

The New York 'Dispatch' says:—"Looking over the transactions of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska for 1882, we find in the report on Correspondence a statement over the signature of N. K. Griggs, concerning Freemasonry in Germany, in the course of which it is stated that in America a candidate is made to canter around the lodge on a goat, but in Germany the lodge contents itself by exhibiting a painting of a sheep, and explaining to the candidate that in former times Masonic knowledge was conferred while riding the peaceful animal, and there is no attempt to explain this beautiful allegory. Now, the person who wrote the goat and sheep business either knows nothing about Freemasonry, or he knew that he was penning a deliberate falsehood, and the committee allowed it to appear without a word of explanation. This seems to us a greater outrage on the proprieties than if it had been published in a comic journal, for then it would be taken for a joke; but when in an official document we are treated to such burlesque without any possible excuse, it is about time to pause.

"And this leads us to the general remark that levity in words or acts has no place in connection with Masonic proceedings, and it should be the duty of every brother who has respect for the Craft to guard against it in himself or others.

It strikes us that the committee which allowed the matter complained of to appear in its report, is deserving of severe censure at the hands of the Grand Lodge, and not again trusted with an opportunity to bring the fraternity into contempt."—[We fully concur with the above remarks.—ED. CRAFTSMAN.

SOLOMON'S LODGE, No. 1.—The following news from the *London Freemason* is interesting. Solomon's Lodge, No. 1, was constituted at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on May 23, 1771, and the first article of the By-laws adopted at that time contains

the following provisions, which will strike the reader now as odd as they are unnecessary:—

"In open lodge without order or decency a dissolution must be the consequence. Therefore, at the third stroke of the Master's hammer, a profound silence must be observed, and if any brother curses, swears, or says anything irreligious, obscene or ludicrous, holds private committees, disputes about religion or politics, offers to lay any wagers, interrupts another brother who is speaking to the Master, or hisses at what he is or has been speaking, is not on his legs when he has anything to say to the Master, sits down unclothed or with his hat on, or smokes tobacco in the open lodges, or is disguised in liquor during lodge hours, such offending brother shall for the first offence be gently reproved (!) and admonished by the Master, for the second offence shall be fined one shilling, for the third offence shall be fined two shillings, and for the fourth offence to be immediately expelled from the lodge, and never be admitted again as a member or visitor, unless he be balloted for and received in like manner with a strange brother, paying all fines due as per these By laws, and eight shillings as a new admission fee, if he chooses to be reinstated as a member."

The Grand Orient of Italy has under its obedience 185 lodges, of which 120 are actively at work. Each lodge has an average of 50 members, making a total of about 10,000 Italian Masons. The budget of receipts and expenditures amounts to about 400,000 francs annually. The Italian Masons are very earnest in holding a Masonic Congress, which is to assemble at Rome, on which occasion they propose to consecrate a splendid Necropolis in the cemetery of Campo Varano.—*Masonic Review*.

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