

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

XCIX

"The Grand Master made a Mason at sight, as he says, 'by virtue of my prerogative.' Nothing is said about the no doubt worthy gentleman having petitioned any lodge as a candidate, or about his having been elected to receive the degrees. We find nothing showing in what lodge he became a member, when so made, nor why one of two lodges could not have elected and conferred the degrees upon him as probably required by law, when they were both very anxious to make him an honorary member. Several Grand Lodges have absolutely abolished the so-called prerogative. If such power lawfully existed, simply under the claim of prerogative, it seems it was confined solely to the making a man a Mason, and not to passing or raising. In other matters our Buckeye friends have what they term the Ohio way of doing things, and habit having become second nature it may be that our fraters must have some one raised at sight to the sublime degree now and then, to keep up with the general procession of Ohio ideas. From the Grand Master's seeming apologetic account of the affair, we believe if there is any valid excuse for such action the subject thereof was worthy in every respect. With the kindest and most fraternal feeling for the Grand Master and our Ohio brethren, we trust the time has arrived, or is near at hand, when every Grand Master will, whether he believes he is endowed with such claimed prerogative or not, refuse in every case to exercise it.

"Our brother was slightly opposed to the Fraternal Congress and puts us in the "progressive young American" school of Masons—probably at the foot of the class. Will accept the position by saying that the Congress has come, tarried a few days and gone without any dire calamity overtaking our institution through the evil designs of either the "progressives" or "old fogies," as our brother, and not this writer, puts the distinction. We have no fears that Masonry will go to pieces if our pet ideas are not adopted and are sat upon, or that it will suffer if some things we believe in are wiped out of existence. We do not believe in going back to the pre-historic age and borrowing a stone axe to use when a few steel ones are to be had.

"Our brother is surprised at our endorsement of Bro. Common's position against allowing a member of one lodge to gallop around and vote in other lodges on applications for initiation or advancement. He then gives an example of a real nice goody-good moral Mason who alone knows a *bad* man from afar off when he sees him; while all the members of the lodge in which the application lies may or may not be able to smell out a bad man, although knowing him for years. We believe the following example will obtain under such a rule in many more cases than in the one cited by our brother, namely: A member has a dispute with a profane over business or other matters in which he may be the transgressor or equally to blame; hears the latter has applied for initiation in a lodge other than his own; attends with his scalping knife secreted. Result, a *bad* man, from his standpoint alone, scalped in a lodge that he cannot even visit if a member objects. Space forbids the citation of several other, as Bro. Commons well says, "vicious" examples, the outgrowth of such a system or rule. No, my esteemed brother, when Masons all become saints the example you cite might do to apply. Until then we claim that no member has any business, or should be allowed, to vote in lodge other than his own.

"With all this we agree on many points, and no doubt would on others if our brother did not see an innovation wolf upon every hill