

SOMETHING NEW.

The Michigan Grand Lodge of Masons have had a novel experience. It seems that one Calvin C. Burt was expelled by a lodge and the Grand Lodge confirmed the action. Burt went to the State Court and asked it to set the decision aside and compel the lodge to re-admit him. The court, very properly, as we think, refused to interfere and from their decision we select the following which is of importance to all so-called "secret societies."

"The only ground on which this court can interfere with organized bodies by *mandamus* in aid of a member, is that as corporations they are subject to our judicial oversight to prevent their depriving members of corporate privileges illegally. Where such bodies are not corporations, or where the question presented does not involve tangible and valuable corporate privileges, we cannot interfere in this way. A person who is wronged, if he has a legal cause of action, may pursue it in the appropriate action for damages against the persons who wrong him, but *mandamus* cannot lie.

"With the Masonic body, as such, we have no more to do than with any other voluntary society. They may do what they please in regard to their social relations. As a body they have no corporate existence and no corporate liability in this State. We only know such bodies as have taken corporate powers and duties in this State, and those corporate bodies we can only consider in their corporate relations. Such purely social relations as their members possess are held not by virtue of their corporate condition, but on other grounds.

"No private corporation can have any power as such except over those who have become its members. We cannot give, and have not attempted to give, jurisdiction to any private

corporation over anyone else. If the body known as the lodge in Jackson, that undertook to deal with relator, had any concern with him as a stranger belonging to the Masonic Order, it is not a power derived from the laws of this State. If, therefore, he is liable or otherwise injured, or if they undertake to discipline him, we cannot give him this remedy, because we cannot make him a member if he is not one already. He may have some other action, if not barred, but he cannot have this."—*Ex.*

CANADIAN MASONIC NEWS.

CORNER-STONE OF KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.—The engineers of the Palestine Exploration Fund, having sunk a shaft seventy-nine feet in the Temple wall, and illuminated the Masonry by magnesium light, discovered the corner-stone, which was fourteen feet in length and three feet in height. This stone, at first, because of its hardness and unmanageable angularity, was "rejected by the builders," but was adapted for its place and shaped, by the order of King Solomon.

It is our melancholy task to chronicle in this issue the decease of Right Worshipful Brother Nicholas Weekes, who has held the position of Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales from its inception until the day of his death. Brother Weekes was perhaps better known in Freemasonry than any other brother of our Grand Lodge, his admirable defences of the position assumed by us in 1877 was not only in the columns of this paper, and in the official edicts promulgated by the Grand Master, but also in his correspondence with the sister grand lodges of the world, having brought him most prominently forward. At the time of his death Brother Weekes was about 54 years of age, and for more than twenty years of his life had been devoted to the interests of Freemasonry.—*Sidney Freemason.*