

then lying in Port Levy, Banks Peninsula; the captain and some of his officers were Freemasons, and the captains of four other vessels that were lying in Lyttelton Harbour, met on board the above vessel, and initiated three persons belonging to some of the vessels. A lodge was formed in Akaroa in 1846 by two of the members of the French corvette 'Le Rhine,' Dr. La Perotier, and the master at arms; they initiated four. This lodge existed for about three months, and was formed in the absence of Commander Berard, who, on his return, closed it as being un-masonic. As far as I can gather, there was no charter in existence for forming a lodge, and I think it is very doubtful, owing to the state of affairs between the Grand Orient and many of the French Grand Lodges in 1841, that a charter would have carried much weight with it, and I can only come to the conclusion that whatever may have been done, from the little information to hand, that all the proceedings were irregular and un-masonic."

W. Bro. G. W. Speth, Secretary of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, London, Eng., a distinguished English Masonic student, recently published an interesting paper in the *Keystone*, Boston, on "What is pure and ancient Freemasonry?" He holds that there is authority for claiming antiquity for two degrees. Referring to the Royal Arch, he says it has never been worked out of Anglo-Saxondom except slightly in Roumania and Spain. The English and American orders of the Temple are even more restricted in their application. The Rite of Perfection, Emperors of the East and West, 25 degrees,

never obtained more than the assent of a portion of the French Craft. While in America it has developed into the A. and A.S.R., 33°. Closing his paper, Bro. Speth, says:—"No degree beyond the third has ever obtained the assent of even a large *minority* of the Craft. A fourth degree is still *theoretically* possible, only—the necessary unanimity is practicably unattainable. The smallest body of regular Masons has a voice in the matter, be it a lodge or a grand lodge, and if it chooses to object, so long as it remains alive, in itself or by its successors, and persists in its protest, so long is the said fourth degree, be it Past Master, Royal Arch, Mark, 33°, Templar Knight, or what not, outside of 'pure and antient Freemasonry.' The only system which has ever been universally accepted is that of three degrees, E. A., F. C., and M. M.; these are therefore, and these only, 'pure and antient Freemasonry.'"

GRAND CHAPTER'S BLUNDER.

The points submitted last month by THE CRAFTSMAN for consideration by the Grand Chapter of Canada relative to their invasion of Australia are briefly as follows:—

1. Was Grand Chapter justified in planting subordinate chapters in the colony of Victoria when that colony was under the same Masonic government as exists in any province in England—a Grand District Chapter? In answering this question it must be borne in mind that England has never conceded what Canada claims, the right of one British dependency to secure or snatch a foothold in another. Where several parties are interested in any matter it surely takes the consent