

THE OLD STYLE.

There is no danger to the institution of Freemasonry, from what some oversensitive, antiquated, fossilized sticklers for the "ancient forms and ceremonies" call innovations. There are but a few writers who behold the Masonic fraternity in ruins, and all because modern Anglo Saxon language is used in place of "ye olde style." They claim that the forms and ceremonies practiced in some of the new states, and old ones, too, as for that, are not what Grand Master Adam, or Moses, or Solomon followed and are therefore not Masonic in their character, and that these new-fangled "innovations" are so many battering rams, beating against the foundations of the society. Their arguments would lead the uninformed to believe that the institution was built upon sand and could not withstand any attack.

The fact is, the past history of Masonry has proven that the fierce opposition of Papal encyclicals and ecclesiastical anathemas, the bitter attacks of political prejudice and ignorant superstition, have only strengthened the foundation upon which the superstructure has been erected. If the wave of determined political opposition in the early years of this century could not stamp it out of existence, but rather made its principles more deeply seated, then the puerile attacks of the present time afford no cause for alarm, and the elucidation of the sublime lessons taught in the Lodge room, which are styled by some as "innovations" will only make more apparent the true greatness of the institution.

Away with the idea that a huge wall must be built about every lodge, and those who practice the ceremonies of initiation must slink about like sneak thieves afraid of being overtaken in some nefarious work. Or the other equally objectionable notion that virtue and purity exists alone within the "sacred circle of our particular set." Masonry is elevating in its teachings and purifying in its lessons, and why

should not the elevating and purifying influences permeate the whole of society? In this way only will Masonry fulfill its real mission. In this way only will its light become pleasant and beneficial to the world at large. Its secrets will be carefully preserved, and if they were not, then those who reveal them become as outcasts, unworthy of confidence.

The "profane" world, as we call those not initiated, are quick to discover the unfaithful and the traitor, and will as surely ostracise them as the fraternity itself. So that the great ghost-like bugbears of "innovations," "modern additions," "public installations," and the like, do not in any way menace the stability or usefulness of the institution.—*Dispatch.*

OLD HISTORICAL TABLETS.

A London despatch says:—"The expedition to the ancient mound at Nippur has made wonderful discoveries, throwing a flood of light upon the history of Babylon. The most astonishing of all is the unearthing of ancient inscriptions and other records which carry back written human history no less than 2,250 years further than anything before known. Prof. Hilprecht, who is in charge of the excavations in behalf of the University of Pennsylvania, has just deciphered cuneiform records upon tablets of Babylonian history dating back at least 7,000 years before Christ. This is 2,250 years earlier than any other record. He is confident that some tablets upon which he is now working date back still another thousand years, or about ten thousand years earlier than the present day. He is not ready fully to commit himself yet on this point. These latest discoveries came about in an interesting way. His predecessor, Dr. Peters, worked down to a certain floor or platform, which he and others had taken to be the ground level of the ancient city. One of the party suggested that this level should be penetrated, and the digging continued until rock