

to allow lodges to receive affiliates without fee. There is a tendency towards favoring such as desire to become affiliated, and they should certainly receive every encouragement since it is so desirous to keep all within the circle.

THE MASONIC EXPEDITION.

WE have already noticed the proposed Masonic expedition to the Holy Land, the birthplace of Freemasonry, and have since received a pamphlet, accompanied by a note from Bro. Dr. Morris, of Philadelphia, Secretary of the American Holy Land Expedition, under whose direction the expedition is being got up. It is proposed that fifty Master Masons from Canada and the United States shall start for the Holy Land, leaving New York on the 12th September next, and returning to that city on the 3rd February. The number is not necessarily limited, but fifty is the number that can be well accommodated. None but Master Masons, however, can join the expedition. The intention is to confine the Masonic researches to Patmos, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Jandis, and Laodicea, the theatre of the drama detailed in the Book of Revelations.

Bro. Dr. Morris has consented to accompany the expedition as Masonic Director. He has a thorough knowledge of the localities to be visited, for he had a large experience in Palestine, and is the founder and Master of Royal Solomon Lodge at Jerusalem, which derives its warrant from the Grand Lodge of Canada. The visit is made at the invitation of the officers and members of the Lodge at Jerusalem. The business arrangements are to be arranged by Messrs. Cook, Son & Jenkins, the latter of whom is an eminent Mason. The total cost is fixed at \$1,125.

ORATION ON MASONRY.

THE *Freemason* says the rapid strides made by the Order of Ancient, Free and accepted Masons have been of late years something astonishing, but in no part of the country where the Grand Lodge rule prevails has there been a greater increase than in the Province of West Lancashire, which now comprises nearly seventy Lodges. A new Lodge was consecrated there recently, on the occasion of which Bro. the Rev. J. F. Goggin, P. G. Chaplain, delivered the following impressive oration :

Brethren, the Temple of King Solomon was erected in imitation of the Tabernacle of Moses, and "the court thereof," but with vast and universal improvement in the grandeur, riches, and magnificence of it, by the design that David his father received from the Great Architect of the Universe. It was a most glorious palace, built of cedar and fir, and olive wood and hewn stone, with most amazing expense of gold, silver, and brass, and precious stones, both for the adorning of the house itself, and "for the holy vessels thereof." King Solomon dedicated this Temple to the Most High, by assembling all the men of Israel, by bringing thither the ark, and the holy things, by a devout prayer to God, by music and praises, by a feast of seven days, and a vast number of sacrifices. Every part of the Temple had a symbolic meaning; its porch, its courts, its pillars, its altars, its decorations, and vessels. The services were, moreover, of a typical and symbolic character, and calculated to impress the minds of the most ignorant among the worshippers with feelings of respect, awe, and reverence, for the Great Creator. The highest acts of adoration were accompanied by sounds of many trumpets, the harps of skilful players, and the swelling choruses of a vast multitude of trained singers, while the prayers of the faithful ascended to the Great Throne above, with sweet incense wafted from golden censers. Symbolic worship has been used from the earliest times by all nations in their religious rites and cere-