

have a right to do as they please in the matter. We would like to see every brother in close communion with the lodges; but we can hardly think there is anything more than carelessness or neglect involved in the keeping aloof of so many who ought to be in good standing. In so far as this part of the Canadian jurisdiction is concerned there is little room for complaint, as we gladly observe that the work of affiliation has been going on very steadily, and a goodly number has been added to the Masonic fold.

It is to be feared that too much harshness has been used by some journals in speaking of non-affiliates, and we regret to observe that Bro. Norton has not escaped attack, because of the freedom he uses in speaking of what he calls "Modern Masonry." If Bro. Norton is a non-affiliate, we are sorry he has not seen his way clear to joining some lodge; still we do not think he will lose or Masonry gain anything by abuse being heaped upon him. It rests with the parties themselves to say whether they will affiliate or not, no matter how desirous it may be to see them in the bonds of union and good fellowship. It will do no good to censure non-affiliates for holding back: if they are ever to be brought into the lodges it will be through moral suasion, and not indiscriminate censure.

THE COLORED LODGES.

BROTHER FINDEL, the well-known Masonic author, has taken up the defence of the German Grand Lodge League for its recognition of the colored lodges of the United States. He professes his inability to see any good in the existence of separate bodies of white and colored Macons. He appears to misunderstand the question, for it is not one of right or wrong as regards the colored Masons coming within the jurisdiction of the existing Grand Lodges, and he consequently argues at a disadvantage. It is not whether the white brethren should fraternize with the so-called colored lodges, as that is a matter that has not yet been in dispute among the lodges; but what Masons generally complain of on this side of the Atlantic is the action taken in Germany, Italy and Switzerland, in recognizing a body not known as Masons, for the simple reason that they thought fit to act of their own accord, and were thus left outside the pale of true Masonry.

We would have nothing to say against the recognition, provided it had been based on better grounds; but it is a well-known fact that colored Masonry, if it exists at all, has not a very extensive membership, and no one can be blamed for refusing to recognize them, when it is considered that they made themselves into Masons. Bro. Findel is a high authority, and well qualified to speak on such a subject, but we would ask him to pause ere committing himself so strongly. Colored Masonry has no legal *status* as such, yet we presume its members are proud of the defence of Bro. Findel, whose name in connection with Masonry is a tower of strength. It is too bad that so distinguished a Mason should have been led away with the idea that exclusion of colored men from Masonic lodges is synonymous with their being regarded as unfit to associate with white brethren. The want of a regular Masonic standing places them outside the Order, and they cannot well be recognized by the Grand Lodges of America.