

Bogus Masonry.

We were under the impression that, after the action of the Grand Lodge of Canada at its Annual Communication last year, we should hear no more of the so-called "Grand Lodge of Ontario." But it was a vain delusion: the head, indeed, was cut off, but there is still life in the tail, and much of the poison yet remains. Port Hope has lately been visited by two of those pseudo-Freemasons, who announced their determination to establish a Lodge here in connection with the bogus body they claim to represent. We therefore warn the public against this palpable imposition, and would recommend the officers and members of our Lodges to be on the look-out for these gentry, and immediately on their appearance in any place, put the nature of the institution before the public, so that innocent people may not be gulled into joining their so-called "Lodges." The head, body and tail of this bogus institution seem to be Francis Westlake, of London, who was expelled by the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1876, (see Proceedings of that year, page 200), Stephen Bean, and W. J. R. Hargrave, of Toronto. The "head" professes to be "P. G. M.," the "body" "Grand Junior Warden" and the "tail," "Grand Sec. Grand Lodge of Ontario,"—high sounding titles enough, but as empty as anything of the kind can be. The tactics of these people seem to be, on entering a strange place, to get hold of a few prominent members of the I. O. O. F., Bean being an Oddfellow, and to them is held out the tempting bait to form a "Masonic Lodge." This usually fails, prominent Oddfellows finding the hollowness of the pretensions of the bogus "Grand officers," declining to have anything to do with the concern, even at the cheap rate of \$5 per head, the initiation fee exacted. The Oddfellows of Ontario are too respectable and honorable a body to allow their organization to be made a catspaw by these "worthies," and we are much mistaken if a single Oddfellow could be induced to join this bogus Masonic Order if he was aware of its history. The canvassers referred to go about with cunningly worded documents, in

which a quotation is given from an address of our late Grand Master Wilson and an extract from a letter written by Dr. Mackay, of South Carolina, but they carefully abstain from explaining that the circumstances are totally different now to what they were when these opinions were given utterance to. These documents are calculated to deceive, and those who present them in addition profess that their members are as cordially received as visitors in American Lodges as are those hailing from Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Indeed, we have before us a fly-sheet, signed by "W. J. R. Hargrave, Grand Sec. Grand Lodge of Ontario," in which the following sentence occurs:—"Our members have repeatedly visited Lodges under the jurisdiction of several Grand Lodges of the United States, and our late Deputy-Grand Master visited Lodges in England during the past year." Now, we have not the slightest hesitation in stamping this as a deliberate falsehood, for we are sure that no Lodge in the United States or England would permit a member of this bogus body to sit five minutes in their Lodges if they knew the illegitimate nature of the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario. To ascertain what was thought of this bogus body in the United States, we addressed the following circular to the Grand Secretaries:—

PORT HOPE, June 29, 1880.

DEAR SIR & R. W. BRO.

Emissaries from the so-called "Grand Lodge of Ontario" are going about this Province endeavoring to establish their "Lodges," and claim, among other things, the members of their body are received in the American Lodges as cordially as those of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Will you kindly inform me what the position of your Grand Lodge is in regard to the illegitimate Grand Lodge of Ontario and its members?

Yours Fraternally,
J. B. TRAYES.

To the above, we have received the following, and expect in the next few days to receive many more of similar tenor. These letters effectually dispose of their pretensions to recognition at the hands of the Grand Lodges of the United States, and while they will doubtless continue to parade the extract from a letter written by Dr.