

We cannot fail to congratulate our distinguished Brother, Grand Master Walker, at the result of his long and earnest devotion to the interests of his Grand Lodge. His contention with England has been ably maintained. He has the support of the consensus of opinion of the ablest Masonic jurists of the Grand Lodges of the States of the United States. One day the American Masonic doctrine of Grand Lodge sovereignty will triumph, as did aforetime the American doctrine of American independence. Wait and see!

Right Worshipful Brother E. T. D. Chambers, Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, made the Annual Report from that Committee. We have read it, and it does *not* "prove devoid of interest." On the contrary, it is a very pleasant paper, and contains valuable information.

Bro. Vaux somewhat surprises us at the stand he takes in the matter of physical qualification for initiation. He has long been known as an ardent physical perfectionist, but we were scarcely prepared to find him going to so extreme a length in his efforts to ridicule the initiation of those possessing such slight physical defects that they do not interfere with a literal conformity with the ritual and modes of recognition, as to compare such action with the lowering of the moral standard. If Masonry is not a society for the evolution of a more physically perfect race of men, but a system of morality which aims at the survival of the fittest in a moral and not in a physical sense, our good Brother of Pennsylvania will scarcely venture to deny that in the Rupert-like and dashing valor with which he invariably plunges into the thickest of the fight, he has grossly exaggerated the importance of this physical perfection business. What! as well initiate a man who is honest and truthful only when it does not pay him better to be otherwise, as one minus a finger or an eye? We are convinced that Bro. Vaux's sober second thought will convince him that his zeal for physical perfection has led him to fall into an error common to those who allow themselves to be carried away by the warmth of what they undoubtedly believe to be righteous indignation—the use of hasty and unguarded language.

We fail to interpret the words "a perfect youth" in a physical sense, because we do not believe that Masonry regards the external equally with the internal qualifications of a man. At least, we have never been so taught, and have never ourselves so taught.

R. W. BRO. CLIFFORD P. MACCALLA,
Grand Master.

R. W. BRO. MICHAEL NISBET,
Grand Secretary.

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