

the healing of differences and the prospect of better feeling between rival Masonic organizations in Brazil and other of the South American States. If this much-desired result can be brought about, and the jealous interference of Governments can be warded off, South American Masonry will speedily enter upon broader and brighter days.

In the United States a steady gain in membership is apparent. There has been no abatement of energy and zeal. They have not gone behind in influence or good works; but, on the contrary, there is a manifold testimony from all parts of the country showing the efforts that have been put forth to improve the quality of Masonry,—to make its channels run purer than ever for the diffusion of brotherly love, relief and truth.

In thus reviewing the past there is much that both moves us to grateful feelings and inspires us. We can note with pleasure the course already traversed, and the position attained. But to associations as to individuals, the ideal is always in advance of the actual realization. There is work yet to be done. Let us use the resources and opportunities for good that are so available. Let us have faith that the future may always be made better than the past. Let us stand by the old ways and yet make progress.

To those who seek a knowledge of the tenets of symbolism, and inculcations of Freemasonry, the hand of sympathetic fellowship is extended, believing that the result of a careful study will convince each and all that it is intended to make good men better, to awaken the dormant energies of the apathetic, to arouse in the breast of all its votaries that inward symbol of Deity which is implanted in man as a monitor against evil and an incentive to good, and that it is replete in all its parts with the highest morality and fraternal devotion, leading man to sublimest thoughts and appreciation of the

Present and a Hereafter, ever realizing in its surroundings and adornments the truth of that happy thought of England's youthful poet:—

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever;
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass to nothingness.”

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

To the Editor of The Freemason's Chronicle.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your readers must have been struck with some surprise at the extraordinary resolution which was submitted to the last meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire, held at Exeter, to the effect “that no publication of the meetings of Freemasons or the business transacted therein shall be permitted without the sanction of the Provincial Grand Master for the time being in writing, and that no publication of the business of a private lodge be allowed unless with the approval of the majority of the brethren in open lodge assembled.” The narrow majority by which this motion was carried was sufficient to show that a diversity of opinion certainly exists as to the publication or otherwise of the proceedings which take place within the lodge room or at the banquet table. For my own part, I consider the day has long since passed away when the popular idea of Freemasonry is that it is a mere huge social club, or something more, and that its doings are such as Masons would be ashamed of the world knowing. We all know the insidious attacks that are even in these enlightened times made upon the action of the craft—how that it is condemned and maligned as a secret society, in the same sense as the appellation is applied to the Fenian, Dynamite, and other “brotherhoods,” whose aim is to excite evil passions, and to revolutionize society. This tendency to regard the ancient and honorable Order of Freemasonry as hostile to the well-being of the community would be only stimulated and increased if any such