

1855 and 1856. After the war these men, mostly reckless and unscrupulous characters—'fearful scoundrels,' General Burnaby called them—dispersed to

THEIR NATIVE PROVINCES,

but the clue to find them again was in General Burnaby's hands, and when a couple of years later Cavour and Palmerston, in conjunction with the Masonic lodges, considered the moment opportune to let loose the Italian revolution the list of the Italian Foreign Legion was communicated to the Sardinian Government and by it placed in the hands of the Garibaldian Directory, who at once sought out most of the men." In this way several hundreds of "fearful scoundrels" (laughter) who had learned military skill and discipline under the British flag were supplied to Garibaldi to form the corps of his celebrated Army of Emancipation in the Roman States and the two Sicilies, while the British diplomatists at Turin and Naples carried on, under the cover of their character as envoys, the dangerous portion of the "Carbonarist conspiracy." It is quite beside my present purpose to point out the absurdity of the above statements, most of them being self-contradictory, and all of them strongly impregnated with the perfume of the fabulous; and yet it is out of just such stories that the enemies of Freemasonry manufacture the barefaced calumnies which are placed before the non-Masonic world as veritable and well-authenticated facts. Mr. F. Hugh O'Donnell, lately a member of the British House of Commons—perhaps he is so still—finds "the key to modern history" in the secret intrigues of Freemasons, whose ubiquity is hardly less remarkable than the way in which they make shuttlecocks of kings and obedient tools of princes, and it will not surprise Mr. O'Donnell, or those possessed of this remarkable "key," if they should ~~awake some~~ fine morning to find that with our far-reaching influence we had succeeded in making our esteemed Grand Master President of the United States or King of the Cannibal Isles—the latter would probably be more in our line than the former. (Loud laughter.) We wish our opponents joy of their valuable "key," but we beseech them not to speak of us as Freemasons and then, without ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~reason~~ ^{reason} by your leave," talk of us in the very next sentence as "the Carbonarist conspiracy." This is precisely what Mr. O'Donnell does, and I stigmatize it as

A FLAGRANT OUTRAGE

upon the principles of honest and straightforward discussion, as well as a violation of the moral code which forbids men "to bear false witness against their neighbors." (Applause.) We have no sympathy with political or religious revolutionists, and we repudiate, as strongly as language will permit us, any and every connection with the sinister aims and unlawful methods of the Carbonari or similar societies. To countenance any such proceedings would be to obliterate every landmark of our order. Political despotism and ecclesiastical tyranny give birth by laws of natural generation to such societies as the Carbonari, and it is quite true that secret societies, many of them dangerous to the effete despotisms of the Old World, flourish, but we have nothing to say to them. However, we might venture to make the suggestion that to render them innocuous let the nations which complain most proclaim a Jubilee of Freedom, not the godless and licentious thing misnamed "freedom" which deluged France in blood, but the freedom