

and write his own name sufficiently intelligible, provided it represents a good round sum of money. Why then disqualify him as to deeds of charity through Masonic channels? Pshaw! It is not necessary to argue against an indefensible question. The California law, as quoted by my good Brother Belcher, condemns this obsolete view of physical perfection. It says the candidate must be 'ABLE TO CONFORM LITERALLY to what the several degrees require of him. Wherein is the man with only one eye disqualified from conforming 'LITERALLY' to 'what the several degrees respectfully require of him?' I fail to see it with both of my eyes wide open."

TRAVELS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

A disastrous fire recently destroyed the Masonic Temple at Cairo, Egypt. Two English and two Italian Lodges, viz.: The Nile, El Salam, Bulwer and Greece, which held their meetings in the building, lost all their valuable Masonic records, as well as the expensive furniture and regalia. There was no insurance on the premises.

The famous spies employed by the Doges and the Inquisitors of State, were incapable, until 1785, of discovering, and in fact never suspected the existence of, a Masonic Lodge in Venice. So careful were the brethren, and so secret were their meetings, that for over half a century Freemasonry progressed slowly but surely in the very centre of bigotry and cruel opposition. An unfortunate accident revealed to the Inquisition that a Lodge existed. Returning from a meeting one of the brethren dropped some papers in his gondola. These consisted of the minutes and roll of members. The gondolier, not understanding what the documents were, seeing that they were all in cypher, handed them over to his brother, who was a priest, and by him was counselled to take them to the authorities. This was accordingly done, and on the following night thirty men, led by a trust-

ed messenger of the Inquisition, were conducted by the gondolier to the locality where he had taken the brother on the previous evening. A search was instituted and the Lodge was discovered. Everything was seized and subsequently burned by the common hangman in the public place. It is recorded in a publication urging the extirpation of the Craft, which was published at Venice in 1785, that the strange collection of regalia, emblems, furniture, etc., heaped in the square caused great excitement among the populace, who thought that Freemasonry was nothing more than another form of witchcraft. The members of the Lodge which had been discovered were imprisoned, after having been tortured, but were later on liberated on condition that they left the country.

At a recent conference of Masons held in Madrid, the captain of the Spanish warship Puente, who is a member of the fraternity, gave some interesting information about the island of Fernando Po, of which he had been a governor. Among other things, he told his hearers that the Spanish government had disbursed 1,793,293 francs to convert 470 niggers to the Catholic faith. According to the gallant captain, the conversion never lasted more than a month.

Lodge Universe, in the city of Asuncion, Paraguay, has founded a night school for young workmen and clerks who are employed at their business during the day. The best teachers have been engaged to give instruction, and at latest reports the school was largely attended, and was a great success.

The Chinese custom of blowing out a light, after making an important statement, is one of the signs adopted by the T'ien-Ti, which is one of the most powerful secret societies in China. The candidate for admission into its ranks has to reply to 333 questions put to him by the Chief in open Lodge, and, holding a lighted candle, takes the oath of fidelity. He then blows out the light, at the same time saying, "May