

## A BOOMERANG.

If the reader has any doubt as to the meaning of this word, let him consult "Webster's Unabridged." He will find that it is rather a dangerous sort of a weapon to handle, and about as liable to strike down a friend as a foe. It is not the sort of arms that a prudent general would select to equip his army, or that Jephtha used with such terrible effect in his famous battle with the Ephraimites.

A few over-zealous, active members of the Supreme Council A. A. Scottish Rite, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States, in their efforts to fight a rival Supreme Council, have been constructing this sort of a weapon. They have gone into Grand Bodies of what is known as the York Rite, and sought recognition from them as the only legitimate governing Scottish Rite body in what is known as the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. They have asked legislation in Grand Lodges and Grand Commanderies, prohibiting Master Masons and Knights Templar from joining any Scottish Rite body not holding allegiance to their Supreme Council, under penalty of expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Masonry and Chivalric Orders. They have succeeded in securing such legislation in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and in the Grand Commandery of Ohio, and under the latter a number of worthy Knights Templar have been expelled by their Commandery. In Massachusetts, hundreds of Master Masons have defied the action of their Grand Lodge, and laid themselves liable to expulsion, but so far as we are informed, no one has been punished for his wilful disobedience.

In asking such legislation in bodies of the York Rite, defining what are legitimate Scottish Rite bodies, these active members of the Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, necessarily concede to these bodies the power to act in the

premises, and to declare by constitutional enactment, what are legitimate Scottish Rite bodies. If one body has the right to decide and declare another to be legitimate, it has the same right to decide and declare it to be illegitimate. If the Grand Commandery of Ohio has the right to decide that the Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction is a legitimate Masonic body, it has the same right to decide that it is an illegitimate Masonic body, should a majority of the members be of that opinion. The Grand Commandery may possibly receive such light hereafter as will reverse its decision, and give these active members a dose of the medicine they are now so anxious to administer to others.

An effort was made in the Grand Lodge of Ohio, at its last annual meeting, by these same parties, to have the same action taken as was done by the Grand Commandery, but the Grand Lodge declined to act in the matter. Now, supposing the Grand Lodge had taken action, and decided that the Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction is an illegitimate body, and all Scottish Rite bodies, working under its authority, are clandestine, and required all Master Masons to absolve their allegiance to them, under penalty of expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Masonry in case of refusal to do so, would these parties admit the legality of such action? Would they obey the law of the Grand Lodge, as they have obligated themselves to do? They must do so, according to their own theory, or be guilty of unmasonic conduct that would justify their expulsion. Having gone into the Grand Lodge and urged the right and necessity of legislation, they must quietly submit to the result whether favorable or unfavorable to their Scottish Rite body. The boomerang would have struck in the right place, had it hit the man who made it.

Since the above was written, we