

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

XI.

specified by the By-laws in which a ballot might be taken, which requests, of course, I refused. It is devoutly hoped that the time will quickly come when the officers and members of all our subordinate Chapters will realize the fact that the Grand High Priest should support and maintain the laws, rules, and regulations of our Institution, and not break them, or set them aside at will, to accommodate any and every so-called case of emergency."

A revised Constitution was adopted, and a resolution passed forbidding Chapters to return to their members any dues paid in.

Comp. John H. Barber, (a lineal descendant of the celebrated "Billy"), makes his *debut* as a Reporter. His review comprises thirty-seven Grand Chapters (including Canada for 1876), which necessitated the reading of 5,000 pages. In his notice of New York, he says:—

"The report of the Grand Secretary shows a decrease of the affiliated members of three hundred and twenty-four, caused by the large number suspended for non-payment of dues, which he says may reasonably be accounted for by the inability of many Companions to pay their dues in consequence of protracted and general depression of business. Such being the fact would not a little Masonic charity have saved many valuable members which are now cast off? We should regret to have the name of any Companion from Connecticut stricken from the roll of his Chapter (we do not suspend them) whose only offense, if you call it an offense, is inability to pay. Remember, honest poverty is no disgrace though many times quite inconvenient."

Which are just our sentiments exactly.

We can find nothing to "pitch into" him about this time. His report is ably written, and with good judgment, and we give him a hearty welcome into the ranks, and hope to hear from him often. In his conclusion he has some further remarks on suspensions for non-payment of dues, which are worthy of note:

"Among the few disputed points, in which there seems great diversity of opinion, we would notice: striking from the roll, and suspension for non-payment of dues. In most jurisdictions the penalty is suspension, not only from Lodge membership, but from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, which severs their connection with or causes the Chapter to refuse them admission when suspended by their Lodge for non-payment of dues.

"Thus, during the past year, 3,456 have been cast out and sent forth as non-affiliated, which has become a name of reproach. Without entering into a discussion as to the justice or expediency of this mode of discipline, it forcibly admonishes us that in the past we have made Masonry too cheap. The theory put forth, that once a Mason always a Mason, at a time when most Lodges and Chapters did not