

workers—a little leaven that tries hard, but often with poor success, to leaven the whole lump of “don’t cares,” “I can’t” and “don’t want to’s.” How often we hear members saying, “Oh I don’t go to Lodge very often now, I think it is running down. They don’t seem to be doing anything to make the meetings interesting.” Dear Brother and Sister, that impersonal “they” has not a place in a Good Templar’s vocabulary. Think and speak of the Lodge as mine and ours, and do not lay the responsibility for its shortcomings on the shoulders of “they.” Indifference will kill any cause, but let a man or woman be thoroughly in earnest, let them believe in their cause so strongly that it is to them like their daily bread or the air they breathe, then if what they believe is right they have found the Archimedian lever that was to move the world. Suppose that every Good Templar should resolve so far as his or her individual efforts go, to make their Lodge a model Lodge, that henceforth they will do all in their power to increase its membership and make their Lodge a social centre and power in the community, that no new member or visitor comes or goes neglected or unnoticed, and that they will use such talent as they have, to aid in the evening’s entertainment whenever called upon. Think you that the question wouldn’t speedily solve itself and that it would be unnecessary to write essays, or spend time discussing “What shall be done for the Good of the Order?” The main thing is sociability. It was never intended that the Lodge room should be a place where people came and sat and looked at each other and did a little business, squabbled over some point of Order and then went home, thinking they had promoted the interests of the Order and advanced the cause of Temperance sufficiently until the next meeting night. Now, I venture to assert, there is one thing all Lodges can do, viz: be sociable. There may be a woeful deficiency of musical and literary talent, but we can make our Lodges the social centre of the neighbourhood, and in small communities, such as many of ours are, will be enabled to produce a radical change in the habits and thoughts of the people, on the vital question of Temperance. Keep out the “we four and no more” spirit. The little cliques and rings; let there be no social grades and there will be no jealousy. See that new members get acquainted and stay acquainted. Let Good Templars be at least on speaking terms with each other; not only in the Lodge room, but at Church, on the street, wherever they may chance to meet. Make our new members feel they are of some value, find out what they can and will do and it will not be our fault if they do not become active workers in the Order. And here a word may be said as to the way in which many of our Lodges

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