

maining unaffiliated from adherence to an opinion that the Masonry of to-day is not the Masonry of their fathers, while others have dropped out of active membership to avoid communion with much of the new material with which we have sought to plaster breaches in our foundation wall."

The Grand Master of Tennessee thus alludes to the subject:—

"The other measure to which I alluded as being a question for each subordinate lodge to settle for itself, is the subject of lodge dues, or the dues collected from members by subordinate lodges. The custom as it now exists is the fruitful source of all woes. It occasions nine-tenths of all our lodge trials. It is the cause of loss of interest, irregular attendance, and ultimate total lethargy and death of some of the oldest lodges. It is modern in its inception, obnoxious in its nature, and not in accordance with the ancient spirit and custom of Masonry. In all my visits and inquiries, nine-tenths—I believe I might truthfully say ninety-nine hundredths—of all the trouble reported to me originated in the everlasting sore—N. P. of D. Not a session of the Grand Lodge is held but more or less legislation is demanded upon this subject. I respectfully suggest to subordinate lodges if it would not be better to strike it from their by-laws; wipe out the question at once and forever—get rid of it, and never again let the word *dues* be heard in the land. But some brother will say, how shall we raise our assessments for the Grand Lodge? and, what shall we do for a charity fund, and to meet current expenses? Do as one among the older and most prosperous of our own lodges has always done; if the revenue from conferring degrees is insufficient for these purposes, let the secretary notify all the brethren two months in advance what sum is required. Each brother comes forward with the amount he is able to pay, and the sum is raised."

MORE OF IT.

The Grand Master of Ohio rendered in 1881 a decision touching our affiliated brethren, which has provoked much comment among the Craft at the West, and, as Grand Lodges throughout the Union will undoubtedly adopt the judgment as standard law, it has become a matter of general interest to all Masons:—

"Held that a non-affiliated Mason had no right to prefer charges against a member of a lodge; and hence, where charges were so preferred in a lodge, and were referred to a committee, and were afterward on report of said committee dismissed, I would not consider any allegations as to the irregularity of the proceedings by or before the committee. The lodge had a right to dismiss the charges because they were not properly preferred; and hence their action in dismissing the charges was not erroneous, although their reasons for doing so might be insufficient."

A reflective man carefully watching the progress of Grand Lodge legislation in the matter of non-affiliated Masons, must arrive at a well founded conviction as to their having gone blindly insane upon a subject upon which depends in a greater measure than our monomaniacal legislators at present suppose, the future prosperity, if not stable maintenance of the fraternity in the United States. When, as Past Grand Master Drummond, of Maine, has conclusively demonstrated, one-third of the legitimately raised Master Masons in this Union are at the present moment in a condition of non-affiliation, and their army is being recruited at the rate of two thousand annually, one would materially think that some effort would be made for the conciliation and reclamation of so valuable a body of men. On the contrary, every imaginable penalty, of which this Ohio decision is a fair specimen, is being imposed upon unaffiliates to drive them ultimately into an open