

EDITORIAL NOTES.

HISTORY OF LODGE, No. 48, Lancaster, Penn., by George B. Welchans, M. D. This is a neat duodecimo of 295 pp., from the press of the *Enquirer* Printing Co., at Lancaster, bound in blue cloth, with a handsomely illuminated cover in black and gold. The lodge is a century old, and this book admirably tells its story. The lodge is the eighth oldest now working in Pennsylvania. Like all lodges of that day, its early meetings were held at taverns, as the banquet was not the least important part of the work. Like our old lodges, too, they had a proxy in the city to represent them at Grand Lodge, to save travel and expense. During the Morgan times the lodge suspended meetings from January, 1832, until November, 1833. The period of depression was shorter than at the East, extending from 1830 to 1837. The lodge had its years of poverty and of success, and the flush times of the war finally floated it on the broad tide of prosperity. In its earlier days it protested against taxing country lodges for building a Grand Lodge hall in the city, a protest which always seems to have a certain amount of right on its side. The history closes with its centennial celebration, April 21, 1885, which was a jubilee. A large number of biographical sketches followed, which are interesting and valuable. Among them is that of President James Buchanan, who was Master of the lodge in 1823. The work is a very valuable contribution to Masonic history, and Bro. Welchans is to be congratulated in having placed his lodge in a light where it can be appreciated.

A CIRCULAR has been issued warning the craft against an imposter named H. Clay Sale, of Louisville, Kentucky, and formerly a member of Excelsior Lodge, No. 258, of that city. Look out for him.

AN EDITOR'S VISION.—While sitting in our sanotum we fell into a slumber. We thought we were journeying along a great plain, of the most elegant scenery imaginable. We came to a large temple, into which we entered. Upon a magnificent throne sat a goddess, who held in her hand a pair of scales. A decree had gone forth, that all societies of the land should send representatives to her, that the merit of the society might be weighed. Accordingly great throngs came from all directions. Each one was allowed an audience, and at last the attendant was asked if there were any more to be admitted. "Yes, there is without a man who says he represents the Craft of Freemasonry." "Let him be admitted," said the goddess. Among other questions, she asked: "How much do you pledge in charity?" "We make no pledges," was the ready answer. "How much do you give a worthy applicant?" "All that we can spare," responded the brother. "Do you ever refuse to help a worthy distressed brother?" "We do not." The merits of this society were weighed, and the balance decided in its favor, when a decree issued that Freemasonry deserves the commendation of all.—*Freemasons' Journal*.

PAST GRAND MASTER SPRY decided when the W. M. ordered the pass-word to be taken in a lodge that it should be collected from every craftsman present. Grand Master Murray, on the other hand, rules that it need not be collected from the Worshipful Master sitting in the East. Who is correct? Would not the better plan be to allow the Deacons to collect the pass-word only from those they were not sure were Masons?—*Toronto Mail*, Jan. 9. No. The pass-word should be collected from all the brethren present. There is only a technical difference in the opinions of M. W. Bros. Spry and Murray, which is not worth discussing. We think the practice of the Deacons giving the W. M. the pass-word the better one in every case.