

## INTOLERANCE EXTRAORDINARY.

It appears that the good old Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at its quarterly communication, June 18, 1883, WHEREASED, That it "recognizes no degree of Masonry except those conferred under the regulations of Grand Lodges \* \* " If it had stopped there, all would be well enough; but when it puts in as Masonic bodies the Grand and Subordinate Chapters, Councils of R. & S. M., Commanderies, and Encampment, and specifies particular jurisdictions of the A. and A. S. R., declaring: "that any Mason who is hereafter admitted in this jurisdiction, into any other orders, as Masonic \* \* is acting unmasonically, and, for such conduct, shall be liable to be expelled \* \* and shall be ineligible to membership or office in Grand Lodge," it does seem to us that it has undertaken to legislate on matters that, as a lodge of Master Masons, it does not know anything about. Can it not, with equal propriety, prohibit membership with any particular church or political party? So long as a Mason is a good man and true, and obedient to the laws of the country in which he resides, what business is it of the Grand Lodge whether he joins the Knights of Honor or Red Men and calls it Masonry; or peddles the degrees, if he so desires, provided he does not operate in a lodge of E. A., F. C., or M. M.?

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts seems to have hurled its bulls against those "who shall hawk and sell any of the degrees, so called, hereinbefore forbidden, calling them degrees in Masonry."

Well, we stand in fear and trembling, because we have taken the Eastern Star, and other "side degrees," about which we know little and care less; but if our Grand Lodge undertakes to interfere with our prerogatives in this direction we shall give a most vigorous kick—so we

will. It is one of our inalienable rights, a "landmark" probably.

The Grand Lodge of Kentucky once ordered certain books, purporting to be Masonic, to be sent to the Grand Secretary and by him destroyed. We happened to have such a book, and had never used or read it, yet we right loyally obeyed, and ever afterwards esteemed it as one of childish weakness.

It was a duty to ourself to maintain our right to personal property, and in this country we think we have a moral and a political right to join any order, church or party that is moral and true to the State, whether it be called Masonry or by any other name as sweet.—*Masonic Home Journal*.

### MASONIC BENEVOLENCE IN ENGLAND.

The results of Masonic charity in respect of our great metropolitan institutions for 1883 become very remarkable facts in themselves and deserve a little more consideration than a brief paragraph in the *Freemason* can necessarily supply. Yet we must remark, in dealing with the subject-matter, that these results, large as they seem to be, when summed up only represent, as we lately observed, a portion of English Masonic benevolence. The £56,000 odd only concern the three great charities which Masonic zeal has founded and Masonic beneficence has augmented and developed in a wonderful measure. Indeed they form alike a very wonderful reality, a gratifying recollection, these Masonic charities of ours, when we come to look into them, to measure out their work, to analyze their returns, and to realize their balance sheets. Assuming that there are 100,000 Freemasons in England,—of what other society can it be alleged of similar numbers, that they are raising the amount which English Freemasons collect and devote to the support of these three charities? If the whole of Masonic charity in England and Wales was totalled up, it would, we apprehend, fall not far short of £100,000 annually—a pound per head. For we have to add to the amount raised for our great charities, our lodge of benevolence grants, our provincial votes, our private lodge votes, our provincial and colonial Masonic charities, and those many ways in which annually Masonic beneficence is intensified and exhibited. And