

this, but they are becoming more liberal. The old school Baptists, ludicrously termed 'Hardshells,' have a rule against secretism. In 1854, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio and adjacent States passed resolutions denying admission to Freemasons. The Pope, some one hundred and fifty years since, fulminated a bull against Masonry, which was the first ecclesiastical thrust against Masonry that we recall.

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, last month, the following officers were elected and installed for this year:—M. W. Bro. J. H. Bell, M. P. P., re-elected G. M.; R. W. Bro. D. B. Murray, D. G. M.; R. W. Bro. A. Pearson, D. D. G. M., district No. 1; R. W. Bro. D. G. Dick, D. D. G. M., district No. 2; R. W. Bro. C. H. House, D. D. G. M., district No. 3, re-elected; R. W. Bro. J. Griffith, D. D. G. M., district No. 4; R. W. Bro. R. McCraig, G. S. W.; R. W. Bro. Dr. Smith, G. J. W.; R. W. Bro. Rev. Canon O'Meara, G. C., re-elected; R. W. Bro. Dr. Young, G. R.; R. W. Bro. J. J. Johnston, G. T.; R. W. Bro. H. D. P. LeCapellain, G. S., re-elected; V. W. Bro. John McKechnie, G. S. D.; V. W. Bro. James Levy, G. J. D.; V. W. Bro. G. E. Fulthorp, G. P.

M. W. Bro. Daniel M. Browning, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, has issued the following appeal:—"The overflowed rivers have submerged the houses and destroyed the property of a large number of our fraternity in this and neighboring jurisdictions, and this condition of things has continued for such a length of time as to leave many of them in a destitute condition. Their wants

must be supplied at this time, and for many days to come, by the CHARITABLE. I therefore appeal, in their behalf, for more systematic contributions. Let contributions be quickly made and forwarded to WILEY M. EGAN, Grand Treasurer, Chicago; and I designate the Worshipful Master and Secretary of each lodge as a committee to collect and forward the same to him. I have already advanced considerable sums of money to aid those most needy."

### Correspondence.

*We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.*

*To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.*

Your article of January 15 on "enforced membership" excites surprise here in Nebraska. It is presumed you wrote the article, or adopt its views.

Plainly speaking, Nebraska thinks our Institution has no greater or more harmful heresy than that a man enters Freemasonry "of his own free will and accord." (I quote your words.)

The lawgiver or teacher (and that is your position) who states a proposition is understood to mean what he says, all that he says, and nothing but what he says. When you say a man enters a lodge of his own free will and accord, you state that which (in my opinion) cannot be sustained by the landmarks, regulations, common law or usage of our Fraternity. A profane enters my lodge as much by my free will and accord as by his own; he comes a suppliant, dependent upon the permission or denial of the Master of the Lodge; he comes not as my peer, to take up that which is his of right; he does not come as my equal to meet me on my level, and share with me those things which are mine as a Freemason; he comes a poor seeker for a part of those things which are already mine; his coming to the threshold of the lodge is of his