

pressed his complete disbelief of the stories about devil-worship by Masons in so far as Charleston is concerned.

THE question of charging an affiliation fee is being discussed in a large number of jurisdictions at the present time, and the general feeling of the more earnest thinkers is that it should be done away with. Our own opinion is that nothing should be thrown in the way of members who may remove their home, taking an active part in the Craft in the locality they may settle down in. The initiation fee may be placed at a fair amount, but when a man becomes a craftsman his dues and fees should be such as not to be a hindrance to his active participation in lodge work.

The *Australian Keystone* says: "We understand the grand Lodge of New South Wales has abolished the joining fee. This we think, is a move in the right direction, and could be followed in Victoria with advantage. It is certainly hard on brethren who have to remove from one locality to another, to pay for the privilege of joining the local Lodge. The fact of there being a joining fee often prevents them from affiliating. The private Lodge having to pay Grand Lodge, naturally charges a fee. We feel assured neither Grand Lodge nor the private Lodge would ultimately lose by a total remission of the fee. The remission of the joining fee would be an inducement to brethren settling in a new place to join the local Lodge, and the amount annually received in dues would well compensate both the Grand Lodge and the private Lodge for the loss of the joining fee"

Charles Marsh, G. M. Cal., 'n 1869,—said: "The fee charged for affiliation should be no longer demanded, as we require membership, or application therefor, to place one in good standing, and at the same time affix thereto conditions which, in some in-

stances, may make it a hardship, or at least deter those who would otherwise make application from doing so. Membership in a Lodge is a duty which every Mason should fulfill, if possible, and our laws should place no obstacle in the way which serves an excuse for non-affiliation.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of the following: "Proceedings of the seventy-sixth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maine; held at Portland, May 7, 8, 9, 1895." This volume does great credit to Bro. Berry, both as a printer and Grand Secretary. On another page will be found an extract from the able report of Grand Master Horace H. Burbank.

"PROCEEDINGS of the Forty-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Maine held at Portland, Thursday, May 9th." Frederick S. Walls, Grand Commander; Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder. Number of Commanderies enrolled 19; Knights 230; affiliated 20; initiated 3; limited, suspended and died 105; leaving a total increase of 148, and a net membership of 2,904, with a balance in treasury of \$1,561.44.

"ANNUAL Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Canada, 1895." As we gave a full report of the Annual Meeting in the August CRAFTSMAN, the usual reports will be stale to our readers. Still it may be a little news to some to read from the Report on Foreign Correspondence what Louisiana has to say about doing away with the Past Master's degree. Comp. Rev. Herman Duncan in his report on correspondence says:

"Canada is not without fault herself. We regret to see that she has stricken