

Canon Portal, however, holds a few extreme views; he says, "as these Mark Master Masons had no Supreme Governing Body in England, any seven had a right to meet and confer the degree without warrant or authority." With such extraordinary broad and radical views, we cannot wonder at the peculiar position assumed by this semi-spurious masonic organization towards the Grand Chapter of Quebec. Being irregular in its own formation, it apparently has no respect for masonic decency or masonic decorum.

LIBERAL MASONRY.

The following excerpt we take from the *Masonic Home Journal*, published by the inmates (orphans) in the interests of "The Home,"—the pride and glory of Kentucky Freemasonry:

"*Masonic Home Journal*,—Bro. Henry Robertson, of Canada, what do you think of the *Freedom of Masonry*?"

Bro. Comp. Robertson,—"We believe in the freedom of Masonry to the fullest extent; and if a brother likes the Chapter the best, or prefers the Templars, or the 'Scotchmen,' or the 'Egyptians,' to any other, by all means let him devote his talents to the benefit of his favorite system, and let the good work go on."

This expression of opinion by the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, is only what Canadian Masons had a right to expect from one occupying so prominent a position in the Councils of Grand Lodge. In this country, we practice *Liberal* Freemasonry. We make no iron-clad oaths against any set or class of brethren, because they prefer one branch to another. In our eyes, and according to our opinions, any and every Hiramite has the inherent right (a right of which no Grand Master or Grand Lodge can

deprive him) to take any and every degree in Freemasonry practiced in the Dominion, so long as it is based upon the principles taught and inculcated in Ancient Craft Masonry, and insists that its members must be Master Masons in good standing.

We are well aware that R. W. Bro. Henry Robertson neither advocates nor opposes "the Scotchmen," or "the Egyptians." Grand Masters and prospective Grand Masters in the Dominion, are too well versed in the broad principles of equal rights, freedom of thought, and liberty of conscience, to ever think of dictating in such a matter to the free Masons of Canada. Our popular and able Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, although a member—and a thirty-third at that—of the Supreme Grand Council of Canada, would never dream of alluding to Scotch Rite from "the throne." There he is simply the exalted head of the Master Masons of Ontario, and as such would not deign to insult the craft, or degrade his high office by dragging into his addresses or opinions aught that would interfere with the untrammelled and unquestionable rights of private Masons.

The *Masonic Home Journal* may state that no prominent Mason in the Grand Lodge of Canada to our knowledge, would venture to introduce Rite into the Parliament of Ancient Craft Masonry. Past Grand Masters Stevenson, Seymour, Henderson, Moffat and Spry,—together with those who have crossed the river,—would never have tolerated such an insult to the intelligence of the craft. Neither will M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, or R. W. Bro. Henry Robertson.