

amid Puritan institutions, the clergy of New England were then giving it their careful study and attention."

No doubt J. B.'s grand father was one of the Cotton Mather stamp, who could see the devil at almost any time of day, and would assist in tying women at the cart's tail, to drag the devil out of them through snow and ice. J. B. seems to mourn that the same times do not exist now, so that he could assist in trying it upon some of his Masonic friends.

Then he flies off at a tangent and mounts his hobby, known among a certain few as the "Cincinnati Convention," in this wise:

In the west, at a later day, the venerable and learned synod of Cincinnati resolved, "That Membership in a Masonic Lodge is inconsistent with a credible profession of the Christian religion." And there is now a "national association of Christians opposed to secret societies," representing some half a million of Christian people, who believe that Dr. Quaint, chairman of your national council committee, clerk of your state association, and "grand chaplain" of Masons, and with him the scribe of your council and all their Masonic brethren, should cease propagating Freemasonry or be expelled from the churches of Christ!"

It will be remembered, that this "convention" was got up by J. Blanchard and Co., the company consisting of a few long-haired individuals of the same stamp as J. B. who after telling one another of the evils of Masonry, passing resolutions of excommunication, etc., resolved themselves in to a committee of the whole to wipe out Masonry from the churches. Their proceedings were hardly known outside of their own numbers. The papers refused to publish them; The associated press refused to send them over the wires; and had it not been for a Masonic paper, which had a reporter on the spot, and published them for preservation, they would never have been heard of.

In conclusion to give the remainder of his letter, in one paragraph, that the reader may form his own opinion and judgement of the calibre of the man:

My dear brother, this state of things augurs no good, but surely foretokens trouble for the New England churches. It cannot be that this discussion shall go on and our churches escape it. I am sure, you for one, do not desire that they should escape it. A multitude of the members of our churches, now venerable men, still remember that Morgan was murdered by Masons, and his murderers shielded, caressed and supported by the Lodges! But the present movement is not made in the name of Christ. And your principles and your very origin commit you to discuss and settle this question. In 1550. Hooper "scrupled vestments," which were Quaker simplicity itself compared with Masonic toggery. The Puritans followed Hooper; a Puritan party was formed and New England was the result. They hated "lordly titles," and all rites and ceremonies "not expressly warranted in the sacred Scriptures;" in short, all "commandments of men," such as are the whole staple of the Lodge. And every idea, element and principle which composes and makes up the mysteries and solemn fooleries, and real despotism, taxation, selfish-