

H. Stafford Northcote, M. P., presided at the 131st anniversary dinner of the Orphan Working School at the Hotel Métropole on Monday evening, the 18th ult., when subscriptions to the amount of just ten thousand dollars were announced by the Secretary. And only a few days before the anniversary festival of the Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Institution was held in the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Métropole on the evening of Friday, the 15th ult, when subscriptions and donations to the amount of close unto eleven thousand dollars were announced. We can only say we hope they will continue to dine at somewhere in the neighbourhood of this price, and may "a good digestion wait on appetite" with all of them for long.

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We commend to the special notice of all Masons on the Continent the following extract from our esteemed contemporary the *South African Freemason*:—"Bro. Thos. Picton, of New York, in a very able letter written to the *Masonic Review* anent the present Ohio squabble on the Scottish Rite question, puts very forcibly the decadence which Masonry is suffering in his own State. He tells us that years ago there was scarcely a man of any social or political distinction who was not a Mason, and he contrasts that state of things with that existing now. The New York Grand Lodge has lost in 'demitted' and suspended members 4,080 during 1887. Bro. Picton attributes this to the constant dissensions amongst Freemasons. Although he may be harshly set down as a mere *laudator temporis acti*, we are convinced that his deductions are

sound. To us, in viewing the question from outside, it has always appeared that the best elements in American society would sooner or later withdraw themselves from Masonry, just as Professor Bryce tells us they have withdrawn themselves from politics. Masonic liberty has degenerated into license in the United States. A Grand Master, a Grand Encampment or what not, takes some action, which like everything human, is displeasing to a certain section. The minority, instead of loyally bowing to the majority, simply takes its stand on the Transatlantic right of every man to do 'as he darn please,' and either flatly disobeys, or forms a new body. This may be liberty, but it is not order, and no assemblage of men can possibly work together for any object unless order is maintained. We in South Africa are sometimes anything but delighted with some of the decisions of the Grand Lodge of England, but we do not go straightway and rouse up everybody on that account, still less do we start a new Grand Lodge. If we did, an extension of the same principle would probably split us into about six other Grand Lodges in as many years. Dear Bro. Jonathan, learn of us the gospel of 'give and take.' Your doctrinaires want to do all the talking." This is well and truly put, and we congratulate our brethren of the Cape Colony on the common sense, tolerance and charity that their Craft journal displays.

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In connection with some disreputable blackballing that has lately sullied the record of a well-known lodge in Toronto, the following words by Bro. Taylor (of Arkansas) on the use and