

FREEMASONRY IN OUR CHURCHES.

We see by the *Springfield Republican*, that the irrepressible blusterer, Rev. J. Blanchard has once more come to the surface, after having been nearly forgotten since his puny efforts to attract, not only the attention of the Fraternity, but the whole world, that is, that portion of it that happened to be within the immediate sound of his voice. Now J. B. hates Freemasonry as bad as a certain gentleman hates holy water, and he lets no opportunity pass whereby he can show himself in his true colors. This time, however, his voice is raised more in sorrow than in anger, for he has seen the hydra-head of Masonry reared within that pale where none, in his opinion, but the meek and lowly (J. B., for instance,) should be allowed to dwell.

On the 11th of January last, the Congregational Church of New England held their council at south Hadley, Mass. It so happened that the Rev. George E. Fisher, an active mason, and christian, was chosen scribe. This course was all right, so far as the council was concerned, but it did not escape the eagle eye of J. B. whose breast was so overcharged with grief and indignation at the thought of one connected with the Fraternity should be placed in so prominent position that his rage knew no bounds, but felt relief in addressing a letter to the Rev. R. Ayers. Moderator of the council, which we give entire, although interspersed with remarks of our own.

By the way that J. B. pats the Rev. Doctor and Council on the back in the first paragraph, one would think that everything was lovely and serene with him. He opens thus :

"A council of Congregational churches in the heart of New England, is always an interesting object. Permit me to give, through *The Republican*, to Congregationalists, East and West, my thoughts and impressions of the one over which you yesterday presided. I take leave to address this letter to you, because I sincerely respect you, and wish to call yours, and the attention of the brethren of the council, to what I write. The council itself was interesting; the addresses able; the pastoral elect pious and intellectual; and, over and above all, the presence of a full house of earnest, intellectual faces, just such as one sees at week day services, no where out of New England, made up a whole for one born among these hills, as I was, to rejoice at beholding."

So far, so good. But amidst "a full house of earnest intellectual faces," he discovered that one of its members was a Freemason. He was astounded that the Rev. brother could quote with the same earnestness, Lodge history or the Word of God. Poor, blind egotistical J. B., verily thou art one of the stiff-necked people, of whom we read; see what he says;

"But the scribe of your council was a Freemason, Rev. George E. Fisher, and master of a Lodge. I myself heard him, a week or two since, lecture above an hour in behalf of Freemasonry, with an unction and earnestness, fully equal to what he manifested in his right-hand-of-