

We have endeavoured to point out the difficulties that may arise in the Craft should Grand Lodges attempt to make the Institution subordinate to temperance societies, and thereby rob Freemasonry of its peculiar system of morality, which consists in appealing to the intelligence of its adherents rather than coercing them. In doing so we have expressed our admiration not only of temperance but of total abstinence, and asserted that if Freemasons became teetotalers it would be better for them. In submitting his report on foreign correspondence to the Grand Lodge of Dakota, Bro. F. J. Thompson said:—"While we deprecate most strongly the excessive use of spirituous liquors, we believe that the Grand Lodge which specifically identifies itself with the prohibition movement has sucked into its body a germ which unless destroyed, will eventually blot out that universal bond that now elevates us above all other human institutions, in that we recognize the intrinsic worth of man, and cast aside his religious or political opinions and sentiments. A precedent once established, however small, is like the mustard seed, requiring the utmost diligence to prevent it from destroying the fruits of his long years of toil."

Bro. Dewar, in his *Free Press* column holds views regarding the occupancy of the Grand East that have long been entertained by us. Nature never intended every aspirant for the Grand East to occupy that position, and some brethren who have filled it have proven positively that there are not only freaks of nature but that nature can be outraged. This is Bro. Dewar's argument:—"When the Craft has secured

a brother like R. T. Walkem for the Grand East, one who adorns the position from every point of view, we hold that it would be to the best interests of Masonry to retain him for a few years in that office. Of course, doing so may cause one respected brother to be a trifle longer in securing the title of 'most worshipful,' but he can well afford to wait. When the Craft has a gentleman in the Grand East whose judgment, foresight and knowledge stand out so boldly above all the others, it behooves the brethren to retain him in that position until he manifests a desire to be relieved of the responsibilities. That is the consensus of feeling among Grand Lodge members in the West, and it should be the case all over the jurisdiction. To 'conserve what is good' is a maxim which might be taken more deeply to heart by many Craftsmen with beneficial results to themselves and the Order."

The North-west Indians have a tradition connected with the deluge, in which it is affirmed that the Evil One, seeing the world destroyed, decided to replace it. He let loose a beaver, knowing that it would go down through the deep waters in search of land. Alas, the beaver, however, was not equal to the emergency, as his dead body arose to the surface in due time. He then let loose a musk rat, and met with more success, as it found bottom, but on reaching the surface instantly expired. On examining its paw some earth was found embedded in the claws. The Evil One took the earth in his hand, and blowing upon it saw it grow rapidly. He continued to blow until he thought the new world was as large as the destroy-