in consequence of ill health, was read by the clerk. Mr. Thomas Henry Wheeler was elected in his stead. The other auditor is Mr. John Markham. The remuneration paid to each auditor is two guineas.

A cordial vote of thanks to Sir John Pakington was passed, on the proposition of Mr. Sturge, seconded by Mr. Rutter, and Sir John, in responding, congratulated the meeting upon the prospect of their being now more likely than ever to accomplish the objects they had in view.

On the motion of Mr. Evans, seconded by Sir John Pakington, the unanimous thanks of the meeting were also accorded to T. W. Lea, Esq., for his zealous, constant, and valuable services as chairman of the committee.

This terminated the proceedings of the meeting.

THE FREEMASONS AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

(Contributed.)

A curious old craft is the Freemason's, with its quaint legends, its noble instances of rescue from difficulties and from death, and its grand charities which absorb the great revenues of the time-honoured fraternity. What speculations have been wasted upon the weighty secret of the Mason since the time of the Roman occupation, to say nothing of the period of his older, but perhaps apocryphal, tradition; all the same speculations ending in the firm belief that he has no secret at all! What books too have been written, published, and bought, showing to all comers the full, true, and particular words, signs, and tokens by which to know a Mason!

If the early traditions of the craft be apocryphal, there can be little doubt that its existence as a guild is of very respectable antiquity. In 1827 a fragmentary sculpture (now preserved at Goodwood Park) was found at Chichester, which, on being pieced, was found to bear a votive inscription, in which the College of Masons dedicate a temple to Neptune and Minerva and the safety of the family of Claudius Cæsar. Another Roman sculpture has been discovered which bears the Masonic emblems, and which probably ornamented the lintel of a lodge-room. The first Master-Mason whose works are extant in England and his name authenticated is William of Sens, who was assisted and succeeded by William the Englishman in the completion of the choir of Canterbury Cathedral in the year 1179. Not far from this date we learn, from a Cottonian MS., that the Master-Mason William Anglus completed important restorations at Canterbury Cathedral. In the 13th century Adam de Glapham and Patric de Carlile, "magister cæmentariorum et carpentariorum cum septem sociis," were employed to build Caernarvon Castle. In 1292 Henricus de Ellerton is called "magister operum," and in the same century Michael de Cantuaria, "cœmentarius," is employed upon St. Stephen's Chapel. In 1306 Richard de Stowe was the Master-Mason of Lincoln Cathedral, and Nicholas Walton was "magister-carpentarius." From 1300 to 1319 Henry Latomus is found employed on Evesham Abbey. Henry de Yeveley, who was buried in the church of St. Magnus near London bridge, is designated as "Freemason to Edward III., Richard II., and Henry IV." In the reign of Richard II. "Master Yeveley" was chief Mason of the new work then in progress at the church of Westminster, and received for his fee 100s. a year, with 15s. for his dress and furs. An indenture dated 1st April, 1395, is still extant which contains Yeveley's contract for erecting the "tomb of fine marble" still remaining in Westminster Abbey, which was then undertaken to commemorate the reigning Sovereign and his Queen, Anne, daughter of the Emperor of Germany, then recently deceased. The indenture is made between the King on the one part and Henri Yeveley and Stephen Lote, citizens and Masons, on the other. Yeveley's will is dated 25th May, 1 Henry IV., and Stephen Lote was an executor. Yeveley died in 1400. William of Wykeham was "magister operum" at Windsor Castle in the reign of Edward III. In the computus of payments, in 1429 of the Cathedral of Canterbury the names of the masters, wardens, and Masons are all recited. In 1444 John Wastell and Henry Semerk were Master-Masons of King's College. In 1480 and in 1489 Edward Seamer or Semerk was Master-Mason of St. George's Chapel, Windsor; wages one shilling a day. From 1500 to 1506 John Cole is Master-Mason at the tower and spire of Louth, Lincolnshire. These instances, collected from authentic records, could be multiplied to a considerable extent if space could be afforded for the detail.

In 1384 at the Warwick Quarter Sessions the rate of wages is ordered: "Free-mason 1s. 4d. without board, [illegible] with; penalty for taking above this rate, twenty-one days imprisonment."

The statute-book of England bears its testimony to the existence of the craft in early times, as the following instances will testify: By the 34 Edw. III., cap. 9, it is enacted—"That all alliances and covines of masons and carpenters, and congregations and chapters, ordinances and oathes betwixt them made, shall be from henceforth void and wholly annulled." The 3 Henry VI., cap. 1, declares, "that such chapters and congregations shall not be from henceforth holden;" offenders were adjudged to be felons, "and that all the other masons that come to such chapters and congregations bee punished by imprisonment of their body, and make fine and raunsome at the King's will." After this we find the craft apparently viewed with more favour, for by 2 Edward VI., cap. 15, it is provided, "That no person or persons shall at any time after the first day of Aprill next comming, interrupt, denie, let or disturbe any free-mason," &c.

Two principal colleges were formed at Strasbourg and Cologne by the master-masons of those grand Cathedrals, and regulations were formed which [illegible] in the following

Legend of Strasbourg Cathedral.

There is a quaint old tradition which comes down to us from ancient times, tottering under its load of age, and replete with the superstitions of the past. On the borders of Alsatia there lies a great city, dating its foundation far back to the old Roman days, and rich in those architectural relics of the olden time which are ever so dear to the antiquary.

"Quaint offspring of centurial years the town of Strasburg stands:
Rich in the lore of a mighty past, in legend and in story;
Rich in high-hearted honest sons, a country's truest glory;
Rich in its old Cathedral church with clustering ivy spread;
The Santa Croce of the land, where sleep her noble dead."

The story runs that once in every twelvemonth, on the eve of St. John, when the quiet burghers of that ancient city are wrapt in peaceful slumber, and when the hour of midnight clangs out from the loud-tongued bell which hangs in the old Cathedral tower, the spirits of the stone masons, by whose hands the sacred pile was erected, arise from the tomb and once more revisit the scene of their former labours. Up from the dark and gloomy crypt, along the columned aisles and vast dim nave, across the white-gleaming marble floor, chequered with ghostly shadows that stream from pictured oriels, past the stone-carved statues that keep watch and ward with their swords and sceptres, comes the long train of deathlike night-wandering shadows, clad in their quaint old mediæval costume, the masters with their compasses and rules, the craftsmen with their plumbs and squares and levels; the apprentice lads with their heavy gavels, all silently greeting their companions, old and dear, with time-honoured salute and tokens as of yore. While the last note of the deep-mouthed bell is still trembling in the air, reverberating from arch to arch, and dying away amid the frozen music of the traceried roof, forth from the western portal streams the shadowy throng. Thrice around the sacred edifice winds the waving floating train, brave old Erwin himself leading the way, while far above—up

P.G.M.: Provincial Senior Grand Warden, your wishes?

S.G.M.: That the light of Heaven may fall upon our handywork.

P.G.M.: Brethren, little remains for us to do. This noble pile, designed and built by members of our Order in ages past, finds us a place to add our mite. Long may it be an ornament to this house, dedicated to the worship of the Most High. Very Reverend Mr. Dean and Reverend Canons: As a Mason, and as the head of this province, I ask you to accept this gift from the brethren of our ancient craft, and sometimes, when you look upon its mellowed light, may you be induced to say, "Oh, worthy Masons."

The Very Rev. the Dean, who spoke with considerable emotion, said: My opinion has been confirmed by the advice of those on whose judgment and experience I place the greatest reliance, that I shall not desecrate this holy edifice or transgress the bounds of duty and decorum if in accepting this noble and beautiful gift I offer you a few remarks, which I should not have done had it not been inscribed with this motto—not only "for the adornment of this Cathedral," but "to the glory of our God." I stand here to-day to discharge a three-fold duty,—I have to thank you on the part of myself and the canons of this cathedral church for your munificent and beautiful contribution. I beg to thank you as the chairman of the Restoration Committee for this addition to our building; and as the incumbent of this diocese I have also to thank you for the interest you have shown in the chief parish of this diocese; for it is a great mistake to suppose that the Cathedral belongs exclusively to the Dean and Chapter. It belongs to every person in the diocese, although we are appointed its guardians and custodians, and bound under the most solemn oath to advance its glory and its stability. But you have not been unmindful of the responsibility that has been thrown upon you. Independently of those contributions which enabled us to carry on our work, we have had several gifts from private individuals, which will be looked upon hereafter with the greatest admiration and interest. The site which you have chosen for your window is, I think, a most happy selection. It is placed far above the power of any casual accident, and it will throw its sober light on the principal monument of our Cathedral which the chisel of Roubiliac has sculptured to the memory of that great champion of truth and Protestantism, Bishop Hough. I cannot, gentlemen, claim to be a member of your fraternity, but in one respect I do feel that I am entitled to claim kindred with them. In the second lesson for this evening's service we heard the apostolical admonition, "Let brotherly love continue," and though I cannot claim the proud privilege of being a member of the craft, I can claim that I am associated with you in my most earnest endeavours, which have been continued through a life now extended beyond the usual duration of human existence, in my earnest, anxious, prayerful endeavours to promote "Peace on earth, and good-will to men." That you may each of you continue in the exercise of those good works for which you are so distinguished, may God in his infinite mercy grant! [illegible] and when they are laid in the grave they will hand it over to their successors, who will not be less careful of it, and who will point out to succeeding generations this splendid token of your liberality, piety, and love.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the brethren returned to the Chapter-house in procession, when Lodge was closed and the outward signs of the order disappeared. Subsequently they assembled at the Crown Hotel, when about 40 brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, (served in the most admirable manner by Brother Fuggle,) under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master. The toasts of "the Queen," "the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal Family," "the Grand Master of Freemasons, the Earl of Zetland;" "the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon;" "the Provincial Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Brother Royds;" [illegible] the artists of the window;" "the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer," "to all poor and distressed Masons," "the Host of the day." The brethren separated at an early hour, unanimously gratified with the proceedings of the day; and thus ended a meeting of which the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire may be [illegible].

THE BLAKEDOWN BOILER EXPLOSION.

THE ADJOURNED INQUEST YESTERDAY.

The adjourned inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of Dennis W. Harrison, aged 14, who died from the effects of the above serious affair, was resumed yesterday morning at the Kidderminster Infirmary, before Mr. R. Docker, coroner. Mr. Tombs, of Droitwich, was present on behalf of the proprietor of the Blakedown forge.

The first witness was the father of the deceased, who himself was seriously injured at the time of the explosion.

William Harrison said: I live at Blakedown, and am a foreman. I was brought up as an engineer, and have been amongst boiler work all my life. On the 16th July I was employed at the Blakedown forge. It is worked by Messrs. John Bradley and Co. Mr. Samuel Bradley is the sole proprietor. I had the management of the whole works. That included the supervision of the steam engine and boiler. The engine was under my control on [illegible] lying in the ruins. I went to assist to get them out. I was getting the things off a man named Maybury and another, when I heard a groan, and found it was from my poor boy. The roof had not fallen then, and as I was stooping to get my boy out, the roof fell, and a beam fell across my back. My boy was regularly smothered beneath the bricks, and I could only hear his voice. He said "Oh, father." The beam which fell on me was from the roof of the forge. I don't remember any more, and I next found myself in this building (the Infirmary). It was an egg-ended boiler, cylinder form, and high pressure. When new I should think she would sustain 80lbs. to 100lbs. to the inch pressure. It had been eight years at Blakedown. It had been used previously at Droitwich, and after that at Hartlebury. I should think it was about twelve months at Hartlebury. I cannot say how long it was in use at Droitwich. It was there a few years to my knowledge. The boiler was in its place when I first went to Blakedown, but I put the fittings to it. I was led to understand it was in good condition then, and it appeared to me to be so. I went inside it. I have had the management of the boiler ever since. I put a screw patch on it about twelve months' ago. I had noticed a leakage, and at once stopped the engine. The patch was put on in a proper manner. It was put on opposite the man-hole. The top part was just level with the brickwork. I never had any occasion to mend the boiler in any other respect. I have rapped the boiler round the inside with a hammer at least once in six months. [illegible] The last two years I don't suppose we have done more than three days a week. I generally worked it up to 20lbs. pressure. I cannot exactly tell what pressure it was at when it exploded. We had been getting up steam about four hours that morning. My calculation was that the pressure at the time was about 25lbs. We had one of Salter's improved steam valves to indicate the pressure. It was set to blow off at 25lbs. I had not heard the steam

where he learnt his trade. He did not consider himself a skilled boiler-maker. To the best of his knowledge he thought the way in which he had put on the patch was a safe way. He used to sound where he thought the weak parts were. The place where he put the patch on was of the ordinary thickness. After he put the patch on he left the brickwork down for three weeks to see if it leaked, but he did not perceive it leak at all. He thought the boiler was safe, or he should never have worked the boiler. Maybury had said to him that he ought to tell Mr. Bradley about the boiler, but he said it was quite safe with the patch on. He told Mr. Bradley about putting on the patch, and Mr. Bradley left it to him to carry it out.

The Coroner then summed up, and the jury retired to consider their verdict. They found that "the deceased, Dennis William Harrison, died in consequence of injuries received by a boiler explosion at Blakedown, and the jury were of opinion that the explosion took place in consequence of the boiler being worked in an unsafe state, and attributed the accident to the unskilfulness of the engineer in charge. They did not attribute any carelessness to him, but want of skill. They also expressed their perfect satisfaction of the account given by Mr. Inshaw of the state of the boiler."

The Coroner said he quite concurred with the observations of the jury.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions or statements of Correspondents.

THE AUTOMATON CHESS PLAYER.

13, Ave Maria-lane, London, Aug. 9, 1869.

Sir,—Is the automaton chess player now in the Crystal Palace the original one made by Kempelen, and afterwards the property of Maelzel? I think *not*. In Fiske's "Book of the First American Chess Congress, 1857," there is a full account of all the proceedings of the automaton from the time it first reached New York, Feb. 3, 1826. On the death of Maelzel, July 21, 1838, Mr. Ohl, his principal creditor, administered to his estate and all his property, which was sold by auction Sep. 14, the same year. The chess player was bought in by Mr. Ohl for 400 dollars, and resold by him for the same amount to Dr. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell raised the money by subscriptions of 5 and 10 dollars, each subscriber to be part proprietor, and have the privilege of seeing the manner by which it was worked. In November, 1840, it was removed to the Chinese Museum, Chestnut-street, N.Y., and on the 23rd of that month, and five or six other evenings during the next six weeks, was exhibited to small and select audiences. It was then placed in a quiet corner behind a glass partition, and almost forgotten. Early in the night of the 5th of July, 1854, a fire broke out at the National Theatre, Chestnut-street; it extended rapidly, and soon caught the Chinese Museum, and the whole contents, *including the chess-player?* are destroyed. [illegible]

E. B. J.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisements of Situations Vacant, Situations Wanted, Apartments Wanted, Apartments to Let, Domestic Servants, Partnerships Wanted, Money Wanted, Miscellaneous Wants, Articles Found or Lost, are charged as follows.—For every twenty-five words ONE SHILLING, and for every additional line, or portion of a line, THREEPENCE.

The Worcestershire Chronicle.

[illegible]

The Session.—Before the time this paper is in the hands of our readers the first Session of a Parliament elected by the household democracy of the [illegible] is one of the most important, in the annals of legislation. Already its beneficial effects are beginning to make themselves felt. The governing body of Trinity College, Dublin, have announced that they are prepared to open that hitherto close corporation to persons of every creed. The Bishops of the Disestablished Church have promptly taken action for the purpose of constituting the new Church body; in the synod they propose to summon for this purpose the laity as well as the clergy are to be represented, and words of peace and harmony proceed from all sides.

The Irish Church Bill would have been of itself a sufficient work for one Session, [illegible] There is at last a Bankruptcy Bill—passed in the interest of the trading community—and in which a little more care is taken for the protection of unhappy creditors than heretofore, and the consideration of the law is not almost exclusively reserved for debtors and Court officials, in whose joint interests the last statute of this kind was certainly passed. The accessary bill—that which abolishes arrest for debt except in case of misconduct, fraud, or intended evasion—is a wholesome measure taken in connexion with the principle of giving the remedy not against a debtor's person but his property, and making his future earnings responsible at the discretion of his creditors, in whom the distribution of his assets will henceforward vest. There is the Endowed Schools Bill, which will go a good way to improve the charitable foundations available for middle class education, and extend their usefulness over a wider surface and in a more effective form. Properly developed this measure will be one of the most valuable that has ever been passed in this department of legislation. [illegible] may be hoped will impose a more effective check on the worst class of the criminal population, the trained and professional depredators, and eradicate the rooted rascality which is continually sending forth shoots to prey on the natural enemies of thieves, the honest

[illegible] to be derived from the adoption of the ballot, be asserted by the publication of the poll, or by the deposit of the same at some public office for reference, at some sufficient interval of time after the election, when all excitement arising out of it had passed away.—Mr. Ward Hunt was Chancellor of the Exchequer in Mr. Disraeli's administration, and his apparent conversion to the ballot is a great fact, as he is one of the representative and leading men of his party, and carrying weight both by ability and character. There can be little doubt that at the next general election, whenever it may come, the votes will be taken in this way.

Mr. Fawcett proposed, "That it will tend to the purity of Parliamentary elections, and to the economical conducting of them, if the necessary expenses of them be borne by local rates, due precaution being taken to discourage fictitious candidature. That the employment of paid canvassers and agents should be prohibited." There is no doubt that the first part of this proposal would conduce to the economical management of elections, and it is sustained by the practice in regard to municipal elections, the *necessary* expenses of carrying on which are all defrayed out of the local rates; but in regard to the latter clause of Mr. Fawcett's resolution, the committee came to the conclusion that there would be great difficulty in framing an enactment for abolishing the use of paid canvassers.

Mr. H. James revived an old and excellent proposition originated by Sir John Pakington. It is:—"That every candidate should, previous to the election, make a declaration on oath that he has not been, and will not be, a party to any corrupt practice in relation to such election." Some years ago, Sir John Pakington brought in a bill containing a similar stipulation. The declaration prescribed in his measure was required to be made by every member before taking his seat. It was to the effect that he had not paid and would neither pay, nor reimburse others for money they might expend in bribery or corruption. The bill was thrown out on a division. Sir John was supported by most of the leading lawyers of the period, but opposed by a majority of the statesmen on both sides of the House, and the hostility shown to the proposition deterred him from resuscitating it afterwards. We have always thought that such a declaration as this—whether taken before or subsequent to election—is not, perhaps, material—would operate as a great deterrent from the practice of corruption, and a safeguard of electoral purity. It is, after all, candidates who are primarily responsible for the corruption [illegible] guilt of the corrupter is blacker than that of the corrupted.

[illegible] eventually agreed to recommend that the committee be re-appointed "for [illegible] only of considering their report." It is evident that they consider the evidence as to the utility of the ballot exhausted; and, with the exception of Sir F. Heygate and Mr. Cross, the members all appear to coincide in the opinion expressed by the Marquis of Hartington (chairman of the committee) in his draft report, in favour of the adoption of secret voting.

"Gentlemen or Artisans?"—When a regatta have passed off without a dispute, we are sorry to say it is the exception, not the rule. Is it that the followers of this aquatic diversion are like the rhymers, "a jealous, waspish, wrongheaded, *rowing* race?" One would almost fancy so. At the meeting last week, we find it on record that "the Ladies' Plate caused great confusion and unpleasantness." It was not inappropriate that the "*row*" should have occurred over a "row" for a "Ladies' Plate," seeing that ladies have been a more prolific cause of "rows," and sometimes rowing away, as Paris did with Helen, and have contributed, from the very beginning of history, more to provide materials for epic poems than any other good creature or thing. A crew going under the name of "Nil Desperandum" was objected to on the ground that the individuals composing it were not "*gentlemen* amateurs," and therefore did not answer the conditions prescribed for the Ladies' Plate, as they had entered as "artisans" in a race at Tewkesbury. The "Despair-of-nothing-ers" replied, "We *are* amateurs, for we have never rowed for money." The committee, however, [illegible] amateurs was for "gentlemen amateurs." An amateur is properly a person following any pursuit for the love of it—not for gain or emolument. The "Nil Desperandum" crew, admitting their statement to be true, are amateurs as fully and completely as the other two crews that entered for the [illegible] in the conditions of [illegible]. Is this to be interpreted strictly, or with the ordinary very wide and sweeping latitude? There are many definitions of the term "gentleman." A witness, on the ever memorable trial of Thurtell, described him as a "gentleman." Asked why he so called him, witness said, "Because he kept a gig." He was a "gig" gentleman; but this will not serve as a measure for gentlemen who only row in "gigs." If the strict definition of gentleman is to be stood upon, then, we imagine, the two crews that were allowed by the committee to contend would not come up to it; if the free and every-day acceptation of the term is to govern the decision of the case, then the "Despair-of-nothing-ers" were entitled to stand in with their opponents. What matter whether they entered as "artisans" somewhere else—this is going off upon a technicality or a quibble. They are none the less "gentlemen" by courtesy because they may once have entered as "artisans." Conventionally, in this age of equality, not only all amateurs rowing would obtain the courtesy title of gentlemen, but the appellative would go very much lower and spread very much wider. Does not [illegible] entitled to be classed as amateurs? If so, they were entitled to compete. To make the question turn upon the point whether they were "*gentlemen* amateurs" or "*artisan* amateurs" is invidious and contemptible. The distinction once accepted, it would be the awkwardest thing possible to draw the line of demarcation. The task of Dickens's barber, who drew his line at bakers, was the easiest operation in the world compared with this. It would be necessary to empanel a committee chosen out of the Herald's College, and the lady patronesses of Almacks, for the decision of points of precedence, and settlement of disputed title to be called "gentlemen." On the Turf, Jack Bullevant, the cad's horse, is free to run, stakes paid, against the Duke of Hamilton's; and the public who contribute to supply the funds for the maintenance of a regatta at Worcester will not tolerate the sport—such as it is—being marred by the recognition of paltry distinctions of class and caste. On the turf, as beneath it, it has been said all men are equal; and so it should be on the water.

But this is not the sum total of the row. The "Nil Desperandum" crew, it seems, took their place opposite the Distillery, the proper starting point for rowing in the concluding heat, but by some bungle the two other competitive boats were started from the bridge, a hundred yards lower down the river. Thereupon, as was to be expected, the "Despair-of-nothing-ers" rowed over the course, and followed this up by lodging a complaint that [illegible] they must in equity be recognised against the other.

Worcester Regatta.—Mr. Manning supplied sixteen out of the twenty-three prizes selected by the committee for competition. They consisted of beautifully-modelled silver goblets, &c.—The Ladies' Plate and Henwick Cups, competed for at the regatta, last week, were supplied by Messrs. Skarratt and Co.

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… to such meeting. The … consisted of a lock and … ver, near Gloucester, a … of the river, and a new … bend in such eastern

… the support of the … of Gloucester, Wor- … of Commerce of … in favour of the bill. … by the Bishop of … stical Commissioners … Chapter of Gloucester, … the Rev. E. P. Brett … (acting as the Local … sion and Eldersfield … rators of the Severn … nder Miller, the Great

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… Eldersfield Drainage … wn, and clauses were … Railway Company and … , and inserted in the … s directed to an anti- … ed by them, and the … compensation to be … rience should prove … s and weirs occasions … ittee have, however, … y will be occasioned. … the Commissioners … y District as to the … fish passes in the … weirs. The Com- … to afford every … , and in order to … conservators, and … etitions alleged that … ould prove injurious … eir opposition to the … each of the existing … in each of the … roved by the Home- … not endangered, … ommissioners were … navigation of the … ing water. These … the Conservators, … sult in an arrange-

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we may look forward to increased trade and revenue. (Hear, hear.) Hitherto there has been a large amount of trade which has not been down the river through the want of works, and we are not too sanguine in believing that the portion of trade hitherto withheld on the grounds I have mentioned will now be transferred to the river, and that the prospects of this commission are more satisfactory than they have ever been before, and that they are as successful as they deserve or as we ever hoped they would be. I may state a piece of information, and I think it was from Mr. Leader Williams that I received it—information that to me was quite unexpected, that whilst there has been no doubt that in point of economy of carriage we were able to compete with the rail, yet that when our works are completed, we shall be able to compete with the rail in point of time as well as in the rate of carriage. (Hear, hear.) No fact could be more gratifying to the Commissioners than that. With regard to the fish passes, that is a matter in which we should all desire, for the sake of the public and our own sakes as well, that no improper impediment should be raised; and we always have desired the free passage of salmon up the Severn. But considering the fact that the present salmon fishery laws of this country are not in a satisfactory state, and that a committee of the House of Commons has been sitting in the Session now ending upon this very question, and although that committee, I am afraid, will not report during this Session, yet there is no reasonable doubt that the committee will sit again next Session, and will present its report to Parliament, and that the whole fishery laws will be put upon a more satisfactory footing than they rest upon at the present time. (Hear, hear.) I have no doubt you will all re-echo the wish expressed at the conclusion of this report, and it would be most unreasonable that any hostile proceedings should take place between the conservators of the river Severn and this commission, and under these circumstances it is very desirable that there should be no misunderstanding on the part of those who take an interest in the Severn Commission as to the division in the House of Commons during the last Session. Of course I speak only my own individual views when I say that it has been my fate during my Parliamentary history to see, on very many occasions, differences of opinion in which there was argument on one side and numbers on the other, and this was the case on the occasion to which I am referring. Although that division was unfavourable to the commission, the commission suffered no loss thereby. It was on the suggestion of the very able chairman of the committee, Mr. Dodson, that a clause was inserted in the bill that would put an end to the obvious anomaly of one set of weirs being brought under our old local act, while those of 1869 should be under the general law. Mr. Dodson performed his duties without suspicion of favour, and with as much ability as I have ever seen displayed by any one. I say this although he differs from me in general politics. Strengthened by his opinion I went to the House, thinking there hardly could be any serious opposition; but, when it was too late for me to prevent it, I found there was a fish panic—the members were labouring [illegible]—why I do not know, except that they thought the fish were in danger. Reason and argument were on one side and overwhelming numbers on the other, and Mr. Dodson's clause was rejected. It was altered to what was originally proposed, and we shall be subjected to this anomaly of having some of our weirs under one law and some under another. I trust that next Session we shall get this anomaly removed, and that all the weirs in the country will be put under one general law. While making a sacrifice in the interest of the navigation to prevent any reasonable complaint, or any chance of litigation or bad feeling between the conservators and the commissioners, while that would be the advice I would offer—I hope the commissioners will not fail to adopt the recommendation mentioned in the last words of the report—namely, to take such steps as they deem prudent for the interest of the navigation, and then I trust that in the interval we shall be able to make arrangements, before any legislation takes place, and to prevent anything like hostile proceedings. Again congratulating you upon the satisfactory state of our affairs, and the gratifying change which has taken place since our last meeting, I beg to move the adoption of these reports. (Applause.)

Mr. EVANS expressed the pleasure it gave him to join in the congratulations mentioned in the report, and passed upon Sir John Pakington a high eulogium for having stood by the Commission from the first, and rendered them very important services [illegible] the opinion that had the powers [illegible] mission by Parliament which they at first sought to obtain the river Severn would have long since been perfectly improved, and there would not now have been a shilling of debt upon it. He said it was very much to be regretted that such an institution as this, commenced in Worcester, should have been met in such a hostile spirit by the Conservatives (*sic.*) of the river.

The CHAIRMAN: The Conservators, not the Conservatives. (Laughter.)

Mr. EVANS proceeded to say that it was one of the most extraordinary things ever known that opposition should spring up from an association of this kind. He could bear witness to everything having been done by their engineer in order to meet their objections; and why they should oppose them in the way they had done, he could attribute only to prejudice and ignorance combined. He said he really blushed for the Worcester men who could unnecessarily put this Commission to the expense that these people had done last session, and without gaining a fraction by their opposition, for they were literally bowled out by the Committee, and very deservedly so. He expressed his thanks to the worthy Chairman for his uniform kindness and courtesy, and his hope that he would long live to give them his invaluable services, and concluded by seconding the adoption of the report.

Mr. BATCHELOR (Gloucester) moved that the reports be printed and circulated among the Commissioners, and expressed a confident hope that ere long they should succeed in making the river all that they desired it to be.

Mr. [illegible] JAMES concurred in the congratulations expressed in the letter from Mr. Price, and spoke of the interest felt by the people of Gloucester in the carrying out of the objects originally contemplated. They were suffering from the imperfect navigation, and hoped the Board would obtain increased powers and improve the river by dredging. They looked with considerable hope to the increased facilities that would be given them for the carriage of goods when there was sufficient water for that purpose, and when boats of thirty tons could be brought alongside the wharves, he thought they would see very little timber, &c., sent by rail. (Hear, hear.)

The reports were unanimously received and adopted, and it was also resolved that in future the report of the committee of finance and works, and the engineer's report, shall be printed and circulated among the commissioners, together with the notice of the annual meeting and abstract of accounts.

The CLERK explained some of the alterations introduced in the new Act of Parliament, and, after stating that the minimum number on the committee of works was seven, but that the list of names now numbered twenty-one, suggested that the name of Mr. Sturge should be added.

The proposition for the appointment of the committee, including Mr. Sturge, was put from the chair, and was carried unanimously.

A letter from Mr. Weston, of the Savings Bank, inti-

above the sculptured saints who look down upon the sleeping city—up where at the very summit of the feathery fairylike spire the image of the Queen of Heaven stands, there floats a cold white-robed female form, the fair Sabina, old Erwin's well-beloved child, whose fair hands aided him in his work. In her right hand a mallet, in her left a chisel, she flits among the sculptured lacework of the noble spire like the genius of Masonry. With the first faint blush of dawn the vision fades, the phantom shapes dissolve, and the old Masons return to their sepulchres, there to rest until the next St. John's Eve shall summon them to earth.

The execution of the plan of George Heriot's Hospital, in Edinburgh, was superintended by various "measter masons." William Wallace was first appointed to this office, and on the 3rd of August, 1620, the treasurer is ordered to pay him "for his bygane paynis and extraordinarie service done in ye frame and building of said wark the sum of 100l. scottis, and in time to come as he deserves promesis to consider him." He was succeeded by John Mylore, from whose monument in Greyfriars Church we learn that he was the sixth royal master-mason by descent, from father to son, to seven successive Kings of Scotland.

We however must not gossip too long, nor indulge our archæological proclivities too freely, or we shall have no room for the Freemasons of Worcestershire.

Although no traces remain in the English lodges of the operative period of the guild, still the members of the venerable craft in the fair province of Worcestershire do not neglect the objects which called their skilled fraternity into existence. Upon the decease of the much respected Past Master, Brother Joseph Bennett, in 1862, the two Worcester lodges testified their regard for his memory, and their desire for the adornment of our noble Cathedral, by the erection of the beautiful window which may now be seen between the baptistery and the north transept. This work was produced in the well-known establishment of Messrs. Lavers, Barraud, and Westlake, of Endell-street, Bloomsbury, and is alike creditable to the Freemasons and to the artists. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire, at its annual assembly last year, whilst testifying its admiration of the important restorations which are so honourable to the Dean and Chapter, resolved to contribute to this excellent work by presenting the glass for the north transept window. The aid of Brother Lavers and his skilled confrères was again invoked, and the afternoon of Tuesday, the 10th of August, A.D. 1869, saw the successful completion of a very noble specimen of art. For the adornment of an edifice consecrated for the use of Christian worship no subject could be more appropriately chosen for the window than the representation of personages of the Jewish and Christian faiths. At the base of the window we have those Jewish Masons who were remarkable above all for their connexion with the building of the first and second Temples—Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre, Hiram Abiff, Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. In the upper and main portion are represented the twelve Apostles who were chosen by our Lord to construct that temple, built without hands, the Christian Church. In the tracery of the window are the symbols of craft masonry, the armorials of the order, and those of the Right Worshipful Brother Royds, Provincial Grand Master. The work is executed in the Early Decorated style; it is rich in effect, the drawing is sufficiently archaic to harmonise with the other details of the venerable fabric, and we have no doubt that this production will take rank with the best windows of our modern period. A brass slab placed below the window bears the following inscription:—

To the glory of God, and for the adornment of this Cathedral, the north transept window is erected by the Freemasons of Worcestershire.—ALBERT HUDSON ROYDS (High Sheriff of the County), Provincial Grand Master, 1869.

The Freemasons of Worcestershire, summoned by notice from the Provincial Grand Secretary, on Tuesday afternoon, assembled in the Chapter-house, which was kindly placed at their disposal by the Dean and Chapter, where they proceeded to don the insignia by which the outward signs of the mystic brotherhood are familiar to the world. The following Brethren were present:—The Right Worshipful Brother Royds, Provincial Grand Master, Worshipful Brother [illegible] Barber, M.A., Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Brothers E. Giles, W. Masefield, Samuel Smith, W. H. Jones, [illegible] Woods, L. H. [illegible]nwrick, the Rev. H. [illegible], H. Wilson, G. T. Bloomer, William Smith, Henry [illegible], W. Wink, the Rev. C. G. Ridgway, [illegible] Rev. R. Sander, W. Underwood, G. Parsons, E. L. Harrison, G. W. Grosvenor, W. T. Adcock, M. Dennison, W. L. Faucett, A. [illegible] Hancocks, W. Cobley, W. Holland, T. M. Hopkins, [illegible] Nicholas, R. Smith, S. Corkran, J. T. Bennett, [illegible] Kenn[illegible], T. Groves, R. T. Horley, A. Brown, F. N. Gosling, E. Tatton, W. Caldicott, J. Fitzgerald, T. E. Lacy, H. Cross, J. H. Lucy, E. Turner, W. W. Lavers, W. [illegible]one, W. Woods, T. Troman, B. Brooks, C. [illegible] Griffiths, T. Baxter, C. F. Pidcock, — Blundell, [illegible] Newton, and S. Baldwin.

A Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, the brethren, with the clergy, then proceeded to the Cathedral in the following order:—The Very Rev. the Dean, the Rev. Canon Wood, and the Rev. Canon Wynter; the lay clerks and choristers; the Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Past Provincial Grand Officers, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain, Treasurer, Registrar, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Superintendent of Works, Directors of Ceremonies, Sword Bearer, Organist, Stewards, Brethren of Lodges.

The usual afternoon service was performed in the Lady Chapel, the officiating clergymen being the Rev. R. Cattley and the Rev. W. Rayson. The anthem was taken from the 133rd Psalm, "Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." At the conclusion of the service the Lodge proceeded to the transept, accompanied by the clergy, when the following ceremony took place:—

Provincial Grand Master: Worshipful Deputy, why are we here?

D.P.G.M.: With deference we assemble on this sacred spot by our humble means to add ornament to a building dedicated to the worship of the Most High.

P.G.M.: How do you thus intend to act?

D.P.G.M.: Funds having been raised in our Province we have devoted them, we trust, to a good purpose; our Treasurer attends, and can account.

P.G.M.: Worshipful Treasurer, you have had funds entrusted to your care, what are they?

Treasurer: Enough to answer a good purpose.

P.G.M.: Have you them in hand?

Treasurer: No, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, it is no part of a Mason's duty to hold funds if he knows where and how he can well employ them.

P.G.M.: What do you produce?

Treasurer: A document, which, with your permission, I will hand to our Grand Secretary.

P.G.M.: Provincial Grand Secretary, you have my commands to read the document.

The Grand Secretary read a formal receipt for the cost of the window.

P.G.M.: Let it be deposited in the archives of our Provincial Grand Lodge. Brethren of this province, this window is now ours. Provincial Junior Grand Warden,

blow off. It appears it had blown off, so my lad told his grandmother after the explosion, and that he had screwed the valve down to 50lbs. pressure. The valve was sufficient to relieve the boiler, so as to keep the pressure at only 50lbs. (The witness here left the room, and fainted soon after he got outside).

George Wm. Barber, clerk to Mr. Bradley, said he was in the counting-house at the time of the explosion. He went out to see what had happened, and saw the whole of the works were knocked down. There were volumes of steam ascending from the seat of the boiler. The brickwork was thrown down. Harrison was sitting on the bank, and he said "Oh, my poor Den., my Den., he is buried there." Some people set to work to get him out, and he was extricated in about 10 or 15 minutes. He appeared to be dying. He was laid on the lawn, and after being seen by the medical men who came to the spot, he was removed to the Kidderminster Infirmary. Since Dec. 16, 1865, to July 16, 1869, the boiler had worked 625 days. During the time witness had been in Mr. Bradley's employ Harrison had the sole control and management of the engine. Witness never heard of any report from him that the engine needed repair or was unsafe.

Mr. Docker said the point that arose in his mind was whether he was a sufficiently skilful person to be put in charge of the engine.

The foreman of the jury said Barber had stated when the jury visited the spot that he sometimes felt nervous about the boiler.

Barber said this was in reference to the boy Harrison being sometimes in charge of the boiler, and messing about it. He never mentioned his fears to his employer. He had never heard of anyone who left the works for fear of an explosion. Wm. Maybury had expressed fear about the boiler, owing to the boy having its management. Witness never had any fear from the condition of the boiler itself.

Dr. Rose, house-surgeon to the Infirmary, said he was present when the deceased was brought to the Infirmary. He was insensible from concussion of the brain, and had a very serious scalp wound. He was seen by Mr. Hillman, the surgeon of the day, and the other honorary surgeons. He died from his injuries on the following Tuesday.

Mr. John Inshaw, mechanical and consulting engineer, Birmingham, said he had examined the boiler which exploded at Mr. Bradley's forge. It had been what is called a high pressure boiler of cylindrical shape with spherical ends. It was about [illegible]ft. long by 4ft. 5in. diameter, and from 5-16 to ⅜ of an inch in thickness. Its general appearance was that of an old boiler, which had been repaired by a boiler maker some time or years past. There were also patches put on with screws and nuts. One of the patches was about [illegible] wide and 4ft. long, which was on the side of the boiler about 1ft. above where the plate was reduced to the thickness of the piece of iron produced. Another piece of iron produced showed the thickness in another part, much thicker than the other. The boiler was worked by a furnace flue, passing under the bottom [illegible]. The boiler was on the side of the forge, connected from the west [illegible]. On examining the patches before-named he found they had been put on in a very imperfect manner, [illegible] secure[illegible] the crack in the plate which run longitudinally with the boiler, and an imperfect joint made with hemp or similar material under the plates. This had been leaking to such an extent as to oxidise the plate below, and reduce it to the thinness of the piece produced, which became useless to stand the pressure, gave way and caused the explosion. He had no doubt that the oxidisation was assisted by that side of the boiler being exposed to the weather; and the boiler not being kept constantly at work, the damp would act more severely and rapidly in reducing the thickness of the boiler in general. He could not perceive any indication of shortness of water at the time of the explosion, and the plates were very free from deposit of lime or other matter. The iron had been of what he should call a fair quality (Mr. Inshaw produced drawings in illustration of his evidence). He should say that the patches were covered with brickwork at the time it was set in its place of work. If the weak places inside the boiler had been sounded with the hammer, it would have nearly gone through in many parts. Taking the piece of iron produced as a specimen of the thickness of the boiler plates, he should not have thought it prudent to have worked it with any pressure at all. At the point where the rupture happened the iron had been [illegible]. There was packing between the plate and the boiler. He had examined it again that morning, and he was convinced that it was felt that was put in—about the worst thing that could be used. Had a regular boiler maker been sent to repair it he would have at once condemned it; or if it had been insured, it would have been examined and its deficiencies detected.

The Coroner said it was a great pity all boilers were not insured.

The witness went on to say that the unsafe condition of the boiler extended along the whole side where the oxidisation had taken place. It would have been detected by an experienced person in cleaning the boiler and examining it with a hammer. He did not believe there had been 50lbs. pressure on it for months, for it would not have stood it. He believed that if the brickwork had been taken down that parts of the boiler would have come away along with it.

Mr. William Hunt, manufacturing chemist, Castleford, Yorkshire, was tendered as a witness by Mr. Bradley's solicitor. He said he had examined the boiler in question, and gave his theory of the cause of the accident.

Wm. Guise, boiler-maker and engineer, Droitwich, said he was employed by Mr. Bradley more than eight years ago to repair this boiler. He put it in as good repair as it could be. It was second only to new. The plates he put in were ⅜in. and the others were [illegible]in. It had been repaired previously. He took out all the bad plates, and put new ones in.

Edwin Carpenter, one of the injured men, said he was at the Blakedown forge at the time of the explosion. He went there on business. He never knew anything as to the boiler being unsafe. (It was stated that this witness had made a statement of a different character previously).

Wm. Maybury, hammerman, Blakedown, said he had worked at Mr. Bradley's forge up to about three weeks before the explosion. He had worked at the forge about 17 years. He did not leave from any fear of the boiler. He certainly knew the boiler had gone bad, but a patch had been put on. He assisted once in screwing a patch on, perhaps two or three years ago. There had been two or three patches on. The engineer (William Harrison) and witness put it on. He received his directions from Harrison, not from Mr. Bradley. He knew nothing about that kind of work. He asked Harrison if he thought it was safe, and he said it was. It occurred to him that it was an irregular way of patching the boiler. Harrison's answer did not remove all fear from his mind. He did not remember that he mentioned the matter to Mr. Bradley. He had avoided going near the boiler, perhaps from fear. He had misgivings about its safety. He had said to Barber that he had fears of the boiler, because of the boy Harrison messing about it.

Wm. Harrison at this point returned to the room. He said he had seen a boiler-maker put on patches with bolts and screws. He had patched [illegible]

men. The bill introduced by Lord PENZANCE, under which parties in divorce suits will be allowed to give evidence, the bill, the provisions of which are in future to regulate the importation of foreign cattle, that for enabling invalided or worn-out Bishops to resign on receipt of a retiring pension only too liberal, and that for the protection of the funds of trade unions, are contributions more or less valuable to the legislative labours of the Session, of which—but principally of that grand achievement, the passage of the Irish Church Bill—the Ministry have just reason to be proud.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.—The rising corn-market and the absence of business produces great dulness on the Stock Exchange, and prices have mostly a downward tendency.

Consols, which closed yesterday (Tuesday) week at $92\frac{7}{8}$ to 93 for money, and $92\frac{7}{8}$ to 93 for the account, closed last night at [illegible] to $92\frac{1}{4}$ for money, and $92\frac{1}{4}$ to $92\frac{7}{8}$ for the account.

The proprietors in telegraph companies, will make a rare good thing of it out of the nation, judging from the report of the Electric and International Telegraph Company, just published. "The proprietors will doubtless have seen that the Telegraphs Bill, 1868-1869, has been passed by both Houses of Parliament. Under these circumstances the directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum free of income-tax, for the *half-year* ending 30th June, 1869, upon the stock of the company, and a dividend at the same rate, namely, 1l. per share upon the new 10l. shares of the company, 8l. of which has been paid up. The directors recommend that 5,000l. be divided amongst the staff as a reward for the very satisfactory manner in which they have performed their duties, and that 2,500l. be paid to Mr. WEAVER, the secretary of the company, in acknowledgment of the very valuable and zealous services he has rendered during his long connection with the company." Such are the first-fruits of the extravagant bargain made by the late Government for the acquirement of the telegraphs of the country. The nation always has to pay more than private purchasers: and an extra price is always required to be paid in case of a forced sale: but in this case it is going to pay through the nose at a monstrous rate—certainly twice as much as it ever ought to have had to pay for this purchase.

Dividends: Midland Railway, $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum; Bristol and South Wales Wagon Company, 10 per cent. per annum; London and North-Western, $5\frac{1}{2}$; Charing Cross Hotel Company, 10 per cent.; London and County Bank, 6 per cent. for half-year and bonus of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Orders for all kinds of iron, except nails, continue to be on a small scale, and the works are in scarcely any instance in full operation. Still, there is no falling off, and the present quiet demand seems likely to continue. The nailers' strike, though arranged in some parts of the district, continues round Dudley, but hopes are entertained of a compromise.

The following is a list of the local share market:—

	Paid.	Buyers.	Sellers.
Leeswood Cannel & Gas Coal	£2 0 0	£0 0 0	£1 15 0
Worcester City & County Bank ..	12 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
[illegible], New	[illegible]	[illegible]	16 5 0
Worcester Engine Works	[illegible]	[illegible]	1 5 6
Droitwich Patent Salt (Limited)..	10 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Royal Porcelain....	10 0 0	0 0 0	10 0 0
Stourbridge & Kidderminster Bank	10 0 0	14 17 6	0 0 0
Star Hotel Comp...	50 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0
Britannia Brewery Company	10 0 0	0 0 0	6 0 0
Cannock Chase Coal and Coke Company	80 0 0	80 0 0	0 0 0
Imperial Hotel, Great Malvern..	500 0 0	75 0 0	0 0 0
Railway Carriage Comp., Oldbury	8 10 0	5 0 0	5 10 0
Patent Shaft and Axletree	10 0 0	14 15 0	15 0 0
Gloucester Waggon	10 0 0	13 10 0	14 0 0
Worcester Gas	10 0 0	19 15 0	0 0 0
Malvern Link Gas..	5 0 0	5 10 0	0 0 0
Worcester & Birmingham Canal	78 8 0	8 0 0	8 10 0
Droitwich Canal ..	160 0 0	0 0 0	141 0 0
Titanic Steel	6 10 0	0 10 0	1 0 0
Nat'l Provincial Bank of England	42 0 0	142 0 0	0 0 0
Ditto, New	12 0 0	41 0 0	0 0 0

JOSEPH HARLOW,
Stock and Share Broker
18, Foregate.

Aug. 11th, 1869.

PARLIAMENTARY AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.—There are two or three points in the report of the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections Committee, in addition to those we noticed last week, which may be briefly alluded to, as showing the ground taken by various members of the committee.

Mr. WARD HUNT moved resolutions as follows:—That in order to prevent disorder at elections, whether in municipal boroughs or at Parliamentary elections in counties and boroughs, the weight of the evidence given before this committee leads to the conclusion that the discontinuance of open voting and the substitution for it of secret voting would be of great advantage. But, with a view to remedy existing abuses, your committee attach much more importance to the preservation of secrecy during the election, and particularly during the polling day, than to any attempt to preserve it when the election is over, which, to judge by the experience of other countries, would hardly ever be attended with success. That, in case of a system of ballot being adopted, it would be desirable, in order to secure the detection of bribery, and to prevent any suspicion attaching to the officers charged with the custody of the ballot-box, and to the returning officer, that means should be devised for allowing proof of the vote of each elector in the event of the election being challenged on petition. That the principle hitherto maintained by the supporters of open voting, that the franchise is a trust

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