

SECRET MONITOR.

The Order of the Secret Monitor recently revived in England, under very favorable auspices, and to which in our last issue we specially called the attention of the Canadian craft,—is but a happy return to what at an earlier day, extensively existed in the United States as well as in Great Britain and elsewhere.

It has generally existed as a "side degree" intended to strengthen the bonds of fraternal affection which should ever exist among all Freemasons. The bodies now being resuscitated in Great Britain are called Conclaves, and are intended to be accompaniments of Craft Lodges.

The special feature of the Order consists in the appointment of a board of three officers called Visiting Deacons, whose special duty it shall be "to search out and call upon any Brother who may be in danger or distress, or who may have fallen into ill health, or may be in need of fraternal monition, sympathy, consolation or assistance."

We are of the opinion, that in general, these great beneficent and truly Masonic objects may be more effectively attained than they have hitherto been in most lodges, by the appointment of a Lodge Board of Visiting Deacons, who will be governed by a set of By-laws similar to those of the Conclave Boards of "The Secret Monitor," and who will make due report of their labors at every regular and special communication of the Lodge.

In one form or another, let every lodge in the Dominion forthwith take up this important matter for consideration and action. Let it never be justly said that practical personal beneficence is on the wane amongst Freemasons.

ENGLAND vs. QUEBEC.

"The English Grand Lodge is in honour bound to stand by faithful children of its own, who have committed no offence save that of loyal attachment and adherence to the Grand Lodge of England. Accordingly the formal answer of the Grand Lodge of England not proving satisfactory to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, it has proceeded, like the Archbishop of Rheims, in the old Ingoldsby Legends, magnificently "*ore rotundo*" to anathematise the Montreal Lodges and the Grand Lodge of England.

"Well may we say to-day, as the playwright said of old, '*Risum teneatis Amici*!'"

The (London) *Freemason* having made, *ad nauseum*, the oft repeated statement in the last part of the first sentence of the foregoing,—The (London) *Freemason's Chronicle* has now taken up the ignoble refrain, evidently on the principle that if an incorrect statement is repeated often enough, some will in time believe it to be true!

On the contrary, we unhesitatingly affirm without fear of successful contradiction, and with the assurance of our readiness to proceed with undeniable "proof" that the statement that the Montreal English adherents "have committed no offence save that of loyal attachment and adherence to the Grand Lodge of England," is a gross fabrication, and known, we believe to be such, to the writer in the *Chronicle*, and it is made, as we think, for no other purpose than to mislead ill-informed brethren in England and elsewhere in the Masonic world. We challenge any intelligent and honorable "English adherent" in Montreal, to make and substantiate said statement over his own signature. Let such throw down the gauntlet and we will immediately take it up.

"If we may judge of the mental calibre of those who have encouraged and taken this childish step (the late edict) if we may form an opinion of their Masonic feelings