask permission to set forth a statement of facts bearing on the affairs of G. L. for the last two or three years, claiming meanwhile for those who constitute the (so-called) Observer party the candid and impartial consideration of the unprejudiced members of the Craft. To those who are determined to be our opponents I will simply say that unqualified censure and unmitigated detraction of brethren with whom you do not agree are not the most effective means of promoting that unity and con-

cord which you profess to be so desirous of seeing accomplished, but which a continuance in your present course will render very difficult of attainment, if not impossible.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES.

London, 10th December, 1858.

Sir and Brother,

I am not a regular attendant at G. L., and when I do visit that august assembly, amongst the minor proceedings which arrest my attention is the irresistible fact that Bro. Havers is a clever, dexterous, and most unscrupulous debater; possessing an immunity from those wholesome restrictions and 'standing orders' which other speakers carefully observe, he talks when, how, and what, he likes.

I observed during the last discussion in G. L., the G. D. C., with an ominous shake of his wand, remind several Brethren who were speaking, that they should turn from the mass of assembled Brethren, and address the Chair. I thought he was right: such a rule applies in every deliberative assembly; but when Bro. Havers spoke (and he generally it seems has the lion's share of the talk), he most irreverently turned his back on Chair, G. D. C., and the entire Dais. Now for the wand, I thought: but no! it rested undisturbed in the hand of Bro. Jennings, who smiled Mearner-like, and the G. M. reposed complacently in his chair of dignity. In my simplicity I inquired how this could be, and a Bro. near me, evidently surprised at my ignorance, said, "Why the G. M. knows all about it, and needs not to be bored with statements and arguments a second time." This was suggestive and instructive. I felt relieved though humbled. We don't know much of these things in the country.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

GREENHORN.

THE "OBSERVER PARTY."

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—At the risk of appearing egotistical, I cannot refrain from appealing to the conduct of the *Observer* faction in the Grand Lodge last Wednesday, as more than a confirmation of everything which I have advanced against them. Masonic feeling might well demand that such conduct should be passed over in silence, and that discussion should be avoided, but Brethren not fully acquainted with the facts might be led into erroneous conclusions as to the real principles of Freemasonry as practised by the Grand Lodge of England. All men have at times stern duties to perform; and Freemasons cannot hope to be always relieved from such necessities.

Times and circumstances must occur to the memory of every Englishman where, in the different assemblies of this realm, faction and cabal have for a time raised their heads, to the momentary despair of every patriot, and to the discomfort of all who were for the time being charged with the conduct of affairs; but I much doubt whether the history of faction and cabal in this country can produce a parallel scene to that which was enacted by the *Observer* party in the Grand Lodge of England, last Wednesday.

I will not advert to the Masonic obligations of every member of the Grand Lodge—to the principles on which our Order is founded—nor to the sacred feeling which at all times surrounds our private Lodges, so beautifully inculcated by the Worshipful Master on the investiture of each initiate—these duties and sentiments have long since been trampled under foot by that miserable faction. I will, therefore, confine myself to the public question involved in the business of Wednesday last.

First as to the Canadas. Need I weary your readers with the unforbidden tale of grievances to be remedied, laches to be deplored, official negligence to be atoned for—so often publicly urged upon the Grand Lodge by Bros. Lord Carnarvon, the Rev. G. B. Portal, and their party, and privately deprecated by many a good, though less noisy, Mason?—we have heard of them *usque ad nauseam*. That there was some good reason to complain of the way in which the Canadas had been treated, no sensible man has denied; but no honest Mason will forget that so long ago as March, 1857, the M. W. Grand Master, from his place in Grand Lodge, frankly and openly expressed his regret for the past; and not only announced his determination to improve the future, but practically accompanied

that announcement by concessions to the Canadas, which every one (including the Colonial Board, Bro. Portal, and Bro. Beach) admitted to be ample, although they did not suffice to avert the predetermined separation. Instead of accepting this declaration of the Grand Master, as did every good Mason, as an "earnest of a sincere desire to co-operate with them in the promotion of the interests of our common Order," the faction have never ceased to harp upon this Canadian grievance—to cite it as a reason for a radical change in the government of Grand Lodge; and to make it, in the language of the R. W. the D. G. M., "a stalking horse" on every occasion. Every one who has had a knowledge of the proceedings of the *Observer* faction in their provincial tours will not have failed to observe this, and it has even been carried to the extent that, in one province, Bro. Portal's indiscreet incriminations have been peremptorily stopped by the Master in the Chair. While the faction thus pursued the Canadian grievance, it need scarcely be said that they bitterly complained that recognition of the so called Grand Lodge of Canada was withheld; and no stronger proof of this is required than the fact that, at the last Board of Masters, Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal placed on the notice paper for the Grand Lodge of the 1st December, the following motion:—

"That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge the interests of Masonry will best be promoted by the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that it respectfully requests the M. W. Grand Master to take the necessary steps for establishing Masonic relations with that body."

In the meantime the Grand Master and his executive had not for a moment forgotten their understood engagement of March, 1857; and as a proof that the M. W. Grand Master, had ever kept it in view, it may mentioned that, so far back as August last, he had instructed the Grand Secretary that if the official intimation of the union of the Canadian Grand Lodge arrived in time, he should, at the meeting of Grand Lodge in September, propose their recognition by the Grand Lodge of England. This official intimation did not reach England until the 29th November, and true to his promise, the Grand Master rose in his place in Grand Lodge, on the 1st December, to propose the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Might it not have been expected that such recognition would have been carried amid the acclamations of Grand Lodge? Whatever had been the mistakes or the faults of Canada, they had been condoned by the M. W. Grand Master, and whatever had been the mistakes on this side, they had been fully atoned for in 1857. Surely neither could be remembered by those who had so unceasingly, and obviously of her faults, urged the claims of Canada during past years. But no! reason, and Masonic feeling, demanded the unanimous and immediate recognition of the Canadas. Faction, however, still held her course—and that course is, as was proved on Wednesday, to oppose everything which may emanate from the Grand Master and his executive. The result was, that the motion for the recognition of the Canadas was opposed—will the Craft believe it—by Bros. Lord Carnarvon, the Rev. G. R. Portal, and their satellites. Another Brother took part in it. Of him I will say nothing, except that at the end of the debate, he rose and expressed his acquiescence in the views just announced by the M. W. Grand Master. I regretted, however, to see him unwittingly lending the prestige of his name to the discreditable course which followed. Of Lord Carnarvon I will say but this, that every one must regret to see a nobleman bearing his ancestral name led away by such a faction as that with which he has unfortunately become connected. The name of Carnarvon is naturally dear to the Craft, and we may be pardoned the regret with which we see its ancient lustre dimmed.

But what shall we say of Bro. Portal? No words of mine can express the feeling with which his conduct will be viewed. His prostitution of the best interests of Freemasonry to the cause of faction—his support of the Canadas when it seemed to suit the purposes of his party—his repudiation of her recognition when the game of his party became desperate, and that after he had himself given notice of such a motion—must be chronicled and criticised by abler pens than mine. But all good men and Masons who have studied these matters and who become aware of the miserable exhibition of Wednesday last will, I feel certain, be irresistibly led to the conclusion that that reverend Brother is an object of either pity or contempt—pity, when regarding an undoubtedly fine intellect, which regardless of his Masonic obligations, is prostituted to the purposes of faction; contempt, for the Brother (alas, that it should be said!) who can, hoping to serve motives best known to himself, do all in his power to destroy the noble fabric of our Craft, and to make the ruin of Freemasonry a monument of gratification to his personal spite.

What has been said of the Canadas may be said of the report of the Board of General Purposes. It needed scarcely the able

exposition of Bro. Havers to draw us to the conclusion that we, the Grand Lodge, ought to have set and not to follow the example of English Masons, and emancipate ourselves from the just reproach of holding the head quarters of Freemasonry at a Tavern. This again was a subject on which all surely were agreed—but it met with the same fate. Obstruction after obstruction was offered by the faction, until, as a last effort, they attempted to adjourn the debate; a division showed them that it was hopeless to contend further against the strong determination of Grand Lodge. The motions on the subject, replete with interest to the good of our Order, were then carried, despite the opposition of those who arrogate to themselves the claim to have been the promoters of all which has of late been done to advance the interests of Freemasonry.

The whole proceedings plainly demonstrate that the *Observer* faction is determined to offer its most strenuous opposition to everything which may be proposed by the M. W. Grand Master or the constitutional authorities; and that in the course which they have pursued and are pursuing, the interests of the Craft are made secondary to their own personal motives; but these proceedings also unmistakably show a most gratifying result, and that is, that out of a very unusually large number of Brethren who attended Grand Lodge, the *Observer* faction could command but comparatively few supporters; and that they have now publicly forfeited their absurd claim to represent the feelings of the Grand Lodge of England.

It may well be asked, who are now the obstructives—the executive, who have found it their duty to oppose propositions made with a view to encroach illegally on the constitutions of the order; or the *Observer* party, who have publicly demonstrated their determination to oppose everything which they themselves have not originated; and that without reference to the true interests of the Craft.

I have heretofore said that I should freely speak my opinions. I have done so. I regret that I should have had to apply such observations to any Brother or section of Brethren, but the time for anything approaching to false delicacy has gone by. The proceedings of last Wednesday must clearly prove to every reflecting Mason that the day of temporizing is past. The worm is scotched, not killed; and the Brethren must gird up their loins for the combat, and resolve never to stay in their course till our Craft has been purged of such disreputable and contemptible proceedings, and we can revert to the Masonic harmony which characterized the Craft before the reverend Brother and his party appeared on the scene, after making their long since forgotten pledges to "pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being, and to his officers when duly installed, and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge."

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

4th Dec., 1858.

JUSTITIA.

We have been requested to publish the following.—

THE GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—In your number of the 3rd inst. which I have only just seen, are these words:—

"But as regards one of the officers specified, justice compels us to say that the duties of the Grand Secretary's department, have during the tenure of office of the present incumbent, been performed not only with an urbanity and attention which must win for him the regard of his Brethren, but with a punctuality and dispatch to which that office had long been a stranger."

I have reason to doubt this view of the case; and as facts are of more importance than words, I send you the accompanying correspondence, relying on your impartiality to insert it, and leaving the Brethren to form their own opinion of the Grand Secretary's urbanity and attention, and whether such letters as that of the 24th May, are calculated to win for him the "regard of the Brethren."

My second and more explanatory letter was disregarded also; and I had to call at the Grand Secretary's office and get the certificate barely in time to save the last practicable post to Liverpool, to enable a worthy Brother to take his certificate with him when finally leaving his native land.

It may be right, as a rule, to have fees paid before issuing certificates; but I think I might have been in such a case trusted for two or three days, especially as I had just before paid the returns for Lodge No. 555, of which I was W. M., and of Lodge No. 462, of which I was Treasurer; and also because I was well known at the Grand Secretary's office as an active Mason of upwards of twenty years' standing.

The late Grand Secretary may not have been the most punctual in correspondence, but was always courteous and kind.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

J. RANKIN STEBBING,

W. M., No. 555; P. M., No. 152, and No. 462.
Southampton, Nov. 18th, 1858.

Southampton, May, 21st, 1858.

Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 462.

VERY WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—Frederic Adolphus Somerset was initiated in this Lodge on 23th April, and is going abroad in two or three days. You will greatly oblige me if you will send a certificate by return of post, and I will call on Tuesday, and sign any necessary return, and pay the fees.

I am, Very Worshipful Sir and Brother,

J. R. STEBBING, P. M. and Treasurer.

W. G. Clarke, Esq.

Southampton, May 24th, 1858.

Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 462.

VERY WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—I wrote on Friday requesting the favour of a Grand Lodge certificate for Bro. Frederic Adolphus Somerset, who was initiated in this Lodge on the 23th April last, and who will sail from Liverpool for Ottawa, United States, on Wednesday afternoon. I have not had the pleasure of receiving it, but as my letter may have miscarried, I write to beg the favour of your sending a certificate to him by the morning's post for Liverpool from London, addressed to him, York Hotel, Queen's Square, Liverpool, and I will call to-morrow and pay the fees. His departure was unexpected, so I could not send sooner.

I am, Very Worshipful Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

J. RANKIN STEBBING, Treasurer.

Wm. Gray Clarke, Esq.

(This letter was forwarded, I believe, on the 23rd, dated 24th in error).

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
May 24th, 1858.

SIR AND BROTHER,—The Certificate for Bro. F. A. Somerset shall be made out on your remitting seventeen shillings.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

Wm. GRAY CLARKE, G. S.

Mr. J. R. Stebbing (P. M., No. 462), Southampton.

** * The first letter was written too late to get a post office order, and the second on Sunday, so that no opportunity offered for sending the seventeen shillings, which I never imagined in the interval, would have been exacted in this way.

J. R. S.

The fine old church of Hanley Castle, Worcestershire, has lately been restored by the munificence of Bro. Sir Edmund Lechmere, Bart., P.D.P.G.M. for Worcester, as a memorial to his father. Mr. Street was the architect employed, and he has, as usual, contrived to preserve all the characteristic features of the building. The reredos is very effective, composed as it is of alabaster, inlaid with coloured marbles. Nothing can be in better taste than the whole interior—rich and solemn, with an entire absence of meretricious adornment.

The P.G.L. of Worcestershire, and the *Freeman's Magazine*. Harmonic Lodge, No. 313, Dudley, Dec. 7, 1858. Resolved,—“That the Members of the Harmonic Lodge, No. 313, having read with deep regret a series of editorial articles in the *Freeman's Magazine*, reflecting in a very injudicious, unmasonic, and unwarrantable manner, charges against the R.W.F.G.M. for Worcestershire, (Bro. H. C. Vernon), in the appointment of his P.G. officers; and an uncalled-for indignity upon P.M. Bro. Morris, a Member of this Lodge; it hereby repudiates the right and propriety of any literary organ to animadvert upon the legitimate authority exercised by the R.W.F.G.M. for Worcestershire; and begs to testify its unabated esteem for his private virtues, and continued confidence in his Masonic qualifications.” Resolved—“That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the R.W.F.G.M., Bro. H. C. Vernon, and also to the editor of the *Freeman's Magazine*.” C. F. G. Clark, W.M., 313, Prov. G.S.D., Worcestershire.

NOTICE.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—We have to request our Subscribers to forward the amounts for which application has been made, either in Stamps, or by Post Office Order, at their earliest convenience.

The *Masonic Observer and Grand Lodge Chronicle* is published on the 20th of March, June, September, and December; and may be obtained from the London Publishers, through all local booksellers.

SUBSCRIBERS may be supplied direct from the Office, by sending their Subscriptions (2s. per Annum) in advance, to Mr. Peach, Bridge Street, Bath.

FELDS of Lodges will be allowed 25 per cent. on all sums remitted to Mr. PEACH.

ADVERTISEMENTS may be sent to Mr. Peach, Bridge Street, Bath, or to Mr. J. Clements, Little Pulteney Street, London, by the 15th of March, June, Sept., and Dec., and not later than one week after each G.L. of Emergency.

Advertisements.

MASONIC QUARTERLY PAPER.

THE MASONIC OBSERVER AND GRAND LODGE CHRONICLE is published on the 20th of March, June, September, and December; and contains a full Report of the proceedings in the previous GRAND LODGE, as well as Articles upon the various subjects affecting the welfare of the Craft.

It is intended to meet a rapidly increasing demand for fuller information upon matters of general, as distinguished from local, interest.

The actual condition of Masonry at home and in the Colonies, its policy, the measures required for its progress and efficiency, as well as the state of its Charities, are the subjects principally noticed.

The great success that has attended the establishment of this Paper, leads the Proprietors to hope that it will be recognised as a useful medium of information, as well as of mutual communication, by the Craft at large.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, AND THE COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS OF THE BRITISH CROWN.

Bro. The LORD LEIGH, *Grand Master*.

Bro. The EARL OF CARNARVON, *Deputy Grand Master*.

LODGES desirous of Uniting under the English Constitution, and Brethren wishing to obtain New Warrants to work the Mark degree, are requested to communicate with Bro. W. L. COLLINS, the Grand Secretary, at the Office of the Grand Lodge, No. 40, Leicester Square, London.

GRAND LODGE CLUB.

AT the First General Meeting held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, 1st Dec., 1858, the following officers were appointed:—

Bro. JOHN UDALL, Past G. Deacon, and P. M., No. 10, *President*.

Bro. J. H. HEARN, Past D.P.G.M., Isle of Wight, *Vice-President*.

Bro. J. R. STEBBING, Past P.G.S., Hants.

Bro. JOHN WHITMORE, W.M., No. 329, *Treasurer*.

Bro. F. BINCKES, P.M., No. 11, *Secretary*.

The objects of the Club are,

- “1. To maintain the constitutional supremacy and privileges of G.L.
- “2. To amend or modify—so far as can be done with a due regard to the preservation of the ancient landmarks of the Order—such of the Masonic laws and regulations as are found to operate prejudicially to the interests of the Craft.
- “3. To secure to Provincial Brethren a more active participation in the proceedings of G.L.
- “4. To promote the adoption of a liberal and enlightened policy towards Colonial Lodges.
- “5. To encourage throughout the Craft a more extended interest in the Charities of the Order.
- “6. To form a Masonic Library of Reference.”

Entrance to be 5s.; Annual Subscription, 5s.; Election of Members by Ballot. The Members dine together before each G.L.; when the business paper is discussed. Price, including Wine, 5s. 6d.

The Club at present numbers between 50 and 60 members.

Brethren desirous to join, must communicate with the Secretary, Freemason's Tavern, W.C.

The next meeting will take place on the first Wednesday in March, at G.P.M., when the following question is proposed for discussion:—“The representation of the Provincial Grand Lodge.”

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