

We learn from a recent number of the *Corner Stone* that at the Synod of the "Reformed" Church, held in New York in the month of June last, the subject of Freemasonry was introduced by certain memorials presented to the Synod from different congregations, whose ministers and elders had excluded Freemasons from membership and fellowship, but who when they attended the Synod were sometimes obliged to hear the Gospel preached and to receive the communion from the hands of those whom they would disfellowship; they were thus acting inconsistently in offending their conscience, and asked for a "deliverance" on the subject. The memorials were referred to a Committee, whose report gave rise to a lengthy and warm discussion, in which some of the speakers manifested great ignorance, and showed no little bitterness. One reverend gentleman denounced Freemasonry in vigorous terms, in which he declared that Masons were sworn to shield murderers and criminals from the law if they happened to be brother Masons. No good Mason could be faithful to himself, his family, his Church, or his God; and that it was impossible for a man to be a good Mason and a good Christian. Another "reverend" gentleman declared that the prayers, ritual and doctrines of Masonry were a disavowal of the one true God; that it made a mockery of the Word of God, and promoted infidelity. One "learned" elder asserted that Masonry taught that a man could be saved without Christ. These men, and others who spoke in the same strain, displayed their bigotted ignorance; but there were others also who knew whereof they spoke, and defended the Order. Several members of the Synod avowed themselves to be Masons, and charged the memorialists with taking the word of renegades who had broken their oath. Finally, by a majority the report, as follows, was adopted:

1. That the Synod cannot, on the evidence

before it, properly give its official testimony for or against Freemasonry and other oath-bound societies, yet it declares that no communicant, member or minister of the Reformed Church ought to remain in any society whose principles and practices are anti-Christian.

2. That the Synod should "advise consistories and classes of the churches to be very kind and forbearing, and strictly constitutional in their dealings with individuals on the subject, and that they be and are hereby affectionately cautioned against setting up any new, unauthorized tests of communion in the Christian Church.

The following paragraph is from the *Corner Stone*, (New York):—

"NEW YORK IN CANADA.—When R. W. Bro. Hodson was announced as in waiting at the Grand Lodge of Canada, the Grand Master ordered the Junior Grand Warden with two Grand Stewards to retire and introduce him. Bro. Hodson seems to receive especial and unusual honor wherever he goes. By the way, M. W. Bro. Henderson, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, D. C. L., Queen's Counsel and ex-M.P., is one of the most popular, as well as most prominent, Masons in Canada. He has been Representative of the Grand Lodge of New York near the Grand Lodge of Canada for twenty years, which probably partially accounts for his immense popularity. He was re-elected Grand Master without a dissenting vote, which effectually disposed of "Number Seven," who had been formally "clothed" and duly hailed as Grand Master, and as such had declared his predecessor deposed."

A District meeting of the officers and members of all the Lodges in the St. Francis District, P. Q., and a Convocation of Golden Rule Chapter, is to be held in the Masonic Hall, city of Sherbrooke, at the call of D.D.G.M. Dr. Keyes, and Grand Supt. James Addie, for exemplification of Capitular and Craft "work," during a forenoon, an afternoon, and an evening session. The Grand Z., M. E. Comp. J. H. Graham, is to communicate the Capitular work, and the officers of Golden Rule and of Victoria Lodges, are to exemplify the work of the three symbolic degrees. Addresses by the Grand Master and others. Banquet, &c., &c.