

MS." and the Alnwick Records, 1701-1754, of exceptionable value and importance.

The newly-discovered Roll is to be called "The Langdale MS.," and measures six feet in length, the width being fully six inches. Any more particulars may be learnt by communicating with the owner, care of Librarian, Newcastle College, S.R.I.A., Central Masonic Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, where the document may be inspected by previous appointment.

It is most fortunate that the Roll is in such competent hands, as the text will be done justice to and be widely known through the medium of the Christmas *Freemason*.—*The Freemason*.

UNNECESSARY PROMPTING.

Our attention has lately been arrested by a letter in the *Masonic Review* of Madras, E.I., upon the unnecessary prompting of the Senior Deacon, and we feel like taking up our parable, just where the Indian brother concludes. In the first place we fear there is entirely too much slipshod form and ceremony not to say careless indifference on the part of the official who propounds the "constitutional interrogations" in the ante-room. The candidate is asked his belief in a Supreme Being and of course assents. But what supreme being? Is it the Obi of the Ashantee or the Jehovah of the Bible? Men who are associated together as are Masons do not sacrifice all rights to companionship or the character of the same. The candidate may be in the habit of interlarding his language with blasphemy and still profess a belief in the God he insults. Of course, the investigating committee is presumed to make close scrutiny into the personal habits and character of the applicant, but the fact is, we have many blaspheming members, who give the lie direct to the great tenet of Freemasonry, that of the reverence due to God, and we could not be more horrified in hearing a minister of the gospel curse, than in hearing a Master

Mason use profane language. And yet this man believes in the existence and sovereignty of the Almighty! When we realize the guilt that rests upon the man who takes God's name in vain, we wonder not that "because of cursing the land mourneth." There is either a God that punisheth sin, willfully committed, or there is no God. We believe in God, with what we humbly trust to be, a saving faith in His restrictions and promises, and to this we add a firm belief in the reverence due to His holy name, which is inculcated in Freemasonry.

So the belief in God (?) being fully learned and report made by the Bro. Secretary, the candidate is asked a few moments later, where his trust is reposed, and he is lost at the magnitude of the interrogation. Then the Senior Deacon comes to the rescue and reminds the candidate of what "he believed in" a few moments previous. He is set right immediately and his "trust" in banks, railroads, mines, factories, foundries, ranches, grocers, butchers, bakers, and all else is settled for him by the whisper of the S. D., taken from the motto on the American nickel. Of course he reposed his trust there. How in the world could he have overlooked the fact? Thank you, brother Senior Deacon. Had he been asked, if his mother was a woman, would the S. D. have furnished for him the correct answer in, say "yes, me Lud?" Had he been asked if Detroit was located in India or Africa, would the S. D. have prompted his answer by saying, "It's in Michigan, U.S.A., me Lud?" Some difference is due to the primary intelligence of a candidate and he should be permitted to give his own reply and kept waiting until he did so. There is entirely too much vicarious work expended in conferring degrees and we were gratified once in hearing an intelligent newly made brother answer the interrogatories of the Junior and Senior Wardens, in the first person nearly as accurately as the Senior Deacon. We do not ask for this intelli-