

authorities and established precedent, must render the recognition of such a body by the Grand Lodge of England, at present at any rate, utterly impossible." And a correspondent in the same paper says, "I am afraid all these proceedings savor both of 'buncombe' and the ridiculous, and the sooner they are disavowed by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and ignored by all other Grand Lodges the better." We are afraid there is a good deal "more truth than poetry" in the above remarks; and shall await anxiously the explanation of the Grand Master or Grand Secretary of Manitoba. At present the proceedings require explanation, so that it may be seen Manitoba acted in good faith.

Bro. Cornelius Moore says: "Have we made any real progress or caused Freemasonry to be less liable to criticism than it was half a century since? If not, then who is to blame for the anti masonry of to-day? I leave candor to make the decision. The dissipations, or desecrations, to which some lodge halls are now subjected, may be, in their character, more refined and æsthetic than formerly, but are more harmful to pure, old fashioned, ancient Freemasonry, than the simpler 'refreshments' and social reunions of the time alluded to. Then a lodge was all in all; now, it is half-forgotten in the cry for higher degrees; the A. & A. S. Rite, with its impressive ceremonies; the Chapter, with its mystic developments, and the Commandery, with its gorgeous costumes, its magnificent regalia, its grand receptions, its fine suppers and fashionable dances! I don't complain of these so much as I object to the neglect of the foundation degree, -- the only solid basis of all legitimate Freemasonry: its few and simple rites and ceremonies, and its earnest injunctions to practice the great Masonic virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. No; I admire what are designated as the 'higher degrees,' and especially those conferred in the Commandery, with their pure Chris-

tian teachings, the memories of Bethlehem and the manger, the sepulchre and the resurrection, with the banner of Calvary waving over all."

M. W. Bro. A. L. Brown, in the "Voice," says: "How beautifully do the teachings of Masonry blend with those of religion, in subduing the passions of men, and in elevating their thoughts and aspirations from the lower level of sensual desires, sordid pursuits and early hopes, to the more sublime aspirations for exalted character, moral rectitude, and hopes of a bright immortality beyond the grave, above the mists and shadows of human life, that ever hover like a dark pall along our pathway! And how strong, how sustaining is that confidence and hope springing ever from a consciousness of rectitude, and of trusting cheerful, obedience to the Divine law! Dangers may menace, misfortunes may gather, malice may threaten and assail, calumny may secretly hurl her venomous barb, but the just and upright Mason neither fears nor heeds them. Clad in the armor of truth and virtue, he moves, invulnerable to all their attacks; yet the true Christian has greater strength and still stronger panoply, for he can look beyond and above all the cares and trials that confront him here; hopeful, strong, and trusting in a future life of perfect happiness in that 'house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'"

Right Wor., the Rev. Bro. C. H. Briggs, Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, says: "That Masonry has not only endured through the ages, but has also been a conserving power, is in part owing to its intrinsic nature. Because it is Masonry it has stood firm. Our ancient brethren were not workers in wood, that fire could consume or the tooth of time soon destroy, but out of the ever-enduring rock they wrought square work, true work, massive and enduring. The exactness of expres-