

## FORTHCOMING GRAND MASONIC BALL.

### Preparations for a Magnificent Entertainment at the Academy of Music.

A committee of City Lodge; No. 408, F. and A. M., assembled at the Revere House, Broadway, last night for the purpose of making arrangements for the grand Masonic ball, in the Academy of Music, on the 15th of February. The meeting was characterized by that cordiality and unanimity of feeling which mark all gatherings of the brethren of the mystic craft. The object of the ball, which will be under the auspices of the high authorities of the order and managed by the City Lodge, is to raise funds for the assistance of Master Masons in Cuba, whose condition since the outbreak of the insurrection has been one of extreme distress. The initiative in this worthy and laudable object has been taken by City Lodge because many of its members are at present in Cuba in indigent circumstances; but since the matter was first suggested, it has been resolved to aid by all proper means every worthy brother on the island whose condition demands pecuniary assistance. It is fully expected that the ball will be a great success—pecuniarily and otherwise. The tickets are five dollars each for gentlemen, or eight dollars for a double ticket, and are limited to 1,000. The decorations of the Academy will be of unusual splendor, and nothing will be left undone by the committee to make the ball worthy of the powerful body having it in charge, and of its humane object. The fraternity in New York and vicinity will cordially unite together in furthering the objects of the City Lodge committee—a grand Masonic ball never having been held in the Academy before.\* Arrangements will be made in a few days for the sale of tickets and boxes, and the public will be informed through advertisements in the press of the programme to be followed on the occasion of the ball.

A novel and interesting feature, which of itself will be an attraction, is that a prize, in the shape of a magnificent silk spread, beautifully embroidered by hand and costing \$1,000 in gold in China, will be raffled for after the ball and given to the fortunate holder of the winning ticket. The prize is the gift of a wealthy brother, and is a marvel of Chinese skill in embroidery. The case in which the spread is contained is also a splendid specimen of Celestial workmanship. As the tickets for the ball are all numbered the winner of the prize can obtain it from the secretary of the committee after the ball is over, whether he is present at the Academy or not. The prize will be placed on exhibition in one of the Broadway houses in a few days.