

Lodge of England" after December 27th, 1813.

The history of No. 61 is of considerable importance, not only because of the early reference to the appointment of Deacons, and some other points of value, but in consequence of the minute book containing evidence of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons being at work in Halifax so far back as January 30th, 1765, being, as Bro. Crossley states, "the first known R. A. Chapter in the north of England, with the exception of the one at York."—*Bro. Wm. Jas. Hughan.*

A QUIET "RETIRING" APPLICANT.

A correspondent submits to the *Repository* the following case. He says: "I have a friend who has expressed to me his desire to become a Mason, provided he could be admitted without going through much form and ceremony. He is a quiet, retiring man, who shrinks from what he supposes to be the usual order of procedure in the conferring of degrees, although he has a strong regard for the Masonic Institution. Can he be admitted without form, in some sort of a private manner, by dispensation?"

Such a "quiet, retiring man" is altogether too nice for this world. He should be advised that his nerves are too sensitive for allopathic Masonry. He might take a homeopathic dose by joining some mild type of secret society, such as a sewing society. He ought to use a fish diet, to supply the gray matter in his brain.—*Illinois Freemason.*

"A GOOD ENOUGH KORAN."

In 1839 a very interesting incident occurred in St John's Lodge, No 1, of New York, when Mahmoud Junah, the first lieutenant of a frigate sent to America by the Imaum of Muscat on a mission of peace, and a Mohammedan, was made a Mason. It being impossible at the time for the lodge

to procure a copy of "The Koran," in which the candidate was taught to place his religious faith, a difficulty which might have been insuperable appeared. Upon explaining it to the candidate, he asked if the book which was used in the lodge taught them to believe in the existence of a "Great I AM." On being assured that it did, he said, "That is good enough Koran for me," and he was accordingly received and initiated in the lodge.

JOSH BILLINGS ON INFIDELITY.

Impudence, ingratitude, ignorance, and cowardice make up the creed of infidelity.

No atheist, with all his boasted bravery, has ever yet dared to advertize his unbelief on his tombstone.

I had rather be an idiot than an infidel; if I am an infidel, I have made myself one: if an idiot, I was made so.

I never have met a free-thinker yet who didn't believe a hundred times more nonsense than he can find in the Bible anywhere.

It is always safe to follow the religious belief that our mothers taught us—there never was a mother yet who taught her child to be an infidel.

The infidel, in his impudence, will ask you to prove that the flood did occur, when the poor idiot himself cannot even prove, to save his life, what makes one apple sweet and one sour, or tell why a hen's egg is white, and a duck's blue.

The Art Association of the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, which so beautifully and symbolically decorated Egyptian Hall in that building, at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars, is about to place brass gates in the corridor at the cost of some seven hundred dollars, and to decorate Ionic Hall at a cost of two thousand eight hundred dollars. The President of the Art Association is Clifford P. MacCalla, the present Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania and editor of the *Keystone*.