

purpose of aiding them, a few members of the Masonic Order, with praiseworthy liberality came forward, and announced their intention of giving a course of readings &c., in the Masonic Hall, to which the members of all religious denominations were cordially invited. It should be remembered that the object in view was the relief of the poor of the city, three-fourths of whom are Roman Catholics. How was this philanthropic effort met by the Roman Catholic clergy? On Christmas day a document was read in each of the Roman Catholic churches of the city (with one exception), purporting to come from the Roman Catholic bishop of the diocese, warning the laity against patronising, either by their presence or support, an entertainment given within the walls of the Masonic Hall for the relief of the poor of Limerick. It was admitted that the object was most commendable; but, oh, fatal Order of St. John! the entertainment was "a trap to catch the unwary!" Do any independent-minded Roman Catholics in Limerick believe this? We know they do not. We might question the accuracy of the statement that the project owes its origin exclusively to the Freemasons, but there is no necessity for entering into it. The fact of an entertainment being given within the walls of a Masonic Hall, to which all creeds and classes are invited, is quite sufficient to call forth ecclesiastical censure. Notwithstanding the cool reception which the announcement of the entertainment has met with at the hands of the Roman Catholic clergy, we believe it will prove a splendid success, so far as numbers and respectability are concerned, several Roman Catholic ladies and gentlemen having expressed their determination to attend, notwithstanding the threat of excommunication.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

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THE DEVELOPEMENT OF MASONRY.—The ancients often wrote their books on parchment, which are made up into a roll, hence called a *volume*, from *volvere*, "to roll up." Thus, he who read the book commenced by unrolling it, a custom still practiced by the Jews in reading their Sacred Law, and it was not until the whole volume was unrolled and read that he became the master of its contents. Now, in the Latin language, to unfold or to unroll was *devolvare*, whence we get our English word *develop*. The figurative signification thus elicited from etymology may be well applied to the idea of the development of Masonry. The system of Speculative Masonry is a volume closely folded from unlawful eyes, and he who would understand its true intent and meaning must follow the old proverb, and "commence at the beginning." There is no royal road of arriving at this knowledge. It can be attained only by laborious research. The student must begin as an Apprentice, by studying the rudiments that are unfolded on its first page. Then as a Fellow-Craft still more of the precious writing is enrolled, and he acquires new ideas. As a Master he continues the operation, and possesses himself of additional material for thought. But it is not until the entire volume lies unrolled before him, in the highest degree, and the whole speculative system of its philosophy is lying out spread before him, that he can pretend to claim a thorough comprehension of its plan. It is then only that he has solved the problem, and can exclaim, "the end has crowned the work." The Mason who looks only on the ornamental covering of the roll knows nothing of its contents. Masonry is a scheme of development; and he who has learned nothing of its design, and who is daily adding nothing to his stock of masonic