

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, June 15, 1884.

STAND BY THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS.

It is a dreadful crime to initiate a man with the tip of his little finger off! Such an outrage is a crime not to be overlooked!! The shadows of our forefathers would haunt us in the dark hours of midnight if we thus violated the ancient landmarks. One Grand Master, (M. W. Bro. Matthews, Texas), however, has actually been bold enough, after doubtless much deliberation and many sleepless nights, to rule, to come to the conclusion, that although "a man with a glass eye, or one who has lost a portion of the second finger of his right hand were ineligible as candidates for Masonic honors, one afflicted with bronchitis might be accepted." Well, well, this is such utter nonsense that we really weary of it. A man with consumption, having a cavity in his lung, would, of course, by this brother's ruling, be decidedly ineligible. We are glad to note, however, that the committee on his address said:—

"Your committee strongly incline to the view that too much importance is attached to trivial defects of body, and entirely too little attention directed to moral defects.

"If a good workman applies to work in a quarry, what sense is there in looking in his mouth, as a horse-trader would into the mouth of a horse he was dickering over, or of running your hands over his joints to see, perchance, if some joint in his leg or ankle was not a little stiff, or to shake something before his eyes, to see if it would blink?

"Masonry requires no such foolish-

ness. It is the mental and moral, and not slight physical defects, which now more than ever require microscopic attention."

We are wearied of the whole subject of "physical qualification." One Grand Master actually ruled that if a man had a cataract in the eye he could not be admitted. How about a corn on the foot? a mole on the hand, or a wart on the nose? One is as reasonable as the other. If candidates for Freemasonry must be "perfectly sound," let us have the physician to test their lungs, the surgeon to examine their joints, the chiropodist to see to their feet, the oculist and aurist their eyes and ears, the dentist their teeth, etc. The whole thing is a farce and an arrant humbug, a remnant of the dark ages, a disgrace to Canadian and American Freemasonry, (for in Great Britain, Ireland, and continental Europe, they know not this *American* dogma and this laughing stock of sensible men). Away with it!

MEETING OF GRAND LODGE.

The twenty-ninth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada will be held in Toronto, commencing on Wednesday, the 9th day of July.

Notice was given at the last Communication of the following motions:

1. By M. W. Bro. James Seymour —That in future the several Articles or Sections of the Constitution be numbered consecutively, and not as at present, recommencing with 1 at every subject.

2. By R. W. Bro. Henry Robertson —That the Constitution be amended as specified in the report of the Special Committee on Masonic Trials,