

AN UNPROFITABLE DEBATE.

The Rev. T. W. Evans, D. D., of Oscaloosa, Iowa, has allowed himself to be drawn into a debate upon the question, "Resolved, that Freemasonry is anti-Christian and anti-Republican." Our able brother, of course, took the affirmative, and doubtless did justice to his subject. The Rev. D. P. Rathbun, "the old anti-Masonic agitator of Clarence, was advanced by the "Antis" as a suitable man to meet the challenge and show up the doctrine." The *American Freeman* evidently thinks this little tempest in a teapot, consisting of a friendly discussion between two learned divines, is to demolish Freemasonry, and drive her adherents into sackcloth and ashes to the uttermost corners of the earth. It has no less than two articles upon the subject, one of a correspondent headed "The Death Knell," why so called we cannot surmise, and a leader on "Day Dawns," which semi-officially prophesies the decapitation of the champion of Freemasonry because he has dared to defend it and quote from its obligations on a public platform.

We have no doubt our reverend Brother knew exactly whereof he spoke, and that he did so with sincerity and earnestness. Every Hiramite has an inherent right to discuss publicly or privately any and every feature connected with the Craft. We do not advocate such a system, nor do we think it to the best interest of the Fraternity to do so, but others think differently. We have naught to hide from the bright light of the mid-day sun, and only wish our

brethren would more carefully and thoroughly read up and study standard works on Freemasonry, in order to be able to intelligently explain the principles and tenets of the Fraternity.

It is self-evident that the more deeply the Mason studies the mysteries of the organization the more impressed he will be with the wondrous philosophy that, like a shimmering stream of liquid gold penetrates every part and parcel of the whole fabric. It is pure as crystal, precious as untold gold, and genuine as a diamond of the first water. Truth stands forth in all its simple and sublime purity, as received from the breath of the Godhead, and any man with his finite mind through Freemasonry learns to partially comprehend and understand, yes, and even to grasp the meaning of the attributes that surround with a perpetual halo of living effulgence the INFINITE.

Whilst, therefore, we do not think debates on the public platform before a mixed audience a fit or proper arena for the discussion of such grand principles and solemn truths, we at the same time do not feel at liberty, even if we had the power, to attempt to prevent the same. We believe such discussions never did and never will do any good. The best and only plan to advance the principles of Freemasonry is to live and act up to them. Let brethren set an example of uprightness, honesty, charity and fraternal love to the so-called members of the Christian churches and temperance societies, and then the banner will wave in the breeze, emblazoned with the sacred words which formed the motto of all the teachings