

### MASONIC COLLECTIONS.

Latterly an increased interest in the gathering and preserving of Masonic relics, etc., has been noticeable, and several important collections of articles of special interest to the Craft have already been made. Individual collectors like Bro. Robert F. Bower, of Iowa, who died a few years ago, have used their time and means without stint in obtaining rare books, pamphlets, engravings, medals, documents, and other articles bearing upon the history and progress of the Fraternity, while several Grand Bodies becoming interested in the same line of research and accumulation have gathered collections of no small value. Iowa, having purchased the Bower collection and united it with its own rich store, holds the foremost place among such accumulators. The Masonic Library and Museum at Cedar Rapids contains a sufficiency of rich and rare treasures of Masonic interest to enable it to hold an exposition of its own. New York has begun the acquiring of a similar collection. Apartments have been set aside in the Masonic Temple, New York city, for a Library and Museum, and a committee has been appointed "to collect Masonic and archaeological objects, to be deposited in the Masonic Hall for the information of the Craft, as well as to excite their zeal and interest as to gratify their commendable curiosity." Already much has been done in the direction indicated. Several other jurisdictions have made a beginning in the like movements, and still others are considering the matter.

Massachusetts at the quarterly session of the Grand Lodge, March 9, 1887, took action in favor of undertaking the gatherings of such collection. A committee, of which Brother Richard Briggs was chairman, presented a report, the conclusion being as follows:—

"Your committee are confident that there is no better field in which to seek for the valuable treasures they are treating of, than our own State. Masonry has existed here, in regular organized forms, for more than one hundred and fifty years. From Massachusetts, as the fountain-head, has sprung nearly all the Masonry of the North American continent. The principal heroes of our Revolutionary War were the most active and devoted Masons of their time. We believe, therefore, that it is only needful to make known a wish to organize, under the auspices of this Grand Lodge, such a collection as other Grand Lodges have commenced, and the response will be prompt and generous. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is not wont to be backward in any Masonic work; and your committee are of the opinion that a portion of its accustomed zeal and energy may well be expended in this direction. We therefore recommend that the Grand Master be requested to appoint a standing committee on the collection of curiosities of the Craft; and that said committee be allowed to preserve and display such articles of Masonic interest as they may be able to gather, in the Masonic Temple, in Boston, subject to such assignment of space and to such rules as the Board of Directors may prescribe."

The Grand Lodge accepted the report, adopted its recommendations, and appointed a committee consisting of Bros. Richard Briggs, Otis E. Weld and Theophilus G. Wadman to act under its terms. It is expected that a room will be assigned them and generous aid given in the work they will attempt to do. It is a forward movement thus entered upon, and we hope that it will be vigorously prosecuted and generously sustained. Massachusetts ought to gather an extensive and valuable collection of articles relating to the rise and progress of Freemasonry in the ancient commonwealth; and elsewhere; and we may well anticipate that the collection now