

MAKING A MASON AT SIGHT.—This is the prerogative of a Grand Master. Its exercise is rare; but the Grand Master, of his own authority, can initiate, pass and raise in a Lodge of Emergency appointed to be held. The Lodge is, however, purely transitory, and expires when closed. This authority has been disputed, but it unquestionably exists. In 1731, Lord Lovel being Grand Master, an occasional Lodge was formed at Houghton Hall, the seat of Sir Robert Walpole, Norfolk, when the Duke of Lorraine, afterwards Emperor of Germany, and the Duke of Newcastle were made Masons. In 1766 Lord Blaney held an occasional Lodge, and initiated, passed and raised the Duke of Gloucester. In 1787, the (then) Prince of Wales was made a Mason at an occasional Lodge at the Star and Garter Tavern, Pall Mall, when the Duke of Cumberland, Grand Master, presided. *Mackenzie's Royal Masonic Cyclopaedia (London, 1877).*

The *Saugerties Evening Post* of November 15, says:—"Mr. E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons, New York State, says in relation to alleged discussions among their members: 'There never was a greater unanimity of feeling among the members of the Grand Lodge of the Empire State than at present. It seems to me that if any trouble exists it relates simply to the Knights Templar organization, which is a distinctively separate body with the single exception that a man must be a Royal Arch Mason to become a Knight.'" We have never heard our R. W. brother so express himself, but the fact, with reference to the Templars, is nevertheless undisputed, but there was a time when it was not even requisite to be a Mason to receive the degree of Templars. Col. Ehlers is a deep thinker, and logical in his constructions, it would not surprise us to learn from his own lips this conclusion.

The Grand Lodge of New York has the following paragraph concerning Masons as soldiers:—"In 1814, a Grand Lodge of Emergency was called for the purpose of giving the fraternity an opportunity of evincing their patriotism in the then important crisis of public affairs. It was resolved that the Grand Lodge perform one day's labor on the fortifications, at such time as the committee of defence should designate, and accordingly on September 1, the Grand Lodge, accompanied by all the lodges of New York city and Brooklyn, repaired in grand procession to the fortifications, diligently labored through the day, and returned in like order to the City Hall, and the Grand Lodge duly closed. The same was also done on the 19th instant, finishing their part of the work toward the completion of "Fort Masonic," located on Brooklyn Heights."

The *Corner Stone* says:—"The actual danger to American Masonry originates from internal causes of an entirely different nature and primarily among them stands non-affiliation and the rigorous and unjust measures assumed for its repression. The Grand Lodge may melt into insignificance or degenerate into contempt, still rest assured it can never be made to explode. That we as Blue Masons are on the road to insignificance and contempt no one can deny, when our Grand Officers discard our ancient and honorable clothing to dazzle the public eye in the borrowed plumage of mock knighthood and of self-fabricated royalty. When the Grand Master of Masons of this State condescends to play second fiddle to a puerile caricature of Frederick the Great, he not only sacrifices the dignity of an exalted position, but brings upon his head the contempt of his Masonic peers in other lands."