

ance of the institution. But if the dictates of his own conscience and the invitation of his Brethren fail to impress him with a sense of his duty, and to influence him to its proper performance, so much the worse for him. Masonry is and must be free, and our Lodges are better without the membership of those who are not willing subscribers to their maintenance.

We cannot endorse the thirteenth decision reported by the Grand Master, and approved by Grand Lodge, to the effect that "a profane who has lost the second and third joints of the index finger of the right hand is eligible to the Degrees." We are by no means a stickler for physical perfection, beyond the necessary requirements of a strict compliance with the letter of the ritual, but while we cannot forbear a smile at the calling in question of a lost eye, or toe, or joint of a little finger, we must draw the line at "the index finger of the right hand."

It is gratifying to learn from the Grand Master's address, and from the reports of the four District Grand Lecturers and forty D. D. G. M.'s, that the Craft in Virginia is growing in numbers and influence. The 205 Lodges reporting at the Annual Communication show a membership of 9,087, as compared with 8,799 in 1887.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of the Grand Master. It occupies 65 pages, and reviews the proceedings of sister Grand Bodies, Quebec included, in a pleasing and fraternal manner. Our Foreign Correspondence Report of last year is approvingly quoted from.

M. W. BRO. ROBERT T. CRAIGHILL,
Grand Master.

R. W. BRO. WILLIAM B. ISAACS,
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