

well do, that almost without exception the lodges are as poor as the E. A. in the N. E. corner? Let the charity be as the fathers understood it—individual charity—and make the lodge the place where all the moral and social virtues are fostered and promoted; then will brotherly love prevail, and the lodge be truly “a sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention would exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.”

—Chas. Inglesby, *Gr. S., So. Carolina.*

### NEW YORK MASONIC LIBRARY.

A correspondent in writing of the Masonic Temple in New York, gives the following interesting account of its history:—“Where there are books and records that have no duplicates in this country, one is a three-volume folio work, bound in vellum, printed in Latin with large type in the year 1604. This gives a description of King Solomon’s Temple, and has several finely-executed engravings, maps, designs of architecture, and pictures showing the customs of the ancient Jews. The work was gotten up for and dedicated to Philip II. of Spain, by a distinguished member of the Society of Jesus. A ‘black letter Bible’ of about the same date is in the library. It is supposed to be a copy of the famous ‘Breeches Bible,’ but the page which should have proved this is absent. With this exception the work is perfect, and has many curious charts. The coarse language of the period is apparent, and its republication would soon be stopped by Anthony Comstock’s society. Other-curious Bibles are in the collection. An old English work, giving the history of the Masonic Society or Society of Builders, from the time of William the Conqueror to the date of publication—about the beginning of the last century—is a curiosity. It gives the names of all the Grand Masters for

nearly a thousand years. To a student it is both valuable and interesting. The constituents of Freemasonry in England, published nearly two hundred years ago, giving the officers of the twenty lodges then existing in England, form three small volumes. They are dated from 1723 to 1753. When it is known that England now has 2,000 or more lodges under its jurisdiction, without reckoning the United States or any other country, the growth of the institution is surprising. A receipt book, in which the Grand Treasurers of the Grand Lodge of New York recorded the moneys paid to them in early days, is also a curiosity. Many of the receipts are signed by John Jacob Astor, the grandfather of the present owner of that name. Astor lodge, No. 603, is named after him. The history of the transportation of the Obelisk to this country, and the Masonic ceremonies attending its erection here, printed for private circulation by the late William H. Vanderbilt at great expense, is among the volumes, and was presented to the Grand Lodge Library by the late Commander Gorringer, who was a very earnest Freemason. A number of works, published during the exciting times of the anti-Masonic crusade, are also in the library. Both sides of the struggle are therein related. These books were preserved by Masons during that eventful period, and now, when the principal actors have passed away, become objects of historical curiosity. Lots of Masonic magazines, works of distinguished Masonic authors, and encyclopædias, go to make this library one of the most valuable for reference to be found anywhere in the United States.”

### A MASONIC WARNING.

Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, at the constitution of a new lodge recently, uttered these warning words:—“I warn this lodge,