

I shall here remark, once for all, that if I. M. had been actuated by a pure zeal for the cause he pretends to espouse, that of the security and stability of government, he would not have contented himself with the vague information which a foreign pamphlet could afford him. A pamphlet too on a subject on which, I am bold enough to say, never man wrote with truth or integrity, or even without a set purpose to mislead or to defame; but would have applied on the credit of his character for probity and honor, for a regular admission to our mysteries, and then, after a fair and full use of his senses, have exercised his judgment in a candid deduction from the whole*: Such a conduct would have been laudable; such is the only conduct that would have suggested itself to a man desirous of discovering truth; and any other conduct gives room to suspect him of a diabolical intention to defame an order of men who in every age and nation have preserved an unsullied name, and been honoured with the most distinguished patronage.

It is the most absurd thing in nature (and the reason will be obvious to every mason) to believe, that any part of the real arcana of Masonry ever was, or ever could be, committed to writing. Needy men, have we know, levied contributions pretty successfully on the public credulity, by publishing whimsical pamphlets professing to lay open the secrets of Masonry; and I am prepared to hear any person in ridicule say, that the reason why no secrets have been published, or can be written, is, that none exist among us. I am satisfied that they should say so; in as much as I prefer hearing men laugh, to hearing them lie.

The assertion, (which is I. M's.) "that this French book is

being of all nations, tongues, kindreds, and languages; we are resolved against all politics, as what never yet conducted to the welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This charge has always been strictly enjoined and observed, see Noorthuck's edition of the Constitutions of the ancient fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, published under the immediate superintendance of the Grand Lodge. (c) p. 356. (c) the parts from which I now extract, are the "Ancient Charges collected from old records."

*The records of Masonry inform us, that Queen Elizabeth hearing that the masons had certain secrets that could not be revealed to her, and being jealous of all secret assemblies, sent an armed force to break up their annual Grand Lodge at York, on St. John's day, 27th December, 1561; but, Sir Thomas Sackville, Grand Master, to justify the institution, took care to make some of the chief men sent on that errand Free Masons, who then, joining in that communication, made an honourable report to the Queen, and she never more attempted to disturb them, but esteemed them as a peculiar sort of men, who cultivated peace and friendship, arts and sciences, without meddling in the affairs of Church or State.