

a sound Masonic historical literature. Not that we desire to say that before that period Masonic writers were unknown, for their name is legion. It has, however, only been in recent years that Masonic authors have awakened to the thought that the Craft required something more than a mixture of fact, legend, and "Fond things vainly invented" in the mental pabulum provided for it.

The works of Anderson, Preston, Oliver, Kloss, and others, which in the past were authorities to conjure by, are no longer accepted as containing the true history of the Craft. They have been subject to the closest scrutiny, and the rules of literary criticism, when applied to them, have conclusively proved that they are no longer entitled to rank as text-books although they will probably for all time be cherished as literary curiosities. The educational progress of the times has had a beneficial effect on Masonic literature, and in a few years it has been raised from the level of fairy tales to a position of which it need no longer be ashamed.

Masonic history and archaeology may now be thoroughly studied, and the names of such writers as Mackay, Gould, Lyon, Hughan, Speth, Sadler, Lane, Whympier, Woodford, Whythead, Yarker, and others are as familiar to reading Masons as are those of the old school above mentioned. Their labors in the cause of Masonic literature have been enormous, and the excellence of their work has widened the field of study and greatly increased the number of Masonic students, thereby benefitting the Craft in a high degree.

The Masonic newspaper press, too, has become a real power for good in Masonry; and although it has not nearly reached the standard of perfection which all earnest Masons must desire for it, yet it is in English-speaking countries doing much for the welfare of the Craft by keeping before Masons the progress of the institution in all parts of the world, stirring them up to the performance of their Masonic

duties, materially assisting in the establishment of international Masonic law and uniformity of legislation.

We must not omit to say a word of praise for that form of periodical Masonic literature which is, we are sorry to say, almost confined to America. We mean the annual reports of the Committees on Correspondence of American and Canadian Grand Lodges. We consider that they occupy a most important place in Masonic literature, but, as in a recent issue of this paper, we specially dwelt upon their merits, we regret that we must refrain from again setting forth their value to the Craft. We recommend our Brethren to get one of them and read it. We know that the verdict will be favorable.

The growing taste for the study by Masons of Masonic literature has naturally stirred up a desire for the formation of Masonic libraries. In England the Grand Lodge of England has for many years been slowly gathering together a collection of works on Masonry, but as yet the authorities of that body have not developed any ardent desire to provide the home of English Freemasonry with such a library as becomes the position it occupies in the Masonic world, and unless some change is made it is probable that it is the Lodge of Quatuor Coronati, No. 2,076, that now world-famed Lodge of Masonic students, that the English Craft will have to thank for supplying the wants which the ruling body should take in hand. The library of that Lodge already numbers many volumes, besides rare MSS. and Masonic curiosities.

The formation of Masonic libraries is receiving attention from several Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodges in England. Choice collections of Masonic books are possessed by several Masonic students, notably by Bro. Whympier, of India. In America our Brethren appear to realize more fully the value of Masonic libraries. Many of their Grand Lodges have given their attention to the matter, whilst the Masonic library of the Grand Lodge of