

sent day. The mind emancipated, instead of seeking only to improve man's condition in the hereinafter strives to better it in the present. Improve the present, is the watchword of the hour. But the Church of Rome, though shorn of its power, like Samson, is gathering itself for a final effort, and little cares if it brings the whole social fabric down upon its own head. The struggle is centering around the public schools. Given the schools, the church still hopes to maintain intellectual twilight. Will the church or the state, the individual or the community, rule the school? This is the issue. The sympathies of Freemasonry have always been with the state, in favor of Free education. This is what the *Tablet*, the great English exponent of Ultramontaniam says, referring to education and Freemasonry. The comment is on the annual gathering of the Grand Orient of Italy, held at Rome, on March 2nd, when there gathered around the festive board some of the most distinguished Italian statesmen:

The Grand Master, in proposing the principal toast, referred in terms of jubilation to the triumphs of liberal legislation prepared by Masonry, thus taking on himself the credit of having inspired the leading measures of the present administration. According to the correspondent of the *Italie*, he enumerated those which were more especially due to the Masonic initiative, among which, as might be expected, that on the *Opere Pie* held a high place. As regards State Education, it may be inferred that what has been already done in this direction is but an instalment of what is to come, as his allusion to it was rather a pious wish for the further advancement of the views of his fellows than a congratulation on what has been already achieved. He went on to affirm that Masonry neither commands nor serves any government, but makes use of all for securing the triumph of its ideals, concluding with the announcement that a fund of 20,000 francs would be raised for the erection in Rome of a monument to Giuseppe Mazzini. Thus the insult to the Vatican, conveyed in the apotheosis of the arch-heretic of the Renaissance, will have its counterpart in the defiance hurled at the Quirinal by the honours paid to the arch-rebel of modern Italy.

The speech of the Grand Master was followed by that of Signor Giovanni Bovio, in which the reform of higher education was again pressed at greater length, an insistence to which the presence among the guests of the

Under Secretary for the Department responsible for it gave added significance. Signor Fortis, the Radical Under Secretary for the Home Office, also took part in the proceedings, and made a speech invoking the redemption of the masses, but veiling with judicious vagueness the means to be employed to that end. Some speculation has been excited by the facility with which the 20,000 francs for the statue of Mazzini were found on the instant, and as the list of subscribers has not been published, there is ample scope for conjecture as to the source from which they have been supplied. Signor Lemmi, the Grand Master, has decreed that this new ornament to the city is to be bestowed on it solely by the Order over which he presides, and that the honour of subscribing to it is to be reserved exclusively for Freemasons, who thus adopt the Italian Revolution as the special work of their organization.

We cannot help congratulating the Grand Orient of Italy upon its efforts to educate the masses, for as intelligence is diffused so is the peace and happiness of the community increased.

When the conflict comes on this continent, Freemasonry will not be true to its principles or its history unless it proves the great force which marching steadfastly to its ideals shall conserve the liberties of the people, bring peace and harmony, and with it the right for every man to think and to exist.

A FEW FABLES.

BY THE CRANQUE.

A Man with a Glib Tongue, which was being worn out by Slandering his fellows, felt fearful lest he should lose his Power to Abuse, and thus sink into Oblivion.

Having secured Riches he Bought a Young Fellow, who had a Weakness for Talk and Slander, and taught him. The Pupil soon became as proficient as his Master and Teacher, and by way of practice Slandered his Master unknown to him, especially when with Kindred Spirits and slightly elevated.

Moral—Never teach your Parrot to Curse others, for some day he will surely Curse You.