

Alexandria, of which he was a member, was set at the hour and minute of his demise. Then the clock was stopped, and it has never been permitted to run nor have the hands been moved since.

The Masons of Fredericksburg, Va., are also now engaged in the undertaking of erecting a temple as a memorial of George Washington, who was made a Mason by that lodge, and was its most distinguished member. The Grand Chapter and the Grand Commandery of the State have made contributions to the cause, and the Grand Lodge will also be requested to give similar assistance

#### WORTHY AND WELL QUALIFIED.

Among the pre-requisite qualifications for admission into Masonry there is none more important than that a candidate should be worthy and well qualified. He is so declared to be by the Stewards at the door of the lodge before he is permitted to enter. In his passage through the several degrees the question is often asked, "Is he worthy and well qualified?" and it is always answered in the affirmative. When he first stands before the altar of Masonry it is asserted that we receive none knowingly into our ranks who are not moral and upright before God and of good repute before the world, and this point is emphasized in all the lectures and charges of the work. It would seem almost impossible, with such an examination and safeguards at the entrance to Masonry, that any who are not worthy and well qualified could gain admission. So it would be if the letter and spirit of these were always observed and carried out. If the moral and mental qualifications of a candidate were scrutinized as closely as his physical ones always are; if the heart and head were subjected to the same test as the hands and feet, there would be less chance for a bad man to cross the threshold of a lodge. Physically it is required that a candidate must be able to comply literally with

all the ceremonies of Masonry, and mentally he should be able to comprehend and comply with the obligations he assumes, and to display in his life the tenets of his profession and to practice the cardinal virtues of Masonry. The weak point in this examination of the fitness of candidates to become Masons, we apprehend, is that it is too often regarded more as a matter of form than of real inquiry. Committees on character are too often derelict in their duty. They perhaps have a slight acquaintance with the candidate, and as his general reputation in the community is fair, they, without further investigation, take it for granted that he is all right, and report favorably.—*Masonic Advocate.*

#### ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

A W. M., writing to the *South Australian Freemason* on the above subject says:—"We have all of us often heard brethren talk about the waste of money on refreshments, and how much better it would be if that were done away with. Now, Sir, I think that the social hour spent in the supper-room is as much a necessity for the success of the Craft, as even the well rendering of our beautiful ritual, for if that hour is spent as Masons ought to spend it, we shall get to know each other better; aye, and like each other better too, than in a year's meeting in the Lodge-room; and it is here I think that a great improvement might be made, and a better attendance secured at our meetings.

"I think at our supper-rooms we are not as *brotherly* as we might be; we look too much like saying, "excuse me, you have the advantage of me." How often we see reserved brethren with us for a whole evening, and not seem to either speak or be spoken to.

"Now, I think if every officer and brother of each Lodge would lay themselves out to invite brethren of other lodges and members of their own, who do not attend regularly, and each one consider himself the *host* of the evening,