

clergymen and others, being seated behind and on the sides. The 'candidate,' an individual whose skin had apparently not seen soap and water for many days, was about an hour and a half in passing through the ordeal, and, as the ceremony 'developed,' the scene became disgraceful, and many ladies left, the remaining spectators also becoming restless. The candidate, while taking the degree, was dressed, according to the 'exposers,' in the customary manner, but this was simply disgusting, as his only garments were an old blue flannel undershirt and white under drawers, the left leg of which was rolled up to the knee. Over his eyes was a green shade, such as is worn at night by the working force of a newspaper office. Here, barefooted, with one leg bared, and only partially clad, the candidate received his instructions from the various grand worthy officers, and then came the administration of the various oaths. The clergymen made a perfect farce of this ceremony, and, while repeating the most solemn oaths which could be made, one of them occasionally gave vent to his mirth, and directly after reproved the audience for ridiculing such a solemnity. The Bible was then kissed by the candidate, and, after various other forms, which assumed the manner of a burlesque, the fellow was declared to have been admitted to the rights of Freemasonry as if initiated in a Lo' room. During this performance, several individuals, who showed their indignation, were suppressed, but at its conclusion Mr. T. W. Silloway, the well-known architect, asked permission to make a few remarks, and was granted the privilege. He began by saying that he was surprised to see, and thought that the clergymen ought to be thoroughly ashamed to allow, such a disgraceful scene to occur within the walls which had been consecrated to God. He said that he had been a Mason for twenty-five years, had been in many Lodge rooms, and assisted in the ceremonies, and that, by his experience, he was prepared to say that most of the remarks of the clergymen were complete falsehoods, and that the performance was a most disgraceful and untruthful representation. He was very emphatic in his remarks, and when he concluded the wildest disorder prevailed. Ladies and gentlemen rose to their feet and applauded him to the echo. The clergymen who had participated in the performance demanded of him an answer to what particular part of the proceedings was not a truthful representation, but Mr. Silloway declined to answer, more than to say that a great part of it was false, and that he did not care to discuss the secrets of Masonry, which is an organization of brotherly union, and not a sectarian order. A deal of cross questioning followed, amid great confusion, and the

meeting dissolved. It was announced that the 'candidate' would take the third degree this evening, when more 'exposures' will be made.

The *Keystone* of the 14th February publishes a communication from a Brother in Boston referring to this exhibition, and condemns very strongly the pastor of the church in which it was given. He says that the row which these mountebanks stirred up was not caused by Masons, but the common sense of the people soon discovered the animus of the parties exhibiting, and put them down. The *Keystone's* correspondent then refers to those who have filled the office of Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and among them will be found many of the most eminent divines of the State, clergymen of all denominations,—excepting, of course, Roman Catholics—among whom he names Bishop Randall, of the Protestant Episcopal church, a man distinguished for his learning, his piety, and his devotion; Bishop Griswold, and Bishop Bass, the first Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Massachusetts. "The pastor," says the correspondent, "who allowed mountebanks to desecrate his pulpit in order to cast ridicule and contempt on Freemasonry, may deem himself a happy man if he could be ranked with the distinguished prelates who have thought it an honor to be a Mason."

A Suggestion—A. & A. Rite and A. & P. Rite.

BY "VERITAS EST DULCE."

A great deal during the past year appeared in the *CRAFTSMAN*, from St. Elmo, S. P. R. S. and others, regarding the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Thirty-Three Degrees, and the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Thirty-Three Degrees, and some pretty lively sparring took place amongst the different writers regarding these bodies; now we propose to offer a suggestion regarding the Supreme Grand Council of the A. & A. Rite, and the Sovereign