

tablished, and that it may justly and satisfactorily be recommended to me, and moreover, that I shall be doing good to the Craft in granting a warrant for that lodge. There is a duty which lies upon every one of us, upon every one of you here present, and upon every brother throughout the country, and that is the duty of always recognizing the responsibility that rests upon us of proposing any person for initiation. (Hear, hear). So far as the condition of Masonry at the present time goes we have no want of an increase of the Order by those who are fit to be admitted; but we ought invariably to put the duty of maintaining the character and position of the Order above the feelings of private friendship, and especially above the feeling that is very disagreeable to have to say "No" to a person who may make application to us either in regard to Masonic or private affairs. Now, it is a responsibility which lies upon lodges that they do not admit unworthy brethren into the Craft. Some circumstances which have recently come to my knowledge make me afraid that there is a tendency sometimes to let in brethren who come from a distance, and about whom very little is known, without making enquiries of the Masons in the district from which they come. Now, nothing can be more unwise, nothing can be more unmasonic than that proceeding, because it often entails very serious responsibilities on the district in which the candidate habitually resides, and the inhabitants of which are the most fit judges of the brother's suitability to join the Craft. (Hear, hear). Brethren, I thought it right to make these observations, because this point involves the danger which attends upon a condition of prosperity, such as that in which the Craft now finds itself; and I am sure I may rely upon every brother in this Grand Lodge, and on every brother throughout the country to second me in my efforts—which it is my duty to make—constantly to uphold the character and position of this ancient institution. (Cheers.) Brethren, once more do I thank you most heartily for my re-election, and for the cordial reception which you have given me to-day. And now I shall proceed to the other business of the evening, the immediate portion of which is the appointment of the Grand Officers, the first of whom is the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, whom I re-appoint. You are aware, all of you, that he has been unable to attend Grand Lodge for some time, and many of you are aware that he has been in weak health during a large portion of last year. I am glad to say that his health is now very much improved, and I have every reason to hope, although he is not able to come among us this evening, we shall see him very shortly, in fact at the next Quarterly communication. (Cheers.)

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A MASONIC LODGE IN ROME.—From the following notice which was clipped from the *Swiss Times*, dated Rome, February 15th, it will be seen that Freemasonry is obtaining a foothold in the Eternal City:

*Masonic*.—Brethren residing at Rome and being willing to co-operate in the formation of an English Lodge, are requested to forward their names to P. M., *Swiss Times* offices, 471, Corso, Rome.

Recently, the foundation stone of an American Episcopal Church was laid within the walls of the City, and now an English Masonic Lodge is to be opened. Verily, the world moves on and old prejudices are giving way to more liberal and enlightened ideas.