

on Freemasonry have been very frequent of late. Archbishop Taschereau says:—"That the Sovereign Pontiffs have been standing on the walls of the city of God for the last century and a half sounding the alarm against Freemasonry." A century and a half! Why, a few years before that the Grand Lodge of England had not yet been formed, some of the old operative lodges were still working, but so quietly, and they had grown so weak, that it seemed only a question of a short time before in all probability they should cease to exist. I do not think that the alarm sounded by the Sovereign Pontiffs had anything to do with causing the contrary effect from what they intended, but certainly the contrary has been attained, the few lodges that were then struggling for an existence, trying to preserve our ancient secrets from disappearing altogether, have grown into a mighty number, covering the whole face of the globe. (Cheers.) A century and a half! Why, it is exactly a century and a half ago, 1784, that the first lodge in Philadelphia was established, with Benjamin Franklin as its first Master—exactly a century and a half ago that the first Masonic book ever printed on this continent was sent forth from Franklin's press, Anderson's Constitutions. In spite of the alarms sounded by the Sovereign Pontiffs during this century and a half, there are to-day on this continent 600,000 actually affiliated Masons, and when you consider that no one under the age of twenty-one years is admitted, that no women are included, that no one is solicited, that every name must be balloted for, and that one black ball excludes, that every candidate must declare that he applies of his own free will and accord, unbiassed by the improper solicitation of his friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives, it certainly does not seem that the sounding of the alarm for the century and a half has been very effective. (Cheers.) I hope that the

alarm sounded by our Tylers of the approach of those who were not worthy to be enrolled in our lists has done more to prevent the increase of our membership. During this century and a half the princes and rulers of England have enrolled themselves under our banner. A century and a half ago, 1787, Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, and father of George III., was initiated into Freemasonry. George the third was, and every king of England since has been, a Freemason. Our beloved Queen is the daughter of a Freemason, and the mother of a family of Freemasons. To Freemasons she owes the fact of being born an Englishwoman. The distinguished lord after whom one of the lodges giving this entertainment is named—Lord Zetland—with two others, each subscribed £5,000 to enable the Duke and Duchess of Kent to come to England from Germany for the Duchess' confinement. Do you wonder that England's Queen is proud to subscribe herself as the Patroness of Freemasonry? (Cheers.) What are the accusations brought against Freemasons? Pope Leo XIII says:—"That they conceal with the utmost care, not only from the outside, but from their associates, their secret and important resolutions, the names and persons of their chief leaders, certain secret and clandestine meetings, as well as their decrees and the ways and means of carrying them out, that they promise and engage that they will render implicit obedience and fidelity to the dictates of their leaders and teachers, that they will carry out their commands at the least sign and indication of their will, otherwise they will have to meet the most dire consequences and even death itself." Gentlemen, you who are members of the Masonic Order, know that there is not one of the allegations that is not entirely false. (Cheers.) Every resolution of every Grand Lodge is published. Every Grand Lodge publishes a list of all its officers. We have Freema-