

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

WAS POPE PIUS A MASON?

One would be naturally led to suppose from the vilification of Freemasons by the Pope of Rome, and the anathemas he has heaped upon their heads, that he knew nothing of the beauties or the worth of Masonry. None but those ignorant of the mysteries of the Order, could be thought likely to adopt the course he has seen fit to take; yet we have been told in the most positive manner, that the occupant of the Vatican became a Mason, and obtained sufficient knowledge to be advanced to the 18°, We would fain trust there is some mistake in the reports given to the world respecting the alleged admission of Mastai Ferretti, otherwise Pope Pius IX, into the Masonic Order, for it is not creditable to our common humanity, that any one, be he pope, priest or layman, should have basely perjured himself, as the Romish Pontiff is said to have done.

We published some months since, a statement taken from an Italian paper, to the effect that Mastai Ferretti had been initiated in a Sicilian Lodge, in 1832. It was further stated that His Holiness had been expelled for perjury, at Palemo, on the 27th March last, and the account is so clearly given that there could hardly seem to be any doubt about it. The charges preferred, we are told, were sent to the Pope, but he made no reply, and was accordingly dealt with as a perjured Mason. Some doubts, however, have recently been thrown upon the assertion that the Pope was made a Mason, and the question just now excites considerable discussion. It is not a little remarkable, that neither the Pope, nor any one for him, has undertaken to deny the statement. That he has been formally expelled is evident; but it is contended that he has yet to be proved a Mason. It was first asserted that he had been initiated in Sicily, now it is said Philadelphia was the place. The *Keystone* has been looking into the latter statement, and informs its readers that one Martin Ferrety was raised to the sublime degree of M. M. in Havana, in Lodge, No. 157, working under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It remains to be seen if this is Ferretti, the Pope of Rome, or some one else. The proof is far from conclusive, but the London *Freemason* having undertaken to solve the problem, we must patiently await the result of its researches.

MASONIC PROGRESSION.

THERE is nothing in the world's history to be compared with the wonderful progression of Freemasonry. If we look abroad we find it over-shadowing everything else in the way of secret and charitable institutions; and here in our own land it has gradually advanced until its members, within a comparatively short period, have grown from hundreds to thousands. The Grand Lodge of Canada holds jurisdiction over upwards of three hundred lodges, and the number is being constantly augmented. In the other Masonic divisions of the Dominion there are probably one hundred and fifty more; while in the United States there are more than seven thousand lodges under the jurisdiction of the respective State Grand Lodges. Great Britain and Ireland—Wales included—count over two thousand lodges; the rest of