

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

A NEW DEVICE.

WHEREVER Romanism is dominant Free Masonry is attacked tooth and nail. In France, Belgium and Italy, stories, as apocryphal as the miracles of "Our Lady of Lourdes," are gravely published in the papers devoted to the interests of the Papacy. It may appear incredible to our readers, but it is nevertheless true, that the clerical journals in those countries persist, in spite of the most authoritative denials, in charging Free Masonry with practising *the most abominable blasphemies within its Lodges*. Romanism has, however, hit upon a somewhat novel engine wherewith to demolish the Craft. Time has shown that a large proportion of the best men continue, year by year, to swell our ranks. Anathemas hurled by ignorance—slanders galvanized by falsehood may keep some back, but not many, nor for long, in due time the worthiest find their way to our doors seeking Light and Truth. In due time their eyes are opened and they discover that Freemasonry has its foundations laid broad and deep upon immutable verities of the existence of God and the immortality of the Soul; that within the Lodge a man is simply a man, vanity, egotism and ambition are replaced by Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

To return, however, to "our friend the enemy" and the latest device to root out Freemasonry. For our facts we are indebted to the correspondence of our contemporary *The Chain of the Union* (Paris). Nearly two years ago a young and thriving merchant of Batavia, in the Island of Java, resolved to take unto himself a wife. He applied for the hand of a young lady of his acquaintance, and his application was received by her family with every mark of favor. The future husband became a welcome guest at his *fiance's* home. The formal betrothal took place, and "all went merry as a marriage bell." Soon the young lover hoped to be made the happiest of men. But he was reckoning without his host. A difficulty arose. The Romish clergy had discovered that our young friend was the son of a man who had been a staunch Freemason in his day, and who had, in Belgium, been a prominent antagonist of the clerical party there. Of course, the son would follow in his father's footsteps unless some wise and friendly hand interfered. The interference took place. The parents of the young lady were charged to withdraw their consent to the union unless they could obtain their intended son-in-law's promise that he would never become a Freemason. To everybody's surprise the young merchant avowed respect and veneration for his late father: refused to make any promise of the kind demanded; and had the cool audacity to declare that he fully intended to propose himself as a candidate for initiation in the mysteries of Freemasonry. He alleged as his reason for this determination that he desired to remain free both in his religious and political opinions. Bigotry prevailed. The parents revoked their consent. The marriage was broken off. Two young lives were severed. But, after all, the object of the Romanists was not attained. The young man hastened to apply for initiation—was elected and made a Mason. Nor is this all; many other gentlemen of high standing, in Batavia, were induced, by the noise which the event made, to enquire for themselves, and in a short time to follow our hero's example. We need not add any comments. The world's history affords instances enough to emphasize the moral that "persecution fails to coerce any but the weak and the unworthy."

Railroad agents are always ready to answer a fare question.