

**IMPROPER RESTRICTIONS ON
MASONIC MEMBERSHIP.**

We are not surprised to learn that considerable dissension has been caused in the jurisdictions of certain Grand Lodges in the United States, which have passed laws against the initiating "liquor dealers," alias "publicans," into Freemasonry, or their affiliation to subordinate Lodges, while some have even gone so far as to pass laws for their expulsion from the Society. Masonry has nothing whatever to do with a man's calling. It is necessary that any one who seeks admission into our ranks should be a reputable person as regards his worldly circumstances and his character. He must also, and above all things, be a believer in God and a future state, as well as a man of full age and free to act on his own responsibility. But there the restrictions imposed by Freemasonry as regards the qualifications of candidates end. A man may follow any calling he pleases that is compatible with these conditions, and if the members of a Lodge are prepared to admit him he is admitted. We hold that it is an act of tyranny on the part of any Grand Lodge when it enters on such a course of legislation. In the first place it condemns a calling which the law recognizes, and in the next it brings the whole weight of its influence as an organized body to bear in order to compel people to act contrary to the opinions they are free to hold on the subject of the liquor traffic. A man is at liberty to be himself a total abstainer from liquor, and to have no fellowship with the liquor dealer, but he cannot lawfully compel other people to obey his example. Moreover, to be logically just, a Grand Lodge which condemns the liquor-dealer to remain outside the pale of Masonry should condemn the manufacturers and drinkers of

liquor to remain there likewise. We yield to none in our respect for the principles of temperance, which is among the chiefest of the Masonic virtues, but at the same time we recognize the wholesome truth that intemperate legislation is not the likeliest means of promoting their observance.—*London Freemason.*

THE "Ancients" were mostly "Irish," says Bro. Sadler in his lately issued "Masonic Facts and Fictions." The "Irish" brethren have thereby "scored one more"!

ERRATUM.—It appears that the paragraph "Freemasonry and Templars" on page 380 of our Nov. issue, "clipped" from *The Keystone* and credited thereto, should have been noted by our contemporary as taken from the recent Allocution of Col. Moore. Of course it was a mere oversight.

THERE is reason to believe that Bro. Lord Stanley, of Preston, P. G. W., will succeed the Marquis of Lansdowne as Governor-General of Canada, and if so, that Bro. Baron H. de Worms, now Parliamentary Under-Secretary, will enter the Cabinet as President of the Board of Trade.—*London Freemason.*

A VERY able and a trifle warm correspondence is now appearing in *The (London) Freemason's Chronicle*, between R. W. Bro. W. J. Hughan and an anonymous writer, "Lex," concerning "Hiram" Lodge and the G. L. of Connecticut, U. S. One bone of contention is the original "charter" of Hiram Lodge. They are harping on the Canadian charter blunder of R. W. Bro. Sir Allen McNab. We commend to their attention the action of the G. L. of Quebec *re* original charters, &c.