

MASONIC UNITY.

The speech made by Bro. Lord Carrington in June last at the banquet of the English and Scotch Masons in the Exhibition, to which he graciously accepted an invitation, seems to have awakened the brethren of those two Constitutions to something like active life, and to have set them thinking over the suspension of fraternal intercourse which has existed for years. The singularly clear and incisive speech of the Grand Master, Dr. Tarrant, following so close after that of Bro. Lord Carrington, has added fuel to the awakening fire, until under the combined influence of both utterances, the old sore seems as if it may yet be healed. We shall be truly glad to see such a desirable result attained, but certainly not at any cost, nor by any serious sacrifice of those peaceful victories which the Grand Lodge has gained during its ten years' struggle of right against might. Its status is too widely recognized by its equals to necessitate any surrender of its rights or privileges, or to induce the brethren to act generously before being just. We feel assured that when the proper time comes to consider the advances made for a union of Masons that the rulers of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales will be found true to their trust, and ready to discuss fraternally any overtures made, for a settlement of the existing difficulty. In the meantime, the duty of the Grand Lodge and the brethren generally is clear. They are not called upon to take any initiative steps in this revival movement. They should pursue the even tenor of their way, being as ever, ready to welcome to their lodges all legitimate Masons, according them a courteous recognition and an hospitable reception. To the educated and unprejudiced Mason

it is a source of amusement to read the columns of verbiage which appear almost daily in the newspapers about this "union" movement. Each of the writers seem to think that their effusion solves the complex problem, and with the intolerance of ignorance, not a few of them scoff at any doubt as to the usefulness of the remedy proposed. Some advocates suggest what they call a "give and take" settlement, but with them the "take" is all on one side and the "give" on the other. Another genially asserts that we should have a "united" Grand Lodge. He has the Jubilee craze still on him, else he would perceive the inexact character of the designation. The Grand Lodge stands alone. It has no equal within this territory, either in fact or in title to unite with, hence the use of the word is a misnomer and is also misleading. If we might offer a suggestion, we would say let a vote be taken in each lodge under the English and Scotch banner, as to whether it is desirable to unite with the Grand Lodge of New South Wales. If resolved in the affirmative, the next step is clear and apparent. Stifling free discussion by vetoing any motion relating to Masonic unity, will not serve any good purpose. It irritates and develops a feeling of injustice, which has not probably any real existence, and must weaken the adherence of members. Perfect freedom of speech is the right of every Mason, and though some high-handed brethren may endeavour to stifle it by an abuse of power, yet the inheritance of our Masonic ancestors handed down unsullied to us, will rise superior to such conduct, and enable the brethren to exercise their undoubted right. When the suggestion we offer is carried into effect, we will then state what is the next step to take. Until the opinion of the estranged brethren is taken, we fail to see how the Grand Lodge can usefully interfere.

As showing the feelings of those who rule the brethren of the English