

number. We are gratified at the success of the appeal Bro. Gouley made to the brethren of Missouri, and we trust he has now placed his magazine on a permanent basis. Without the *Freemason*, Masonry in Missouri would, in our opinion, amount to very little. The brethren through the various jurisdictions must make up their minds to support the literature of the Order, especially as it costs them so little to do it.

FROM Brother Parvin, of Iowa City, we have the "Constitution and Code of Statutes and Digest of Templar Law of the Encampment of the United States of America." It is a neat and well printed pamphlet of eighty-six pages, and contains all the amendments made to the constitution, with regard to dress, etc., at the Grand Encampment in New Orleans some time since.

THE well known English agitator, Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, claims to be a Mason, but he has been shown up in his true light. He is an avowed atheist, and cannot, therefore, be a Mason; but it appears he was made in a French political lodge, for they have such in France, although not recognized by the Grand Orient. Mr. Bradlaugh passed himself off as a genuine Mason during his recent visit to the United States, and thus imposed on the brethren there. He was enabled to do this through holding a year's connection with High Cross Lodge, Tottenham, which lodge should be called to account. There is no excuse, whatever, for the objectionable course taken in thus permitting a known atheist and revolutionist to become an affiliated member, even for a brief period. No such man could honestly and fairly become a member of the Order, for if there is anything more than another on which Masons pride themselves it is their belief in the existence of a God; while at the same time their obligation binds them to be loyal to the ruling powers, which Mr. Bradlaugh certainly is not.

THE Philadelphia *Keystone* publishes an interesting account of the public Masonic charities of the United States. The most successful are the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Kentucky; St. John's College of Arkansas; The Masonic Orphan Asylum of North Carolina; and the Southern Masonic Female College of Georgia. Others are being projected, the brethren in Pennsylvania asking for \$50,000 in subscriptions, and those of Connecticut \$100,000. These are noble designs, and prove the value of Masonry. There can be no grander object than that of caring for the widow and the fatherless. In England it is well and thoroughly understood.

THE ridiculous character of the "Order of the Eastern Star," which comprises both sexes, is shown in the fact that the Brethren and Sisters of a Chapter in New York, had a masquerade ball in their parlors recently. It is said to have been a curious affair, and just such as might be expected from an organization of the kind.

THERE appears to be a strong feeling against Masonic balls just now, for what reason we do not understand, as they are certainly not an innovation. Masonic balls have been held time and again both in this country and England, but we believe they are not so much tolerated in the United States. The Grand Master of Louisiana has decided against their being held in lodge-rooms within his jurisdiction, and he says "you might as well hold a ball in a church." This is going a little too far out of the way.

ONE hundred years ago smoking in the Grand Lodge in England was a common practice, but it was finally put down by a decree to the effect that no brother for the future should smoke tobacco, either at