

remarks said to have been made by the Chancellor of the Empire, Prince Bismarck, in which he insinuates that the Freemasons are more dangerous than the Jesuits. His words have been taken by many of the German brethren to be a signal for a campaign against the Order. It may be that some of the German Freemasons have been rather indiscreet, and have forgotten that Freemasonry has nothing to do with politics. It is not at all likely that the Order which has the Emperor as its Patron, and the Imperial Crown Prince as its Grand Master, will be opposed by such a sagacious and polite statesman as Prince Bismarck. The reported speech may have been a little friendly advice, and a suggestion to the Freemasons to mind their own business.

DURING the recent session of the English Parliament, Mr. O'Donnell, (Home Ruler) asked the Secretary of State for Ireland to lay on the table the oath or form of attestation of the Irish Constabulary, and asked whether it was a fact that Freemasonry was the only secret society to which members of that force were permitted to belong. The Right Hon. W. E. Forster replied that the oath contained the following passage:—"I do not belong to, and will not, while I shall hold the same office, join, subscribe, or belong to any political society whatever, or any secret society whatever, unless to the society of Freemasons." (The reading of this clause was received with laughter). Mr. Forster went on to say that it would be worse than absurd to allow a member of the Constabulary to belong to a secret society as generally understood. With regard to the Society of Freemasons, he believed it was not generally thought to have the political evils of a secret society. Many Royal Princes, including the Prince of Wales, were members of it, and he could not imagine, therefore, that there was anything disloyal in it. We think that this is but a just

and righteous testimony to the character of our Order, and is an answer of no mean value to those who attack and slander the Fraternity.

THE Corner Stone of the obelisk which has recently been brought from Alexandria to New York, was laid in that city with Masonic ceremonies on the 9th ult. The Grand Lodge assembled at the Masonic Temple and proceeded in open carriages to the Central Park, where the Obelisk is to be erected—Apollo Commandery of Knights Templar acting as an escort, and there were also nearly 10,000 Masons in the procession. Upon reaching the place, the column opened out, and the Grand Lodge passed through. The usual Masonic ceremonies having been performed, and the Grand Master having proclaimed the Corner-Stone duly laid in ample form, delivered an address to the assembly. In concluding his remarks he said:—

.. The ancient workman did not build for an age, but for eternity. So with us, Brethren; we may not consider that our efforts amount to much of themselves, but nevertheless every one has his influence, and in a greater or less degree we contribute to the aggregate whole. Let it be our endeavor, therefore, to lay the foundation of our character on a broad, sure and deep foundation; let it be such as will bear the appearance of the plumb, square and level; let us continue to build upon this foundation a character which is above reproach in the sight of Him who ruleth all things. And when finally we have completed our task, erected a monument of moral grandeur and symmetry, achieved something which is for the welfare and advancement of the human race, then in after years the coming generation will treasure your memory, imitate your example, point to your deeds, and draw inspiration from your life as one worthy of their veneration. Such a monument will be more enduring than even that of stone, and the chiseled record, long after the tracings upon the stone shall have become obliterated, will stand out in its original sharpness, telling of grand enterprises and noble works which are the real monuments of a successful life. Let us, therefore, labor faithfully in the present, looking forward to the reward promised to him who performs his whole duty, and