

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

THE NEW ENGLISH GRAND MASTER.

THE acceptance of the vacant Grand Mastership of the United Grand Lodge of England by our Royal Brother His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, has been received among the brethren with general satisfaction. It is felt that the effect will be of the most salutary kind, inasmuch as it affords proof at this particular juncture, that the Prince is desirous of showing his earnestness and sincerity as a Mason. More than this, his acceptance of so important a position in the Masonic world shows that if one of the noblest members has been lost to the Craft, it has gained a still nobler in the Heir apparent, who is not ashamed to stand forth as the champion of the Order, at a time when it is assailed by enemies in every form. The Marquis of Ripon was unquestionably a shining light among the brethren in England, but he had not the moral courage to withstand the wiles of the tempter. He fell in a moment of weakness, while still doubting the propriety of the course he was taking, for we have it on the authority of Bro. Parkinson, one of the most eminent Masons in the mother land, that the Marquis was, up to the very last, a professing adherent of the Protestant faith. The temptation must have been strong to lead so able a man astray. How necessary, then, it was that he should be succeeded by one who cannot, if he would, secede from the faith of his fathers.

His Royal Highness, was entitled to the vacancy, and it speaks well for his love of the Craft that he willingly consented to resume his former position. The Masonic throne has never been graced by a nobler brother, and none, we are assured, has ever taken a deeper interest in the welfare of the Order. His sincerity is undoubted, and it is believed that a fresh impetus will be given to Masonry in England, by the most important event that has occurred in the history of Masonry. By seemingly common consent it is admitted that nothing could have been so fortunate as that the choice has fallen upon the Prince. The only fear was that he would decline, but now all rejoice that he has not done so.

MASONIC PERVERTS.

Now that the Marquis of Ripon has gone over to Rome, learned Masons are busy hunting up precedents, but they have not succeeded in discovering that any other Grand Master ever took a similar course, although there was a Past Grand Master who joined the Romish Church. A correspondent of the *London Freemason* says there is an instance in the case of the Duke of Wharton, who, in 1722, became a convert to the Roman Catholic faith. He was attainted in 1728, and died a monk in a Spanish Monastery. Lord Petre, who succeeded him, was a Roman Catholic, and held the Grand Mastership for four years, thus showing that there is nothing inconsistent in even a zealous Roman Catholic being a Mason.

The *Masonic Review* of Cincinnati, says:

"We believe there has been a nearly similar case occurring in this country. The venerable Joseph R. Chandler, once Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, has, we are informed, become a member of the Catholic Church; but it was years after he had retired from the office of Grand Master. He was a man of brilliant talents, a fine writer, and one of the most zealous and efficient Grand Masters the Craft in that State ever possessed."