

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, May 15, 1885.

MASONIC DANCING.

Our brother of *The Keystone* waxes warm over "Masonic Balls," etc., and endorses Bro. Vincil's ridiculous attack on the same. We have attended many Masonic balls and conversaziones, in which dancing formed a pleasing part of the programme and we hope to attend many more. Let young people enjoy themselves and there is not one atom of wrong in wearing our regalia in the presence of "wives, sisters and sweethearts." It is far better than Templar Parades for "cups," "prize money" and the gaze of nursery governesses and delectation of house maids. We Canadian Masons like "the light fantastic toe" and see no harm in it. But here's what the *Keystone* says:—

"P. G. M. Bro. John D. Vincil, of Missouri, very justly commends Most Worshipful Bro. Waldron, of Connecticut, for refusing a dispensation to appear in full Masonic regalia at a ball given under the auspices of a Lodge, and says: 'If people want to dance, let them do so as dancers and not as Masons. On Masonic occasions we appear in our Masonic character. On ball occasions let everybody appear there in the style suited to the entertainment, and not in some foreign costume. What business has a Mason at a ball with an apron on? Such mixture makes an inharmonious condition. And we do not believe in giving character and consequence to a dance by parading our Masonic regalia before a promiscuous crowd. If the people want to draw, let them not enjoy the benefit of free advertising by the Masonic Lodge attracting thither those who

want to see the show. A gentleman can appear at a ball with his swallow-tail on, and a lady may wear her 'Dolly Varden,' if desired. We shall not object. But please keep Masonic regalia out of all such places. Let Masonry remain distinctive.'"

SCOTTISH RITISM.

Albert Pike has declared that no person can be healed who has taken the Scottish Rite degrees in any other manner or form than that recognized by his Supreme Grand Council. He lays down the law, "Thou shalt not be forgiven." The Great Light teaches us to forgive, but these egotistical braggarts, who had no ritual worthy of a name till 1856, cannot forgive. Is this the law and the prophets of the mother (?) Supreme Grand Council of the world. Is this the tolerance preached by the chieftains of the Rite? Such laws and edicts are a disgrace to manhood and Freemasonry. We want none of them. Albert Pike has many, very many, good qualities, but he sinks his Freemasonry for Ritism, he cultivates a branch instead of the parent stem, he follows the shadow instead of grasping the substance. No Rite, whether Scottish, Memphis, Swedenborgian, or anything else, is to supercede the grand and noble principles taught in the Lodge, and the Mason that forgets his Lodge for the Consistory or Mystic Temple is a very imperfect ashlar.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE District Deputies for the past year have been, as a rule, more attentive to their duties than those of former years.

THE Peterboro' Lodges propose visiting Toronto on St. John's Day. The Barrie brethren will go to Prouse Island, Muskoka, and the Orillia and Beaverton Hiramites intend to charter the *Orillia* for an excursion with their wives and sweethearts.