

THE article with which this number of *THE CRAFTSMAN* begins, from the pen of Bro. Jacob Norton, is one worthy of careful perusal. Those who are careful to make a study of Masonry know that in large part its lectures and work are but parables. Beautiful and truthful as allegories, they become many of them puerile if an attempt be made to set them up as historic facts. At the same time, we should not fly to the opposite extreme and deny all historic probability to the legends preserved by the Fraternity. Brother Norton effectually disposes of the notion that either of the Saints John was a Mason. That the Baptist was an Essene, there is good ground for believing; and that the esoteric teachings of the Essenes were grounded on the same great truths as those upon which modern Masonry is based is a proposition we may one of these days endeavor to maintain. But to say that either of the Johns was a Mason is to say something we believe there is not a particle of evidence to sustain; while it is certain that no reference to the Saints is made in any of the old charges. Several of these have been published in the current volume of *THE CRAFTSMAN*, and it will be seen that neither of the Johns is mentioned in them.

We could wish, however, that our Brother Norton was a little less incisive in his language, and a little more considerate in his way of putting things. A man may honestly believe both Johns to have been Masons and Grand Masters without being an absolute idiot; and the writer of a book may have accepted as true an improbable legend without any intention of imposing upon the Craft. We have not all the critical acumen of Brother Norton; and while he does well to be angry at those who set up ridiculous pretensions on behalf of Masonry, he should be a little tolerant of the opinions of those who differ from him.

THE following question is sent us by Bro. J. D. Henderson, of Colborne:

To the Editor of the Craftsman.

SIR: Is it correct work to Initiate, Pass or Raise two or more Candidates together?

Yours fraternally,

J. D. HENDERSON.

Answer: No. The Masonic authorities of Canada have pronounced against such a practice and we fully indorse such decision.

W. BRO. WM. MATHESON, P. M. of Craig Lodge, No. 214, writes us as follows:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: I had much pleasure in reading the history of the Pillars in your last *CRAFTSMAN*, but there is one pillar I would like to read the legend of, which is often mentioned in connection with Anderson, that is the Apprentice Pillar in Roslin Chapel, Scotland, which some would like to say that he caused some part of our Masonic ceremony to take its origin from. Perhaps some Scotch Mason might communicate the legend to you, if you have not got it, as there is a number of your subscribers would like to read it.

Can any of our readers supply the information? We shall be pleased to publish anything useful on the subject.

MASONIC RECORD.

ABROAD.

MASONRY in China is said to be very prosperous. A new Lodge was opened recently at Chin-Kiang, on the Yang-tze river.

THE Dutch have elected Prince Henry as successor to Prince Frederick in the Grand