

Sons of England

*These pages are open for Correspondence
from members and Editorial Discussion.*

"Party Politics in the Sons of England."

Editor of the ANGLO-SAXON:—

DEAR SIR,—I noticed a letter in the September number of the SAXON from a Mr. Patching trying to *patch* up the statement made by "A Member" in the August issue relating to the above subject. In the October issue "A Member" again makes some statements which, I think as an outsider, and one who has seen the Record a good deal, and read it on account of its "Fraternal Insurance" news of the Sons of England, and that "A Member" is justified in what he said. Evidently Mr. Patching does not know *some* of the members of the Sons of England as well as I do or he would not say that they are all imbued with a political independence or impartiality, and I know some of the executive officers of the Sons of England, who are what Mr. P. called "Blue." If the ANGLO-SAXON has a Conservative editor and has had a leaning towards that great party, is it any wonder? What has the Reform party ever done for the Sons of England or any other Society which would not admit to its membership the Co-religionists of the "Boss" and his "Buttons boy" (the Premier.) Can Mr. Patching be a Grit and a member of the Sons of England at the same time, and look with an honest eye upon the manner the present government handled the incorporation act of the Sons of England? I say, that every member should not only lean towards the "Party of Progress," "The party of true Loyalty to the Queen and Empire," "The party that forced the 'Boss and his boy' to send a contingent to South Africa." I do not know a man that has a grain of spunk in him that would have anything to do with a party that is preaching one thing and doing another, that is fair to your face and strike you behind your back, and that is what the present government is always doing to the Mother Country, and if, as Sons of England, we do lean towards the party of loyalty, I do not wonder. I hope the ANGLO-SAXON will live long to see the flag of the Sons of England raised above the ramparts and the ring, who is opposed to its just and only legal claim, swept away from the control of such a grand and patriotic organization as the Sons of England is, and their organ, which I understand is only the organ of the so called "ring" and not of the whole organization occupying the place prepared for it in that splendid picture of yours which appeared in the ANGLO-SAXON a few years ago. I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

"AN ENGLISHMAN."

Ganenoque, Nov. 1899.

The Ottawa lodges have struck a unique idea in the way of amusement during the winter months. They purpose having a series of six concerts in the six different Lodge rooms of the city. Each concert taking a different form. The series was opened by a smoking concert held in Stanley Lodge room at which a remarkably large number were present. The second is to take the form of "An Old English Boxing Night," and will be held December 26th. A ticket of admission to the series is 50 cents, and the charge for single night concert tickets is placed a little higher.

Bro. Harry Bolton, secretary of Lodge Royal City, Guelph, Ont., has in his possession a very precious document, being a letter of recommendation from General Sir Redvers Buller, now commanding the British forces in South Africa. Bro. Bolton recommendation from General Buller when the latter was lieutenant in the Fourth Battalion, 60th Rifles, St. John, N.B., thirty-one years ago. The following is a copy: "I have known Private Harry Bolton, late 4th Battalion 60th Rifles, for several years. I have no hesitation in recommending him as a very sober trustworthy, steady man in every respect."

REDVERS BULLER,

Lieut. 60th Rifles.

St. John, N.B., 12th Oct., '68.

We rejoice with all the members of of the Sons of England Society over the action of the Executive in keeping in good standing in the Lodge those members of the Order who are fighting in Africa for God, Queen, Country and the honor of the Order to which they belong. It is highly creditable to the Sons of England Society to be represented by such true and stalwart men as have gone from the Society's ranks to fight in the Transvaal.

On an occasion of this kind it is very advisable that an Order like ours should show its patriotism by not being backward. Men of sterling worth are required, and to find such men no better recruiting ground is offered than the lodges of the Sons of England Society, which is now one of the largest patriotic and fraternal organizations in existence in Canada. Investigation will show that the qualities which have placed the Society in the position it has occupied are the very qualities which make Englishmen the best fighters in time of war, and the best citizens always.

The lamentable part of the matter in connection with our Society is the lethargy again displayed by the Executive. We commend their action, but would give it far greater commendation had they acted more quickly. Already many of the subordinate lodges had resolved to keep the respective members of their lodges in good standing while away. Then, at a rather late date, the Grand Executive decided that they would take charge of the matter. The old saw reads that it's better late than never; but how good it is when it is on time.

Brandon Lodge of Brandon, Man., held a very brilliant meeting on Nov. 21st. It was a record breaker. There were two initiations, 11 proposals, and one member re-joined. A substantive repast had been provided which the members greatly enjoyed. At this part of the programme