

the whole thing, and we hope the day is not far distant when those who advocate it will find that the mass of the fraternity is aroused to the danger, and determined to stamp it out.

We have been led to make these remarks from the evident fact that the canvass has commenced already in the Empire State, for the Grand Mastership of that jurisdiction. The *Corner-Stone* and other Masonic journals throughout New York are ranging themselves on different sides, and the secrets of the fraternity are thus open to the criticism of the secular press. We use the word secrets advisedly, for we believe the discussion of candidates for such a position should only be within the tyled doors of a lodge; and when we hear of compromises being proposed across the social board, and terms offered over the cup of friendship, it savors to us of the trickery of the ward politician, or the cunning of the stump orator. This we do not want in Masonry.

It is, therefore, with infinite regret that we note this tendency in so important a jurisdiction as that of New York—to find that Masonic politicians are running brethren for candidates the same as they would for mayor of a town or member of Congress. The gentlemen whose names are thus bandied about are probably quite innocent, so far as they are personally concerned; but when the Grand Lodge meets the matter should be brought up, and an effort made to condemn these debasers of Freemasonry. Fancy THE CRAFTSMAN advocating Brother So-and-so; another praising *ad sidera* the noble qualifications of Bro. B, and someone else

denouncing both, whilst extolling a third brother. Such a system cannot be too strongly condemned. It has often been said: "Vote against any man who solicits your suffrage," and never was better advice given. If a brother is worthy of the honors of the Craft, the Fraternity will find him out sooner or later. If, on the other hand, he is unworthy, he should not expect to receive them.

Now, the best plan to adopt in order to prevent electioneering in the Grand Bodies is to elect men in the subordinate bodies who are *sans reproche*, and who are far, far above the intrigues and trickery of wire-pullers. Such men would soon stamp out the nuisance and remove this stigma that disgraces at times the legislative proceedings of the Craft. A Master or Past Master who has any regard for his position would scorn to be made a cat's paw of by a parcel of fellows whose love for the Order and knowledge of the Craft are only commensurate with their electioneering abilities. We have written sufficient for the present, however, upon this subject, although we shall probably refer to it again.

Peace and Harmony.

It is highly gratifying to think that after so much wrangling, so much bitterness, so much jealousy, so much usurpation of rights, Peace reigns supreme amongst the Grand Lodges of the United States. We always rejoice when we find the grand doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge Sovereignty making further headway. It is the basis upon which rests our system of