

constitution and statutes, with which every Master should make himself thoroughly acquainted, would have settled in a moment. The "Foreign Relations" are for the most part of a cordial and fraternal character, the only sources of trouble being the chronic invasion of their rights by the Grand Lodge of Hamburg, and the present unfortunate attitude of the Grand Orient of France. At home, matters are scarcely so peaceful, and the Grand Master records with regret "an event which has brought sadness and sorrow to many a masonic heart." The debt incurred by the building of their magnificent temple, had to be met in some extraordinary way, to prevent it falling into the hands of the money changers, and to meet this, a resolution was passed making it compulsory on every lodge to assess each of its members annually 50 cents to be appropriated to this purpose. A number of brethren objected to this increased tax, and illegally called a convention to meet at Rochester to consider the question of *financial reform*, which the Grand Master, by his District Deputy, attended and forbade. He denounces all the proceedings as unwarranted and deserving the stern condemnation of the Masonic Fraternity of the State of New York. The original resolution was maintained by an overwhelmingly large vote, and the action of the Grand Master sustained.

Presentations were made to the Grand Lodge, of life-sized busts of P. G. M. Ellwood E. Thorne and John W. Simons, the latter being the author of the ablest and most complete reports on Foreign correspondence which annually reach us, and whose report on "Foreign Grand Lodges" is very extensively copied.

The report for 1877, covering 110 pages, is a cleverly prepared digest of the proceedings of sixty-two Grand Bodies, including an ample and courteous notice of Nova Scotia. Exception is taken to the ruling of our Grand Lodge, that when the Master of a Lodge refuses admittance to a visiting brother, he shall furnish said brother with his reasons for such refusal. On this subject, the Committee say:

"This seems to us to be a mistake, in so far as the right is given to a visiting brother to call the Master of a Lodge to which the visitor does not belong to account for his actions, or in other words to give a reason for refusing to admit a stranger—even through a brother—to his Lodge. The Master is lawfully set to rule the Craft, and in the discharge of his duties is