

hands in no sense as capable and experienced as are those of our able Editor-in-chief.

We continue to receive among our exchanges the *Masonic Star*, from London. It is a sixteen page paper issued at one penny. It is a paper in every way well got up and evidently means to take no second place among the influential craft journals of the great metropolis. It is marked by symptoms of very strong vitality, and appears to be what we call on this continent "a kicker." We wish it a prosperous career.

*Masonic Tidings*, Milwaukee, says Excelsior Lodge is one of the happiest lodges in the State. Here the ladies as well as the men are members. The ladies do not, as yet, attend the regular communications, but twice a month the very pleasant rooms are opened for social purposes. The families of the brethren become acquainted and all are interested in the welfare of each other and of the lodge. The lodge has a large membership and good work and a good deal of it.

Our W. Brother, Rev. Dr. Wild, D. D., Chaplain of the Doric Lodge, delivered an able address on Friday evening, February 22nd, at Bond street Congregational church, on the "Origin and Secret of Freemasonry." As we intend to publish in the next number of *THE CRAFTSMAN* a careful synopsis of the lecture, we need only say that throughout a lengthy address, our worthy brother displayed the humor and erudition for which he is so justly celebrated, and that an appreciative and highly intelligent audience listened with

rapt attention to a singularly able and instructive discourse.

The *Masonic Token* has been studying the proceedings of the Colored Grand Lodge of Arkansas, 1888. The returns show 70 working lodges, with 1186 members, an increase of 135 from the previous year, and 213 initiates. It is but one-tenth as strong as the white Grand Lodge. The average membership of lodges is 17. We also gather from the proceedings of the colored Grand Lodge of Ohio for 1887, that there were 45 lodges and 921 members. There is no increase. No general statistics are given, but there are 32 Grand Lodges.

Grand Master Maden, of Dakota, in a circular letter to the lodges in his jurisdiction announcing the movements of the Grand Lecturer, states that that officer will doubtless meet with ritual tinkers, and then gives him the following advice, which is of course intended as a reproof to the tinkers:—"Avoid all attempts at improvement in the ritual by the introduction of modern embellishments, however beautiful in language, whether written by Brother Rob. Morris or any other distinguished brother, or borrowed from any source whatever, but confine yourself to the ritual adopted by your Grand Lodge, pure and simple. It contains all that is necessary, and is expressed in language which it is hard to improve upon."

At the last meeting of King Solomon's Lodge a resolution of importance was passed. On the motion of Senior Warden Bro. Wm. Cook, it was determined to have an almoner's box placed