

government in state affairs; a privilege asked for and freely granted to us Canadians by the Queen of England. And thus being admitted, if we are capable of governing ourselves in state affairs, should we not be as capable of directing our masonic affairs? Is it not customary for the son, at mature age, to assume the right and independence of a man, though entertaining, at the same time, feelings of love and gratitude towards the parent who reared him? If it is illegal for the Lodges of Canada to form a Grand Lodge, is not the position of the son towards the father precisely the same, and would not the admission of this principal be preposterous? And, does not the justification of our position by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, a masonic body, second to none in the world, prove that ours has been no rebellious act? An opportunity is now afforded to those who have condemned us. Let them prove to the masonic world that, in opposing the movement, they were animated by a desire to save their erring brethren from stultification, and that they were possessed of the most clear evidence of the illegality of our proceedings. Should they prove this how thankfully will we resign ourselves to the direction of these our kind mentors, and how eagerly will we avail ourselves of their valuable advice. Should they fail to prove our error how grateful shall we all be, that circumstances have deprived us of their official powers and advice, and how deeply shall we regret that such strenuous opposition to a laudable undertaking has been offered without more justifiable reasons. I may have the pleasure of addressing you again. In the meantime, Sir and Bro., I remain yours truly,

A FREEMASON.

Montreal June 6, 1856.

The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templars of the United States, will hold their triennial meeting in Hartford, Conn., the early part of next month. Delegates from every State in the Union, to the number of about 200, are expected to be present. At the May Session of the Grand Lodge in that State, a large committee was appointed to make suitable arrangements for the reception of the distinguished delegates who will be present on that occasion. The committee have it in contemplation to give their guests a splendid steamboat excursion, down the river to the Sound, and give a banquet at some one of the large hotels in that vicinity.

CHIEF POINT, PRINCIPAL POINT, AND POINT WITHIN A CIRCLE.—The first teaches us to be happy, and communicate happiness. The second includes brotherly love, relief, and truth. The third teaches us to circumscribe our actions within the limits of scriptural commands.

FREEMASONRY IN THE EAST.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* alludes to the existence of Mahomedan freemasons in European Turkey, whose tendency, signs, and other modes of recognition are identical with those of the masons of other countries of Europe. Amongst the nine lodges of the order, there happen to be several members of high rank, and now enjoying great influence at Constantinople. The grand Master of the order in European Turkey is Tzani Ismael Zscholak Mahomimed Saede, who resides at Belgrade.—In addition to the particulars of the freemasons in Turkey, it may be stated that they eschew polygamy, and only recognise one wife, whom they permit to appear at the lodge banquets unveiled. At these banquets wine is drunk, toasts are proposed, and the masons are acquainted with the "Kentish Fire," though under another and more barbarous appellation. In addition to a brown shawl, or handkerchief, worked with certain masonic symbols, and worn round the neck, the Turkish freemasons wear in open lodge, also round their necks, as insigma of the order, a flat white marble polished slab of twelve sides and two inches in diameter. On these are a number of reddish brown spots to represent blood, and indicate that the founder of the order in Turkey, Ali Effendi, suffered martyrdom rather than reveal the secrets of the fraternity. The convent of Senkedgi Teekar, belonging to the sect known as the Dancing Dervishes, is the largest establishment belonging to the order at Constantinople. In Persia Freemasonry is also widely distributed, the brethren being estimated at 50,000. In Arabia there are about 20,000 freemasons.—*Daily News*.

DARKNESS.—The darkness of Masonry is invested with a dignified reference, because it is attached to a system of truth. It places before the mind a series of the most awful and impressive images. It points to the darkness of death and the obscurity of the grave, as the forerunners of a more brilliant and never-fading light which follows at the resurrection of the just. Figure to yourself the beauty and strict propriety of this reference, ye who have been raised to the third degree of Masonry. Were your minds enveloped in the shades of that darkness? So shall you again be involved in the darkness of the grave, when death has drawn his sable curtain around you. Did you rise to a splendid scene of intellectual brightness? So, if you are obedient to the precepts of Masonry and the dictates of religion, shall you rejoice on the resurrection morn, when the clouds of error and imperfection are separated from your mind, and you behold with unveiled eye the glories which issue from the expanse of heaven, the everlasting splendors of the throne of God!

FREEMASONRY.—Masonry, whitened with the frost of ages, comes down to us bearing on his grim countenance and furrowed brow the relics of antiquity. It lives, while kings and conquerors have passed away, and thrones and scepters crumbled to dust—while cities which were once renowned for their greatness, and magnificence, and splendor, have had *Ichabod* written upon them by the finger of time, and empires rocked and crushed have split into fragments and disappeared—Masonry, like some mighty tree, has spread itself from the centre to the circumference of our globe. Neither the weakness nor perfidy of its proposed friends, nor the malice of its enemies, have been able to retard its onward march, or for any length of time cripple its energies.

Rob Morris.

A visit from that distinguished mason, Rob Morris, of Kentucky, is shortly anticipated by the brethren of Norfolk Lodge. He will receive that hearty and fraternal welcome to which his eminent services in the cause of masonry richly entitle him. We will give our readers an account of the proceedings. We sincerely hope Bro. Morris will find it convenient, while in Canada, to honour more than one lodge with his presence. If he will "approach the east," he shall find in Montreal a cordial welcome in many hearts and homes.

At the moment of going to press we have received, through the courtesy of a friend, several numbers of the *London Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror*, which from some unaccountable cause, has not, so far as we can learn, been received in Montreal by any one of its subscribers for the last six months. The non-reception of this valuable periodical has been to us a source of great annoyance. From a hasty glance at one or two numbers, we perceive it contains much matter of interest to the Canadian craft, which we shall lay before our readers in the next number of the *Pioneer*.

Among other matters of importance we notice that the English Lodges in the West India Islands, are contemplating a move in the footsteps of their Canadian brethren, in the formation of a "*West India Grand Lodge*," as will be seen by the following letter.

To the Editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror*.

SIR AND BROTHER,—You will now learn, no doubt with feelings of pain, a determination which will be carried out at no distant period, unless immediate measures are adopted by Grand Lodge, or the W. M. the Grand Master, for benefitting subordinate Lodges in the West Indies; and such can only be done by the appointment of fit and proper Masons as Provincial Grand Masters;—men who, although not blessed with title or honors, are yet good and true, and have a perfect knowledge of our institution.

The object is to call a meeting, at one of the central West India Islands, of delegates from each Lodge holding of England, for the purpose of propounding measures for the establishment or formation of a "*West India Grand Lodge*." It is not known as yet who the representative from this island will be; but the general opinion of the craft is that it will be Bro. Daniel Hart, whose exertions in the cause of freemasonry are undeniable. I will on a future occasion give further particulars.

I am, &c.,

P. B.

Port of Spain, 8th May, 1856.

BIRTHS.

In this City, on the 11th ultimo, the wife of Bro. Baxter, of a son.

In Montreal, on the 4th ultimo, the wife of Bro. D. Moss, of a son.

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