

THE GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.

It seems there is some hope of this body retracing its step whereby the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe was stricken from all its documents. Bro. Eugene Montennis, W. M. of Lodge La France, No. 2060, writes to the *London Freemason* :—

"You are no doubt aware that the Council of the Grand Orient de France, on the 18th February last, sent a circular to the various craft lodges inviting observations on the ritual as at present practiced.

Last week we received from the Lodge La Bienfaisance Chalonnaise, Chalons sur Marne, their report on this requisition, and they particularly beg that the old formula should be reinstated. They argue that without it, a very useful institution may possibly be formed, but that it cannot, under those circumstances, be properly entitled to the name of Freemasonry.

"*La Chaine de Union*, a Masonic paper, under the direction of Bro. Hubert, an old 33°, is continually regretting the unfortunate step taken. There is evidently among French Masons, a strong counter-current for the re establishment of the old formula.

"I cannot refrain from the pleasure of imparting to you this good news, as we, of the Lodge La France, are most ardently praying T.G.A.O.T.U. for the re-union of the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Orient of France, which will enable us to admit to our lodge many visitors, who are believers, but who, from want of knowledge, have unfortunately joined lodges whose certificates do not bear the proper superscription.

"In the hope that the day is not far distant which will see this renewed intercourse, I remain, dear sir and brother, yours fraternally."

A TRUE MASONIC STORY.

It is a custom in the Masonic fraternity, so well established as to be entitled to be called a landmark, that a man should never be solicited to become a Mason. Once in a while, however, it leaks out that some brother, with more zeal than discretion, has transgressed the unwritten law. Some years ago, James A. Day, now of California, but at that time W. M. of old No. 27, of Oshkosh, was, with one of his Masonic friends, called upon business to one of the villages not a hundred miles from home; having to remain over night, and learning that it was lodge-night, the two brethren concluded to attend lodge. As a matter of course, the friend reported that Bro. Day was Worshipful Master of his lodge, and he was immediately invited and urged to confer the First degree. Some zealous friend and brother had, it seems, advised the candidate, who, by the way, was a tonsorial artist, that if he would join the Masons, the brethren would patronize him, and his business would be greatly increased. So, it transpired, that when, during the evening, he was asked the question, what one thing in the world he desired most, he replied, "More barbering." This staggered good Bro. Day for the moment, but he recovered and finished up the work.—*N. Y. Corner-Stone*.

NETHERLANDS.—The Lodge "La Bein Aimee," in Amsterdam, held a festival on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. Seven hundred and fifty dollars were voted for two charitable institutions. A richly carved gavel, inlaid with gold, was presented to the Worshipful Master. Amongst the many charitable institutions that have originated in this lodge, are "The Institution for Saving the Life of the Shipwrecked," "Institution for the Blind," Industrial Schools, and Savings' Banks.—*Freemasons' Journal*.