

Correspondence.

A SENSIBLE LETTER.

BROTHERS T. & R. WHITE,
Hamilton.

I have received the first numbers of "THE CRAFTSMAN," and am much pleased with it, and trust you may meet with every success in your effort to dispense light, for I consider that nothing tends more to advance the interests of Masonry than a well-conducted journal devoted peculiarly to its interests. It tends so much to rouse up the dormant energies and abilities of those who might else never take so active a share in our labors, and to a certain extent supplies the want of a library to the intelligent Craftsman. I am only surprised that the Craft could have done so long without such a desideratum, and hope that now they will afford it the measure of patronage it so justly deserves. I have seen Masters and Grand Masters greatly puzzled how to decide some knotty questions that have arisen, and which may arise at any time, but which, had they been industrious reading masons, would never have given them any trouble to unravel, comparatively speaking. We all want to read and study more the good teachings of our old masters in Masonic lore, to cultivate a taste for which should be a primary object in every Masonic Journal. The difference between a reading mason and one that does not read is palpable to every one that has acted as one of an examining committee; and should the examining committee be of the latter class, it gives the lodge a somewhat similar stamp in the opinion of the visitor. I do not envy the brother who has to undergo a strict examination at the door of a lodge unless he has fortified himself with a little more than a great number do, viz., solely relying on what they have been taught in their mother lodge during their initiation, and forgetting that this is not all, but merely the key to open up to their view the wide expanse of information and pleasure that lies hidden below the surface. I have said strict examination, for all examinations are useless unless they are so; and it is equally beneficial to the examiner and the examined that they should be so.

I have a few odd crumbs—odds and ends—that I shall endeavor to get you to see the point of publishing on some future occasion, when perhaps you may have a stray spot or corner to give me the use of.

To conclude, I enclose you a year's subscription from the first number, and only have to say that if you only accomplish half of what is indicated in your first numbers, "THE CRAFTSMAN" shall always be a welcome visitor to

Yours fraternally,
G. C. B.

JESUITS AND MASONS IN SALONIKA.—There is now an Italian Lodge at Salonika, called the *Macedonia*, with about 40 members. A systematic persecution is carried on by the Jesuits. Lately, the Lodge got up a theatrical representation for the charities of the city, and tendered a portion of the proceeds to the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity, who, however, under the orders of the Bishop, charitably refused the devil's money.

MONTHLY RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

—The Grand Trunk R. R. of Canada has given a five years contract for 100 tons daily, of prepared peat for engine fuel.

—The dancing master of the Prince Imperial, who received the privilege of the cloak, cane, and umbrella room, at the Paris Exhibition, has sold his right to the profits of this apartment for \$25,000.

—A London despatch of 20th December announced that the Emperor of Austria in despair of satisfying Hungary, had determined to convene all the Nationalities that compose his empire, and submit the adjustment to them. He expressed a willingness to restore the constitution to Hungary.

—Maximilian has just announced his intention of fighting for his throne, and has issued a proclamation to that effect, also stating that a national congress shall be convened on the "most ample and liberal basis," and this congress shall "decide whether the empire shall continue in the future." The proclamation has had a wonderful effect in improving Imperial interests in that country.

—In the United States, according to official returns gathered by the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, there were during the four months ending December 1st, 10,806 deaths from cholera. Of this number, 3,532 were in the city of St. Louis alone—more than a third of the whole mortality from cholera in the United States happening thus in a single city, and that only the eighth in point of population in the country.

—A series of most terrible explosions has occurred in the English coal mines. The first occurring at the Oaks pit at Barnsley, Yorkshire, on the 12th December, while 400 men and boys were at work in the mine, nearly all of whom perished. The shaft of this pit is about 800 feet deep, with chambers leading off from the bottom of it in various directions, two miles in length. Almost simultaneously with this explosion there was a similar one at Hawley, in Staffordshire, 50 miles distant from the first; 200 workmen being in the pit, only thirteen of whom were taken out alive. A company of officers and volunteers was engaged in exploring the Oaks pit for the dead when a second explosion took place, killing thirty more, eighty dead bodies had been taken out and eight engineers, who were still alive, but horribly mangled. All efforts to explore the pit further had to be abandoned. On the third day three more explosions took place in the same pit, and flames rushed out of the shaft in great volumes, showing the mine to be on fire. Upwards of six hundred lives have been lost in all by these explosions. The most affecting scenes occurred at the mouth of the pit, to which the friends and families of the lost all rushed, and could not be driven away. Upwards of 160 widows and 330 orphans, from this calamity, have been counted up to this time. Subscriptions have been opened throughout England for their relief. The 30 bodies taken out were all buried at one great solemn funeral.

—The Ocean Yacht Race has been won by the *Henrietta*. The arrival of the yachts off Cowes was the occasion of a number of demonstrations. The Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Alfred) has accepted a challenge from one of the American Yachtsmen, Mr. Bennet, for a race in August next.

—Stephens, the C. O. I. R., has never been out of New York, notwithstanding the reports of his presence in England and France. A recent meeting of the brotherhood has deposed him, denouncing him as a humbug. Gen. Gleeson has been elected in his stead. Fenianism, if we are to believe the American papers, is at an end.

The Confederation delegates are progressing most favorably in England. They meet daily, and it is said, have succeeded in overcoming some difficulties which presented themselves. A bill for the union of the Provinces will be ready to be submitted to Parliament as soon as it meets. Messrs. Macdonald, Cartier and Galt were for some days the guests of Lord Carnarvon at his private residence, and Messrs. Howland and Macdougall were similarly honored by Mr. Cardwell.

A despatch has been received from Lord Carnarvon to Lord Monck in reference to the Fenian convicts. The Colonial Secretary while approving of the conduct of the Canadian Government in furnishing, at Mr. Seward's request, a record of the trial, denies strongly the right of any foreign government to sit in appeal on the judicial proceedings of the Canadian Courts. The sentences on the prisoners are commuted to twenty years imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary, and it is intimated that in case of a future raid, the extreme penalty of the law will be enforced.