

narrate certain forms and ceremonies observed by the Order, all of which were of the worst and most diabolical kind. A perusal of the book was well calculated to excite the risible faculties, were it not that the design was so apparent, and the *animus* of the author stamped on almost every sentence. It had the boldness to assert that "the Regicide with all its horrors not only had been resolved upon in the lodges, but was, moreover, the result of associations and oaths." Nay, more, it even says that Freemasonry loudly proclaims that it prepares and puts in execution in the dark, the destruction of the Catholic religion. It is probably this unfounded assertion that leads Roman Catholics to denounce Masonry, and persecute Masons as they do. But the most infamous of all the falsehoods in the book is this: "It's universal watchword is 'down with the Church! down with authority! no more Priests! no more Christ! no more God.'" No wonder that Catholics are opposed to Freemasonry, when they are led to believe such abominable stories as these. Anti-Masonry has no ground to stand upon, yet it does all it can to depreciate Masonry and misrepresent the brotherhood. What our foes expect to gain by the course they are pursuing we are utterly at a loss to understand. It is impossible that they can know anything of the true mysteries, yet they persist in telling what they say are the actual secrets of the lodges. Nothing could be more absurd than this, but we suppose it is as well that the delusion should be indulged in, for no amount of argument would suffice to convince them of the folly, not to use a harsher term—of the course they take.

PROCEEDINGS OF GRAND BODIES.

THE reports of the proceedings of the sixty-third communication of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana and Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons are of great interest. The surplus money received for the relief of overflowed brethren, amounting to some \$15,000, was directed to be turned over to the Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge Hall, to be by them permanently invested, the interest to go annually to the Louisiana Relief Lodge, established for the relief of indigent brethren of jurisdictions *other than that of Louisiana*, thus it will be seen a considerable portion of the sum contributed by the brethren of other jurisdictions, will be applied to the relief of worthy sufferers hailing from their own several localities.

The most important subject before the Grand Chapter was a portion of the address, taking ground against the edict of the Grand Lodge in reference to "*Forfeiture of Membership*." Section 31 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, provides that a R. A. M. stricken from the roll of membership by his lodge, shall, as soon as authentic knowledge of the fact be received by the Chapter, be stricken from the roll of his Chapter. This provision, however, appears to have escaped the notice of the Grand High Priest, as in a case which called forth a *ruling* he contents himself simply by denouncing the edict of the Grand Lodge; the whole subject resolved itself into this, was the Grand Chapter prepared to sustain the Grand Lodge, by ridding itself of members who had lost membership in their lodges, from whatever cause? The subject was referred to the committee on Masonic law and jurisprudence, who made two reports; the majority endorsing the views of the G. H. P., and approving his action; the minority dissenting therefrom, and