

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

HOW MASONRY PROGRESSES.

While the profane world may look with indifference upon Freemasonry, and Ultramontanism is doing what it can to destroy its usefulness, the Craft is silently, but surely progressing in the work of its mission as a harmonizing and universally beneficial institution. There can be no doubt that the world has all along failed to appreciate Masonry as it ought to have done; for, without it, civilization would not be so far advanced as it is, nor would science and philosophy have been what they are to-day. History proves that the arts and sciences owe everything to Masonry, inasmuch as they were comparatively inactive up to the time of the establishment of guilds in Europe; these guilds or clubs being the forerunners of modern Masonry. It is clear, then, that the Craft was almost contemporaneous with Christianity; and prepared the way for a more rapid progress of civilization than it had previously made: nay more, it is fair to infer that without the aid of Freemasonry the world would have been in a state of semi-barbarism even now, since it is evident that the light it diffused had the effect of dispelling the darkness that prevailed.

Steadily moving forward in the work of humanizing mankind, and levelling distinctions by binding all within its reach in the bonds of brotherhood, Freemasonry has accomplished more than all other human institutions put together, and it has done so without as much as causing the least excitement, if we except the various attempts that have been made to show that it is something else than what it really is, and for those momentary ebullitions Masonry is not responsible. It has kept the even tenor of its way without interfering in the least with governmental or other arrangements. Its silent progress has been matter of wonder to many, and it is not surprising that so-called religious bodies have found it necessary to try and check its onward march, under a pretence of being actuated by a desire to assist in the development of institutions which they held Freemasonry to be diametrically opposed to. Singularly enough these foolish antagonists of the Order lose sight of the fact that if Masonry were an anti-Christian or infidel association, it would not number so many teachers of religion in its ranks. There can be no question that our opponents are either sadly mis-led, or they are determined not to listen to either reason or common sense. By whatever motives they may be controlled, they are in the wrong track, and waste their energies in the futile endeavor to upset an institution that has defied vilification and unreason for ages. To-day it stands in the proud position of being alike the most ancient and the most honored society on the face of the globe.

In this fast age institutions are being multiplied with great rapidity, and the records show that they are so numerous as to embrace all sorts of people and all kinds of policies, creeds and tendencies; but none of them all can approach Freemasonry in the matter of progress, notwithstanding it is all done under the quiet influence inculcated by the tenets of the Order. No effort has been spared by the assailants of Masonry to belittle the Order and render its usefulness nugatory, but all to no purpose. It is probably not the intention of the promoters of adoptive