

masonry by the Pope and his priests. If it be true that Pio Nonc was admitted a member of the fraternity, it ought to be enough that he violated his obligations without misrepresenting the aims and principles of the Order. He has complimented Bishop Dupanloup on the bravery of this last attack, and, possibly, we may soon hear of an act of canonization. The pope is ever anxious to applaud assaults upon Masonry, and it really looks as if he had a personal interest in the malignance he so often displays.

PLEDGING THE MASONIC WORD.

IN the Alabama Grand Lodge report on Foreign Correspondence, there occurs this passage :

"We would add that the offering to pledge one's Masonic word, on every trifling subject is no less silly and demoralizing. There are some cases in which it may be requisite, some, where it is allowable, and every true and bright Mason will readily recognize them; but to attempt to bolster up one's assertion on trivial occasions by pledging one's Masonry, is an admission that one's average veracity is of a very inferior kind."

It is, we are aware, a common practice to pledge the Masonic word, and it is done too, on occasions when it might be thought the least required. Unfortunately, however, there are brethren who do not consider themselves at fault in thus bringing Masonry into contempt, as they unquestionably do, if they keep placing everything "on the square." It is difficult to understand why a brother should be continually in the habit of talking "on the square," when he should know that, as a Mason, no pledge can be required from him by another Mason. To be true to one another is one of the most important commands, and no sincere Mason would deceive another; hence the folly of pledging the word. To show the danger arising from the practice alluded to, we need only refer to the case which gave rise to the admonition of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. A member of one of the lodges, as was stated in the *CRAFTSMAN* last month, who was also a senator, had paired off with another senator, and pledged his Masonic faith that he would not vote. He afterwards violated that pledge and voted, thus proving himself unworthy of his position as a member of the fraternity. It is true he was expelled, and a contemporary says the other senator should have shared the same fate, but we would hardly go so far as that, unless he asked the other senator to so pledge himself.

It is not a little curious that brethren who are so ready to pledge their Masonic faith are almost invariably the last either to assist or warn a brother. We have heard of instances wherein such brethren have pretended to do their best on behalf of brethren requiring their aid, while all the time they were giving help to others not Masons. Of course, any brother is at liberty to exercise his judgment in matters where his help or recommendation is asked, but he should not promise to act "on the square," for the simple reason that it is his imperative duty to do what is right by a brother Mason. His obligation does not bind him to do more than he can conscientiously do, and if the object of his assistance is unworthy of it, then he does not deserve it. A contemporary very justly remarks :

"The man who asks credit in business on his Masonic faith should be refused—the one who pledges his "Masonic word" in order to give strength to an assertion or a promise is not entitled to belief—he who is continually giving his confidence "on the square" is to be avoided—neither is sincere, for he deals too lightly with Masonic honor and is using it for purposes incompatible with the Masonic design."