

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

A WOULD-BE MENTOR.

THERE are two classes of persons—we need hardly mention them—who sadly miss their vocation when they leave the pulpit or the tripod for the editor's chair; for almost invariably the one becomes pedantic and the other disputatious. An *apparently* very learned, reverend but irate brother, who seems to have control of a monthly issued in Montreal under the title of the *Masonic News*, is evidently of the latter sort. He has come foul of the CRAFTSMAN in one of his worst moods, and scolds it like a veritable drab, merely for having used the word "demolished," and because he believes its publisher to be actuated by jealousy towards him. It grieves us to think we should have been the cause of so much uneasiness to such a "learned" brother, yet we take the liberty of telling him that he is unnecessarily exercised, while we at the same time disclaim in the most emphatic manner any intention of doing him wrong either by word or deed. We may not be so "learned" as our brother of the *News*, but we would be utterly ashamed to exhibit as little respect for the cardinal principles of Masonry as he has done in his uncalled for attack upon the CRAFTSMAN. For a minister and a brother to impute "impudence," "ignorance" and want of brains to another brother, is not only unmannerly but unbecoming in one who should imitate as far as he can the character of his Divine Master, instead of displaying the worst of feeling and the most acrimonious spirit. He tells us we have shown bad taste, and worse judgment, in trying on this and other occasions to underrate the *News*. Of course this is mere assertion. Let us see how the matter really stands:

Less than a year ago we received the prospectus of the *Masonic News*, and at once had the magazine placed on our exchange list; but, judge of our surprise, when on opening the initial number our eyes fell upon the following extraordinary sentence: "We have long entertained the idea that there was room for, and should exist in Canada, a journal devoted to the interests of Masonry," which was in effect ignoring the existence of a journal then in its ninth year. How, we ask, could we be expected to give the usual notice of a "journal" claiming to be the only one of its kind in Canada? Yet it was this omission—purposely we admit—of a notice, which caused the *News* to carp at us, and finally abuse us in good set terms. We have had no quarrel with it, yet it says we underrate it, and it "can understand the insidious undercurrent," which, however, is but an imaginary one. With regard to the offence and "front of our offending," the simple assertion that the *Keystone* had *apparently* demolished his antagonist, should not have stirred up so much bile in the breast of our reverend brother. We meant nothing offensive in implying that—in argument—he had been beaten or "demolished," it was at best a mere expression of opinion. It is not commendable in either a writer or speaker to indulge in self-praise or the assumption that he has worsted an opponent, that is usually left for others to do; but then, there are some persons who are so puffed up with their own pretensions that they cannot bear to be told that there is such a thing as that they might be wrong. Our angry assailant may not like our plainness, but we may as well tell him that his advice as to how we shall conduct the CRAFTSMAN is not needed. This magazine does not pretend to be wholly original, but prefers to give the