



LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW MASONIC TEMPLE AT SHANGHAI,—SEE PRECEDING PAGE.



## THE FREEMASONS IN CHINA.

THE ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new Masonic temple at Shanghai took place on the 3rd of July—the Worthy Brother Robert Freke Gould, P.M. Nos. 178, 570, and 743, P. Prov. S.G.W. Andalusia, officiating with the silver trowel. The lodges, having mustered at the old Masonic Hall in the Canton-road, were marshalled in procession by the Right Worthy Brother Donaldson, the procession being headed by the consular body, the municipal council, the Custom-house officials, the Shanghai Rangers and rifle volunteers, and the police band. The lodges so represented in the procession were the Ancient Landmark, the Cosmopolitan, the Tuscan, the Northern Lodge of China, and the Royal Sussex. The band of the 67th Regiment came next; then followed the stewards and others, with the corn, wine, and oil, the book of constitutions, the volume of the sacred law, the specimens of rough and perfect ashlar, the trowel, the square and compasses, the mallet, the Corinthian, Doric, and Ionic lights, and the other symbols of their architectural religion. The acting grand officers were Brethren L. G. Dunlop, C. E. Parker, J. Nutt; Rev. C. H. Butcher, Provincial Chaplain; V. Seaman, Provincial Treasurer; John Clark, architect, Provincial Superintendent of Works; and J. Mathias Lloyd, Provincial Grand Secretary. When the procession reached the appointed site, which is shown in our illustration, from a photograph by Mr. W. Saunders, the brethren having ascended the platform, a prayer was offered by the Rev. Brother Butcher, and a parchment scroll, bearing record of the date of this ceremony, a phial containing the current coins of England, India, China, and Japan, the latest numbers of the Anglo-Chinese newspapers, and the by-laws of the Masonic lodges were placed between the upper and lower stones. The cement was spread with the trowel of Brother Gould, and, the stone having been lowered, the usual tests were applied with the plumb, level, and square, by the officers thereto appointed; whereupon the Provincial Grand Master, having made the due inquiries and found all quite correct, took his mallet and struck three times on the stone, saying, "May this undertaking be conducted and completed by the craftsmen, according to the grand plan, in peace, harmony, and brotherly love." The F. G. M. then called for three cheers, which were given with all the hearty enthusiasm which could be thrown into an expression of gladness and goodwill, the band meanwhile playing a lively air. The corn, wine, and oil were then poured out, as symbols of plenty, of joy and gladness, of comfort and peace. Two verses of the 100th Psalm were sung, after which brief addresses were delivered by the Grand Master and Chaplain, then followed the English National Anthem, by the band of the 67th Regiment, the procession was reformed in inverted order, and marched back to the Masonic Hall, where the lodges were closed in ancient form with solemn prayer.

During the ceremony the balconies of Messrs. Pustau and Co.'s hong were crowded with ladies, who had thus an opportunity of witnessing one of the most interesting as well as important Masonic rites. Such a display must have the effect of exciting fresh interest in the Masonic mysteries and keeping up the enthusiasm which the brethren of the mystic tie feel for their order. The building, as designed by the architect, Brother Clark, will consist of two parts, of which the front portion, facing the bund, will contain three stories; while the back, which will comprise a public hall on the lower floor and the Masonic temple above, will be two stories in height. The public hall, available for banquets, lectures, concerts, and other public occasions, will be furnished with two entrances, one of which will open directly from the exterior of the building, while the other will connect it with the portion devoted to Masonic purposes. The hall will be about 25 ft. in height, and the Masonic temple somewhat more lofty. Attached to the latter will be the necessary chapels and preparing-rooms. The portion immediately visible from the bund will contain servants' offices on the basement, accommodation for library and reading-rooms on the principal floor, and refreshment-room, Masters' conclave and Royal Arch Chapter on the upper story. It is intended that the style shall be Italian, with three-quarter columns and deeply recessed windows. The fraternity is especially to be congratulated on the commencement of this building at a time when it is under consideration to remove the seat of the Provincial Grand Lodge from Hong-Kong to Shanghai. The new Masonic temple will when completed be a fitting depository for the important archives of the craft in China, and will moreover be a standing memorial of that zeal which renders the Shanghai brethren worthy of the honour which the Grand Lodge of England contemplates bestowing upon them.