

It is a very remarkable fact, explain it as you will, how very little is done for æsthetic and cultured Freemasonry by the greatest of all Masonic bodies, the Grand Lodge of England. Its history, its progress, its prosperity, its prestige are marked by such signal tokens of success and outcome as distinguish no other Masonic jurisdiction in the world, and yet, strange to say, all that has been effected to improve the "staple," whether of Masonic ceremonial and studies, or literary development and refined tastes, has come from beneath, not from above, from individualism not from the aggregation, from the provinces rather than the metropolis. When some years ago our excellent Bro. John Havers sought to induce Grand Lodge to lend money to provincial bodies and lodges generally to encourage the building of Masonic halls, his most seasonable and sensible proposal was "pooh, pooh'd" by stolidity and "red tape" combined. The provinces at this hour possess halls and buildings not then dreamt of in the philosophy of good metropolitan Freemasonry, and many lodges in their zeal for a becoming performance of our time-honored ritual have taken upon themselves burdens heavy to bear. And, so, too as regards all matters which tend to a literary and cultured development of English Freemasonry. Even now the English Grand Lodge is without a library worthy of the name. Though a library exists, few know of it; hardly any, except one or two enthusiastic students, ask to see a book. There is no accessory of comfort attending it, no encouragement to study; no means of sitting down quietly and conveniently to collate or study Masonic works, whether MS. or

printed. There are some few curious, one or two unique volumes in our so-called Grand Lodge library, but to the great majority of Freemasons they are sealed books, the library is a "terra incognita," and any question of serious Masonic study or careful Masonic research becomes a hopeless unreality. No idea of a Masonic museum ever formerly appeared to enter the minds of any of us, though numerous would be its uses, great its good, and remarkable its results. Loving-cups and medals, jewels and certificates, seals and emblems, old warrants and ancient charters, all would fill a museum, and a not-forgotten exhibition at York demonstrates forcibly what zeal can do and care can accomplish. The present Grand Secretary has sought seasonably to take away such a reproach from the headquarters of English Freemasonry, and has been for some time collecting specimens and rarities of various kinds. After the very forcible remarks of Bro. the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P. G. C., at the consecration of the Strand Lodge, we hope that an impetus will be given to a most desirable movement and a laudable change.—*London Freemason.*

The *Repository* argues it is all right to expend three millions of dollars on the Templar Crusade in California. We agree, if the Sir Knights would only illustrate their devotion to the Order by some *practical work*. Let each Templar that goes there give twenty dollars towards a Templar Benevolent Fund, and then we might say it is all right. We cannot, however, quite agree to it at present.

A strong pressure is being brought to bear upon M. W. Bro. D. Spry, Grand Master of Canada, to issue his official edict against the English lodges in Montreal. The Zetland-Wilson treaty should be at least formally amended.

The *Hebrew Leader* favors the Mystical Shrine at which *The Corner Stone* was so indignant.