

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

We congratulate *The Hebrew Leader* upon arriving at its prime—thirty-five years. This weekly is one of those exchanges that we are ever glad to welcome, not only on account of the able editorials which appear in its Masonic department, which we believe is under the control of that distinguished Freemason, Ill. Bro. McClenahan, 38°, of New York, but also for the interesting matters with which it is generally filled. We wish the *Hebrew Leader* a long and useful career.

THE San Francisco *Fraternal Record*, while advocating the interests of the male-and-female "Order of the Eastern Star," gives the following curious statement and prophecy:—

"The tendency among what are called 'the higher degrees' now is to have ladies present at most of their entertainments, and we have been informed that during the conferring of some of the 'highest of the high degrees,' a screen has been removed, and some of the fair sex permitted to gaze on the beautiful tableaux. We were present not long ago, in an assemblage composed of both sexes, where several tableaux pertaining to the aforesaid high degrees were exhibited on the same stage, and by the same persons, as during the conferring of the degrees. Therefore, the last objection seems to us to be removed, and we hope ere long to find the Order of the Eastern Star flourishing in every Grand Jurisdiction."

We do not know what our contemporary refers to by the "highest of the high degrees," but we do know that "the last objection" to women becoming Masons, or quasi-Masons, is not removed, and never will be, so long as Masonry is Masonry.

The official organ of the G. L. of Hungary, the *Orient*, says:—"The Age of Freemasonry.—It has been the general belief that Freemasonry, in its present form, was established in the early part of the 18th century, and that before this date, only professionally, corporations such as *Steimmetzen*, *Maurer*, etc., to which the old so-called Masonic documents, allude, had been in existence.

"The London *Freemason*, published sometime ago a discovery, which contradicts this theory. In a church register in Manchester, was found the following entry:—'Humphrey, son of Edward Holland, Freemason, Capt. (ffrymason, Capt.) christened on the 3rd of February, 1608.' As the name, Holland, appears in the register on former occasions, where he is designated as 'Gentleman,' the conclusion was drawn that he was no Laborer, or Operative Mason, as there appears the title as Captain.

"If this is the case then, Freemasonry had its existence, as in the present form, already in the 17th century.

"Since this discovery, diligent search has been made to find more proof of this fact."

A German Masonic publication, called the *Bauhütte*, says:—Definition of Freemasonry. — "Bro. Gahlet d'Aluiella, a Representative in the Belzish Chamber, defended with great warmth, Freemasonry, amidst repeated interruptions, and proved that membership did not interfere with the military spirit of officers in the army.

"He quoted from § 1 of the Book of Constitution of Belgium, the