

The editor of *The London Freemason*, expresses a hope "that the generation which will succeed us will be as famous for their love of Masonic literature as their punctual attendance at a good dinner, and that while they do not neglect the wants of the body, they will also bear in mind the important needs of the mind."

GERMANY.—In the German Empire, there are at present in existence eight Grand Lodges, with 326 subordinate Lodges and five independent Lodges. Their classification is as follows: In Berlin the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes, with 111 subordinate Lodges; Grand Landes Lodge with 82 Lodges; Royal York with 49 Lodges; Grand Lodge of Hamburg with 23 Lodges; Grand Lodge of the Sun, Beyruth, with 22 Lodges; Grand Lodge of Saxony with 18 Lodges; Eclectic Circle with 12 Lodges; Grand Lodge of the Union at Darmstadt with 9 Lodges, and five independent Lodges, altogether 331 Lodges.

FREEMASONRY IN GERMANY.—The Grand Lodge of Darmstadt recently held a memorial lodge in honor of the late Grand Duke of Hesse Darmstadt, the Protector of Masons. The Lodge was draped in black and white, and beautifully decorated with evergreens and flowers, and a most impressive ceremony was presided over by the Grand Master, who delivered a fitting address on the occasion, which was followed by another from the Speaker, eulogizing the character and kindly disposition of the late Grand Duke. The music, instrumental and vocal, was composed expressly for the occasion, and ably executed by the musical professors of the lodge. Amongst the visitors was Bro. Hollon, a Past Officer of the Grand Lodge of England.

DEDICATION.—A recent number of the *Civilian*, the accredited organ of the English Civil Service, has the following note on the new book about to be published by Mr. Emra Holmes, Collector of Customs at Fowey:—"We understand that H. R. H. Prince Leopold, K.G., President of the Royal Society of Literature, has been graciously pleased to accept a copy of Mr. Emra Holmes's 'Tales, Poems, and Masonic Papers.' The Prince, through his courteous secretary, Mr. Collins, also informs Mr. Holmes that 'although it is not strictly according to precedent for members of the Royal Family to accept dedications of books, His Royal Highness will, having regard to the charitable purpose you have in view, be glad to accept the dedication of your new volume.'" Mr. Holmes proposes to give the proceeds of his second series to the aged Masonic Friend, for whose benefit his first book was published, and no doubt Prince Leopold's patronage will greatly add to the success of the new literary venture.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—R. W. Bro. George P. Cleaves, of Concord, has been appointed Grand Secretary in place of R. W. Bro. John A. Harris, lately deceased.

FRANCE.—We learn from *Le Monde Maconique* that, according to the recently published Calendar of the Grand Orient of France for the current year, there are 307 bodies which owe allegiance to the Grand Orient, namely—258 Lodges, 33 Chapters, 14 Councils, 1 Consistory, and 1 Grand Lodge of Rites. These are distributed in manner following: In Paris, 46 Lodges, 5 Chapters, 2 Councils, and the Grand College of Rites, in the department of the Seine—8 Lodges; in the other departments—164 Lodges, 16 Chapters, 7 Councils; in Algeria—10 Lodges, 2 Chapters, 1 Council; in the French Colonies—8 Lodges, 3 Chapters, 1 Council; in foreign countries—22 Lodges, 7 Chapters, 3 Councils, 1 Consistory. These differ but slightly from the returns issued in 1875.

Among the ruins of the Chapel Royal, at Holyrood, in the pavement of the north aisle, is, or was thirty years ago, an ancient tombstone containing some curious Masonic emblems, and we think that all the relics of this description should be carefully noticed and recorded. The inscription is in Gothic character, resembling the "black letter." The words "Hic jacet honestus Vir Johannes," as well as the date "Anno.Dni. 1543," are very distinct; but the surname of the Worthy Brother, whose sterling character is here unostentatiously recorded, by the simple but expressive term "honest," is unfortunately so much defaced as to be rendered totally illegible. In the centre of the stone is a cross, having on one side the compass and ashlar, and on the other the square and the maul. It would be interesting to Masonic antiquarian students to pay a visit to this old relic. We have not seen it ourselves, but we have before us a drawing made by that zealous Brother and antiquarian, Thomas Fryce, of Oak Lodge, E.C., in the year 1845.—*Scottish Freemason*.

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OUR General Agent, R. E. Comp., P. Begg, is at the present time in the West canvassing for subscriptions to the CRAFTSMAN, and doing well. We trust the Brethren with whom he comes in contact will aid him as much as in their power, as we hope before the end of this volume to see the magazine self-sustaining.