

Grand Orient should permit such publicity in any country. We commend the matter to the attention of the Grand Lodge of New York."

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

The status of Past Masters in England is a very mixed subject, and the Masonic journals of that country are apparently unable to give us any information concerning the same.

It is proposed to increase the number of Grand Stewards of the Grand Lodge of England to thirty, and "that twelve of them be selected from the provinces, leaving eighteen, as at present, to the metropolis."

THE *Freemason* (London, England) says:—"THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN is in high force and feather, and looks and reads equally well. "We thank our contemporary for so high a compliment, and can only say that, coming from such a distinguished source, feel under due obligation.

ANCHOR of Hope Lodge, No. 37, Bolton, England, recently celebrated its Sesqui-Centennial. This Lodge was warranted in 1732, and its original warrant is still preserved. Bro. Wm. Jas. Hughan contributes a sketch of this old Lodge to the *London Masonic Monthly* for October.

THE *London Freemason* declines any longer to acknowledge the *Sydney Freemason* "as a Masonic journal" "until it apologises to Bro. Hughan for the very improper garbling of his words, deliberately made use of for a set and special purpose."

WE chronicle, with deep regret, the death of our distinguished Brother, Lord Penterdon, Provincial Grand Master of Essex. He was one of the most zealous and active members of the Craft in England. His decease at the early age of forty-eight will be seriously deplored by the many brethren who knew him, both on this continent and in the mother-country. It will be recollected that he acted as Secretary to Past Grand Master the Marquis of Ripon, during the negotiation of the treaty at Washington in 1872.

In the city of Melbourne there is a Masonic Hall, owned by a limited liability company, and rented by the different Lodges, Chapters, and other bodies holding under the three British Constitutions. In addition to its being used for Masonic purposes, one of the two lodge rooms, when not Masonically engaged, is let for meetings, balls, etc. In July last there was a strange incongruity. The Free-thinkers of Melbourne, headed by a notorious lecturer on infidelity, were allowed to use this very lodge-room for the purpose of forming a so-called "Freethinkers' and Secularists' Society." We sincerely trust this was an inadvertence on the part of the hall officials. At all events, the proceeding savored somewhat of the sacrilegious, and as a report of the aforesaid meeting appeared in the Melbourne papers, it looks extremely like a scandal and an insult on the landmarks of our dear old Craft. A letter from "An Old Mason" appeared in the *'Melbourne Argus'* of July 19th, drawing attention to the unsavory subject, and as no reply was made to it, we may presume that the brethren concerned are conscience stricken.