

PENNSYLVANIA—1884.

Quarterly meetings were held at Philadelphia on March 5th, June 4th, and September 3rd; the annual communication at same city on 27th December, 1884.

Conrad B. Day, Grand Master, presiding.

At the first quarterly meeting a case was submitted to the committee on appeals, which we produce with the decision thereon, as a similar case might possibly occur here. A brother against whom was brought the charge of conduct unbecoming a mason, failed to appear, assigning illness as a reason; it seems he then disregarded the matter altogether, never putting in any answer to the charge, altho' he admitted he had due notice of trial; he was consequently expelled; from the sentence he appealed. The committee considering the matter very properly, we think, reported thus:

"Were we to sustain his appeal, we should be establishing an easy method of overthrowing all lodge judgments, by encouraging accused parties to absent themselves from places of trial, and then set up their own neglect as reason for reversal. This we ought not to do. The appellant was properly charged, carefully tried, and justly convicted."

The annual address of the Grand Master is an able one covering 25 pages; he reports the "little unpleasantness" with New York as harmoniously settled; that by virtue of his presence, and under the authority conferred on him by the Ahiman Rezon, he made a Mason of a youth under the age of 21.

There are many, and we are of those, who are disposed to doubt the right or authority of any Grand Master to do so.

We believe it is occasionally, though very rarely done in England, but that fact does not justify what is we conceive an infraction of a land-mark.

The Grand Master elect M.: W.: Bro. E. Coppee Mitchell addressing his Grand Lodge, refers in the following judicious words to the Encyclical Letter last year issued by "His Holiness" at Rome against our fraternity.

"There are no dangers which threaten Freemasonry from without. That blind creation of an ignorant prejudice called the anti-masonic party has been dead so long that it has passed into history; and those who now professedly oppose Freemasonry in our country are persons who, by reason of the manifest ignorance they exhibit, fail of receiving even a respectful hearing."

"And this leads me to say a word upon the matter which has been the subject of remark in the Grand Lodge of England, and many of those upon this continent. It is well known to you all that in the early part of this year the head of the Roman Catholic Church issued an Encyclical Letter, in which he accused the Freemasons of unheard of beliefs and unimagined purposes. It has been a matter of genuine wonder to me how such an extremely intelligent prelate and statesman as the present Pope is reputed to be, should have been led into such erroneous statements as are contained in that letter. It imputes to Freemasons the world over the monstrous charges of regarding marriage as creating no bond or tie; of disseminating vice for the purpose of corrupting the young, and generally of advocating and preaching atheism, sedition, revolution, socialism and