

adopts the recommendation of our Grand Secretary to await the natural "efflux of time." We give his own words, as we think our readers will like to see them:—

"And now, Brethren of this Grand Lodge, for reasons which I think will be obvious to all of you, let me earnestly advise you not to take any special legislative action on this subject at the present communication, but in the still further exercise of the true spirit of our fraternity, calmly await the result of what has already been said and done, and what is likely to transpire in the near future, with the hope, not wanting among the members of this Grand Body, and shared in by not a few other brethren, good friends of Quebec, both here and in Great Britain, that the consummation devoutly desired, may be peacefully and fraternally realized at an early day. So mote it be."

We also beg to give here the closing words of this address of our worthy Brother, which we have read with pleasure:—

"OFFICERS AND BRETHREN,—Having by your over-partial suffrages presided in this Grand East for nine laborious and eventful years, I beg gratefully to return to you the symbol of "supreme command," which you have so frequently with entire unanimity placed in my hands; and with a profound sense of the distinguished honor which you have thus conferred upon me—an honor enjoyed by few living Grand Masters,—with a grateful appreciation of your many favors, and with hearty thanks to my fellow officers and other members of this Grand Body for their long-continued and efficient support and co-operation; and although not having brought to the fulfilment of the important duties of this high office, those talents and that worth and leisure which it demands; and while doubtless having made mistakes, for it is ever true that 'to err is human,' yet claiming

to have been actuated by a sincere desire, faithfully to promote the best interests of this Grand Lodge and of the craft in general, I now, in justice to myself and to others, bid you as Grand Master an affectionate and fraternal farewell; and at the same time begging to assure you that it will be my purpose to seek in some good degree at least, to exemplify the following loyal and patriotic sentiments of one of not the least renowned of Rome's great Consuls, who on an occasion of vital import to the commonwealth, declared, in these words familiar to so many of you,—
'Illud pericilium profecto, Quirites, ut ea que cessi in Consulatu, privatus, tunc atque ornem.'

"And may he, upon whom this mantle will more worthily fall, 'look well to the Grand East;' may he and all after him, who wield this sceptre, be endued with a goodly portion of the wisdom bestowed upon that monarch after whom this seat of honor is fittingly named; may all their official acts fully accord with the unchanging laws and constitutions of our ancient fraternity, and which this Grand Lodge has hitherto sought to enunciate, to uphold and maintain, and may the Most High prosper them and you in all your lawful undertakings, and may He evermore abundantly bless the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and our beloved Order throughout the whole world. So mote it be."—*London, Eng., Freemason, Feb. 24, 1863.*

PAPAL BULLS IN FAVOR OF FREEMASONS.

One of the vexed questions of early Masonic history is, did the Popes of Rome in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries—Pope Nicholas III., in 1227; Pope Benedict XII., in 1334; Pope Alexander VI., in 1502, and Pope Leo X., in 1517—issue bulls, confirming to the traveling Freemasons of the middle ages, or