

feelingly on the subject, and we commend the following extract to the attention of our readers :

"The fraternity in general know very little of the difficulties which beset the pathway of a Masonic editor, and render his task a very laborious one. And to the profane world Masonic journalism is a mystery as deep as Freemasonry itself. Let us assure the Craft that every Masonic journal is worthy of their warmest support ; it is to the Masonic press that the Craft are *most* indebted for the exalted position now occupied by the fraternity. The press is a bulwark of freedom ; and when storms of persecution rise about the institution, it is the Masonic press that stands ready to defend it from the assaults of its enemies. Without books and papers there can be no knowledge ; just so, without a sustained, untrammelled Masonic press there could be no knowledge of wrongs committed upon the Brotherhood, and no power invoked to redress them. Shoulder to shoulder, brethren, and let us all pull together ; we are all afloat in our great Masonic life-boat, and unless we all act in unison, the waves of oppression may again swamp us. There can be no anti-Masonic crusades so long as the fraternity have a bold press to represent them, and to meet the slanders of their opponents as they should be met ; but if the Craft neglect to foster the press during these palmy days, it cannot expect to find in it strong and healthy defenders in the time of adversity. Let us read and become a more intelligent fraternity ; let us read the literature of Masonry, and so learn the history, aim, and end of our beloved Institution ; and not be 'blind leaders of the blind,' but 'know whereof we do speak,' so that speaking understandingly we may declare to the world the beauties of Masonry, and its great mission among men. Sustain the press, therefore, and the press will in its turn, be your faithful monitors."

THE WAR AGAINST MASONRY.

It must surely be a dread of the advancement of Freemasonry throughout the world that impels so many so-called divines and anti-Masons to the task of trying to crush out the institution. In some instances it is the church in danger, and down come the Roman Catholic hierarchy with all the virulence they are capable of showing ; at other times the English and Presbyterian churches send out representatives to assail the Order, but they are neither so numerous nor so bitter as the Catholics. The last we have heard of the anti-Masonic crusade is the preaching of one Father Lafont away in India. He appears desirous of immortalizing himself, and has therefore been preaching a series of sermons in Calcutta, in which he declares Freemasonry to be "eminently un-Christian and impious." Of course this Romish priest is simply wasting his breath, and like the rest of those who assail Masonry, he knows nothing of what he speaks about. The fact of his charging the Order with impiety and being devoid of Christianity, shows that he is palming off the veriest stuff upon his hearers. It suffices, however, and no doubt by the time His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales reaches India, Father Lafont will have inculcated his anti-Masonic principles to such an extent as to cause some of the people to look with disdain upon the Heir Apparent, on account of his being a Freemason and a Grand Master. Such persons as this Father Lafont do a vast deal of harm through their mischievous teachings. It is not likely that he can do any injury to Freemasonry, but he may succeed in creating a feeling against the Prince among the ignorant who are led to believe any thing the priests tell them. The emissary of the Pope has some design in view, or he would not be so busy just in advance of the Royal visitor's appearance in India, in showing up what he alleges to be the false and anti-Christian notions of Freemasons.

The crusade has evidently spent its strength in Europe. In England very little is now said against Freemasonry, except through a few Roman Catholic and Ritualistic journals. The Pope is in a manner silenced at home, and he is now doing his best to stir up an excitement