

ter's degree was divested of its burlesque character. The resolution reads as follows :—"Resolved, That the ceremonies of the Past Master's degrees shall be confined within the narrowest constitutional limits, only retaining the obligation, the induction into the Oriental chair, and the communication of the means of recognition." The degree can now be conferred in less than ten minutes.

The brethren of Leeds, Eng., recently had an opportunity of pronouncing judgment upon the standing of a female Freemason, as we learn from the London Freemason that a case "recently came under the cognisance of the Charity Committee, in which an applicant for relief, a Spaniard, produced not only his own certificate, but what appeared an equally valid one on behalf of his wife, who is said, proved herself in all the Degrees a good Mason. It was explained that in the Spanish lodges from which our brother hailed it was the custom to initiate, pass, and raise the wives of Masons, who were duly vouchered for by their husbands, and that this was done for the purpose of keeping the ladies out of the hands of the Jesuits. The lodges in which this custom prevails are called mixed lodges, but what strikes us as the most extraordinary part of the story is that peace and harmony prevails."

We understand that Bro. Ven. Dean Norman, of Montreal, created a sensation at Quebec recently, when preaching the anniversary sermon to the Quebec brethren. The preacher, who wore over his surplice the collar of the eighteenth degree (Rose Croix) took up seriatim the charges made against Freemasonry by the Roman Catholic Church and other critics, and boldly refuted them all; expressing his regret that he could not devote time himself to assist at more masonic work. He also protested against the language attributed to a Roman Catholic clergyman of Montreal,

who stated that the results of Freemasonry were baneful. Bro. Dean Norman was W. M., when at Oxford, of Apollo lodge, and Rev. Bro. Petry, who assisted in the service, was made a Mason in the same lodge when Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was W. M. and Lord Robert Cecil, now Lord Salisbury, one of the wardens.

#### GRAND LODGE BENEVOLENCE.

In our last issue we directed attention to an apparent irregularity or wilful neglect on the part of some one connected with the distribution of Grand Lodge benevolence, and called for an explanation from some person. By a strange coincidence, the writer of the letter who drew our attention to the matter, and M. W. Bro. Otto Klotz, Chairman of Grand Lodge Benevolence, wrote us on the same day. As the brother who made the complaint found out where the fault rested, we give his letter first. He says:

"In December last I called your attention to the fact that the grants from the Benevolent Fund to the persons entitled to receive them had not been received. I have since made enquiries about the matter, and find that the Secretary of our Lodge was the person who is to blame. It appears that there is a statement to be made out by the Secretary of the Lodge, through who the grant is made regarding the disposal of the funds granted, and our Secretary did not make the necessary statement until his attention was drawn to it by the Grand Secretary, or the Chairman of the Benevolent Committee. As soon as the statement was forwarded I have been informed the checks were sent. The Secretary informs me that he was not aware that the statement required from him was needed, and indeed I think such to be the case, as from my personal acquaintance of him for a number of years I have found him very prompt in his business affairs and