

the Italian Lodges, not only in the Peninsula, but also by those in Egypt, the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Sydney, Cape Town, New York and Geneva.—*N. Z. Craftsman.*

The proceedings at Exeter, in connection with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon, will be a source of gratification to many besides those who are members of the Masonic body. The selection by the Prince of Wales of Sir Stafford Northcote as the successor of Viscount Ebrington in the Grand Mastership of Devon met with universal approval. Sir Stafford, as the Mark Master Mason of Devon, had made the acquaintance of the chief members of the Order in all parts of the county, and the manner in which he had applied himself to the duties of the Mark degree led to a general expression of satisfaction when it was announced the honorable baronet had been selected as the chief of the Craft in the Province. The position is one of distinction. The office is surrounded by high traditions. Of Sir Stafford's two immediate predecessors it may be said that Viscount Ebrington was respected for his impartiality; while the Rev. John Huyshe was beloved for his goodness of heart and his life-long devotion to the interests of Masonry. None who know Sir Stafford Northcote will doubt his determination to do everything which may be needed to win the esteem and confidence of the Brethren, so that when in due course he leaves the chair it will be with a record which will bear comparison with that of any of his predecessors. The assembly in Exeter was a memorable one. The reception which was accorded to Sir Stafford Northcote was of the kind that no man can ever forget. He starts on his term of office with the good wishes of all, and the hope that his career as Provincial Grand Master of Devon may be long, brilliant and happy.—*Devon and Exeter Daily Gazette.*

When the present M.W.G.M. of New Zealand, Bro. Wm. Barron, met the late M. W. Bro. Gillon, P. G. M., on

board the steamer when he returned from his fruitless journey to Australia he said to him (Bro. Barron) that "he (Bro. Gillon) had learned to regard the approach of death, not as a grim Tyrant, but as a kind messenger sent to summon him from a life of pain and torture to a well-earned rest." What a lesson for our younger brethren!—*Masonry.*

We shall watch with considerable interest the proceedings of the International Anti-Masonic Congress, which is to be held in Austria at the end of September, for it is likely to afford a solution to a question which, to our knowledge, has never received an adequate answer. How is it that the entire Roman Catholic hierarchy, from the Pope downwards, are possessed of such bitter hatred against Freemasonry? No doubt the Church has an inherent objection to secret societies in general, but this is not a sufficient explanation of such continuous denunciation. At all events, we shall find out the reason of this bitter antagonism from the Congress, for its great object will be to spread abroad a knowledge of "immense moral and material evils done by Freemasonry to the Church and society." We ourselves have always imagined Freemasons to be an eminently respectable and peaceable society, whose worst offense was a genial tendency to self-entertainment.—*Westminster Gazette.*

M. Wor. Bro. Lord Brassey, G. M., Victoria, was invested on June 18th as S. W. of the Combermere Lodge, No. 752 E. C., the only Lodge working under the E. C. in Victoria. He, when leaving the Warden's Chair to resume his place on the dais, placed his Warden's collar around P. M. Bro. E. Lenthal Oldfield's neck and requested him to act as his Deputy at any meetings of the Lodge at which he, Bro. Lord Brassey, might be absent.—*Masonry.*

A most amusing *leipsus lingue* occurred at a Melbourne suburban Lodge recently. A P. M., whose work is as a rule very well performed, was giving the T. H. when, for some unaccountable reason, he said "stuck a sprig of shil-