

If the Masonic Fraternity should break loose from its ancient moorings, and take part in State affairs, in religious affairs, etc., it would soon be turned into an engine of oppression, instead of an angel of mercy, as it is.

A really magnificent Report of Foreign Correspondence, filling 297 pages, was supplied by Bro. Thomas M. Matthews, Chairman of the Committee, who, with becoming modesty, says in his introduction :—

And now, my Brethren, we venture to ask you to read these reviews. For you they are written—not because we have any wish to impose upon you our views or opinions, or to parade before you our effusions, but because in them you will find a digest of the opinions of the ablest and best informed Masonic minds in the several jurisdictions; because reading them year after year you cannot fail to find something—some ruling or opinion of general interest—something applicable to questions which may some time arise in your own Lodge; and lastly, because from them you will obtain valuable information which you can get, so easily at least, from no other source.

For our own part we have enjoyed very much the reading of this admirable Report.

Quebec for 1888 has a generous five page notice, though our Brother has misunderstood our action upon the proposed anti-liquor selling resolution. It was not this resolution, but the amendment to refer it to a Special Committee, that was carried by a vote of 125 to 94, and the Committee in question reported in 1889 against the proposed change in the Constitution, for pretty much the same reasons, we presume, as those advanced by Bro. Matthews in his discussion of this motion. He says :—

A level-headed Brother, "because of the differences of opinion among Masons on the subject and because it is difficult for Grand Lodge to inform itself properly on the subject in the hurry of business, and hasty and inconsiderate action might prove prejudicial to the Order," moved that the resolution be referred to a Special Committee to report upon it at the next Annual Communication. But conservatism and prudence did not prevail, and the "addition" was made by a vote of 125 to 94. We are as much opposed to drunkenness, or, in fact, to the even moderate use of alcoholic drinks as any one, but at the same time we very much question the propriety of making a total abstinence society of Freemasonry. It might, we think, be left to the Lodges with such recommendations as might seem best by Grand Lodge,—as, for instance, declaring the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors a Masonic offence, and requiring Lodges to punish it, and, for failure to do so, cut them (the Lodges) off. This, we think, is as far

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