

baneful influences of edicts of non-intercourse.

In the past I have counselled moderation by tongue and pen; but now I have no hesitation in saying that moderation and "patience has ceased to be a virtue"; that the time has now arrived when something besides words must be used to repel the by far too frequent attacks of the Grand Bodies of England upon those of Canada and Quebec; you now must act, and that, too, at once. Be sure that you have right, justice, truth, and law on your side (as you certainly have), and then fight if necessary for your rights and the sustenance of Masonic law. Put, if necessary, a little force behind your moderation, and enforce the law of Grand Lodge Sovereignty, "peaceably if you can, forcibly if you must."

Try Masonry until that fail, and then, if the open violators of your laws do not recant, issue edicts of non-intercourse, but exhaust every other means first. You certainly have my sympathy and hearty cooperation in your endeavors to sustain your laws, and not only that of myself but that of nine-tenths of the Royal Arch Masons of America.

As far as I am concerned, I am fully aware that it will be but little that I can do but even the bite of a fly annoys.

FRANK W. BAXTER.

Highgate, Vt., Aug. 29, 1883.

MASONRY AN INEXHAUSTIBLE SUBJECT.

Some years since, while conversing with an old editor of a political and general newspaper, he remarked: "In politics and general news there is always something new to write about, but in editing a Masonic journal I should think that you would often be at a loss for a subject. We had not found it so then, nor have we since, in an editorial experience of nearly fifteen years. Masonry is in no sense a specialty. It is not a one-idea institution, confined exclusively to those

who have been admitted within its portals. A young Mason, who has committed to memory all the work and lectures of the initiatory ceremonies, may imagine himself to be a bright Mason. One such we have in mind now, who, when asked to subscribe for a Masonic journal, replied that he "didn't want it, for he knew all there was of Masonry." In such cases it may well be said, "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." We said to him then, as we say now, that he had simply learned the alphabet of Masonry. There had been placed in his hands the key that would open to him the hidden mysteries that the greatest and wisest men for ages past have been unable to fully comprehend and understand. The more he studies Masonry, the larger will become the field of his investigation, and the more fully will he realize that he is only a beginner in a course of study that he can never fully complete.

A symbolic lodge is said to extend from East to West, and between North and South, while its covering is no less than the clouded canopy of heaven. This expression is used to convey to the mind an idea of the universality of Masonry. Thus, unlimited in extent in its field of operation, it presents at once a boundless field for study and investigation as regards the great truths it was designed to teach and the noble work that is its mission to perform. A man may travel around the world and learn much that would come within the range of his vision, but should he insist that he had thus acquired a full knowledge of the earth, and the relation it sustains to the numberless worlds that surround it, would be so ridiculous that he would become at once the laughing-stock of the community. It is no less pretentious for a Mason to claim that because he has passed through all the degrees of Masonry he has thereby acquired a full knowledge of all that can be learned of an institution