

For Mr. Clouston's Earnest Perusal.

To the Editor of the Martlet:

Dear Sir.—I have before me two letters: one by Union Member published in No. 7 of your issue, the other by Mr. H. R. Clouston in the following number. The subject which these letters discuss is of particular interest to many fellow-members of the Union, if one may judge of numerous murmurs overheard. But it is not this matter that I request space in your next publication to vent an opinion. A much more important one, to my mind, calls for comment; more important because it brings into question the principles upon which discussion is based, and the methods used on this and other occasions from time to time, by your correspondents.

The former of the two letters referred to is a general complaint against the management of the Union reading-room. As you have published this it is unnecessary to remind you here of its contents. The letter

evidently invites discussion, certain detailed grievances being stated. The method of Union Member is occasionally slightly satirical; he claims that the House Committee by publishing a certain notice threatens itself with expulsion, as, obviously, no less penalty can be determined for a greater evil than that with which the notice deals, and the greater evil "is responsible for those very mutilations that the House Committee complains of." Otherwise his letter is sincere, serious and straightforward.

And now as to the second letter. Mr. Clouston's method is well worthy of notice. It opens with what one might suppose to be a frank acknowledgement of a certain welcome suggestion made by Union Member; it accepts his criticism as being sincere; and assures himself that he is met on his own ground without animosity. Discussion then follows in which Mr. Clouston strongly denies all slackness of management in regard to points mentioned by complainant. But

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