

borough. His rank was obtained by merit, for he served faithfully for many years in subordinate ranks until he was finally promoted to a Colonelcy.

We are sure the Craft generally throughout Ontario, but particularly the members resident in Hamilton, will join with us in tendering sympathy to W. Bro. F. Broughton, P. M., General Manager of the Great Western Railway, on the occasion of the death of his youngest son, Master Willie Coates Broughton, a bright, intelligent youth of eleven years, who gave great promise of a brilliant career. Full of life, and hope, and joy, in the midst of his happiest days, he was cut off, after a brief illness, leaving loving friends to mourn his early death. W. Bro. Broughton and his family have the sympathy of all, in their great bereavement.

### Masonic Correspondence.

*We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.*

#### Letter from Brother Rob. Morris.

LaGRANGE, Ky., Dec. 9th, 1878.

To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

MY DEAR BROTHER THAYES,—I read your magazine every month with increased interest. It is greatly to the credit of Canadian Masons that they have sustained THE CRAFTSMAN to the close of its twelfth year. In your enterprising hand, I hope to see it even to its twenty-fourth.

On page 311, I am attracted by an article under the head of "So-Called Masonic Side Degrees," from the pen of Brother Ramsay. After reading it twice, I am puzzled to see the author's drift. If he means that he has got enough degrees and thinks no one should take more than he has taken, I can understand that. It is the sort of assertion to which I am accustomed. The Master Mason makes it in saying, "I have three degrees; all I want; therefore you want no more!" The Royal Arch Mason applies it to the Council degrees, as I heard in Toronto, in 1872, when good Brother Spry was endeavoring to establish the Cryptic Rite. The Knight Templar applies it to the Scotch Rite degrees. Every Mason (distorting scriptural words) applies it in saying "thus far have I come and no further, and here shall your steps be stayed."

But if Brother Ramsay implies that no one has the right to make new degrees he will fail to establish his position. Every degree we have beyond the third is the personal labor of some one, the Chevalier Ramsey, Preston, Webb, Barker, Pike, et id genus omne. And each degree was taken

out of the category of "side-degrees," and became "regular" only when a sufficient number of Masons took hold of it to give it dignity. What "the great Dickens" said is not to the question. (By the way, who the Dickens was that, anyhow? Charles Dickens, the novelist, was not a Mason, and never alluded to Masonry except in ridicule?)

In England, a few weeks since, I found the most distinguished Masons of London advocating the Order of St. Lawrence. So I petitioned and was made a member. I cannot say that it added much to my stock of Masonic knowledge but it brought me in contact with some as intelligent Masons as I ever saw. I think very little of the caputular degrees, knowing so well their history, but I see Masons of the largest capacity enthusiastic over them, and so I respect the system. As to the *Rite of Memphis*, it makes one smile even to read the title.

I am not recommending the Order of the Palm and Shell to your readers. The choice of degrees is free to all. But I trust I am not weak enough to denounce any system in which Masons find pleasure and improvement, especially one that I have not myself received. For six years I have disseminated the *Palm and Shell* in Europe, Canada, and the United States, and not until some one who has received it passes unfavorable criticisms upon it shall I think myself under any obligations to retrace my steps.

Rob. Morris.

#### To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

DEAR SIR AND BRO.,—Having heard that the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Colon are trying to induce Masonic editors to write in their favor, presenting facts in an altered manner, I beg to submit to your good self the following remarks:—

December 5th, 1859, a Grand Lodge was founded in Santiago de Cuba, under the name of Colon, sovereign and independent. In 1871 said Grand Lodge submitted herself to the authority of a Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite gr. 33° that was constituted in the same city. The Supreme Council suppressed the Grand Lodge of Colon, assuming all her powers, and she consented to it, and ordered the Lodges to close in their turn. The Lodges in Havana protested of the fact and tried to revive the dead Grand Lodge with her attributes of independence and sovereignty, but were unable, and not wishing to lie longer under the absolute and tyrannical power of the oligarchy of the Supreme Council, founded, in 1876, Aug. 1st, The Grand Lodge of the Island of Cuba, the territory being unoccupied. Shortly afterwards the oligarchy of Colon Supreme Council wished to revive their Grand Lodge that had been dead for