

race, color nor religion should, of themselves, suffice to exclude a candidate from the privileges of Freemasonry, it is another and very different thing to recognise and sustain a Grand Lodge, bound exclusively upon any of these considerations, within the territory already occupied by a legally constituted and universally recognised Grand body. This is the error into which our French brethren have fallen, and it is one which, even at the risk of a breach of friendly relations, must be condemned. All candidates, of whatever complexion, must pass the ordeal of the ballot box before their admission, and the ballot being secret, every individual mason must determine for himself how he shall exercise his privilege in depositing the ballot. In the majority of Lodges, we fancy it must be difficult for a negro to obtain admission, not because of any assertion that his colour suffices to exclude him; but simply because of the social prejudice that exists in the minds of many persons towards companionship with his race. That is a difficulty which no legislation can overcome; and to attempt to compel his admission, because of an abstract principle of justice and universal brotherhood, would be to violate the sanctity of the ballot and the rights of Freemasons under it. It is this fact which the Grand Orient of France has overlooked in the position which they have, unwisely, as we are compelled to feel, assumed in issuing the circular which we have quoted above.

THE EARL OF ZETLAND.

We have already, in a former number, given the leading particulars in the life of the Grand Master Mason of England, the Earl of Zetland, as a Freemason. To few men has it been given to preside for so many years over so august a body as the Mother Grand Lodge; and no man could have presided with more dignity and with greater advantage to the Craft. Masonry has made wonderful progress during the twenty-seven years that he has occupied the oriental chair. Probably three-fourths of the Freemasons of England to-day hold certificates bearing his signature, of many of our older Canadian Masons the same thing can be said; and we are sure they especially will prize highly the possession of his likeness, at the moment he is about to yield to another, the authority he has so long exercised. We present our readers, to-day, with a very excellent portrait of our venerable brother; and we are sure, in doing so, we will be joined by them in wishing for him many more years of a vigorous and happy old age.

The great principles by which alone can be worked out the science of life, are a desire for the good, a passion for the honest, and a yearning after the true.