

Here is a piece of sound Masonic law and wise counsel to Masters of Lodges, respecting the admission of visitors :—

The Master of a Lodge has power to admit or deny admission to visitors. He must in all cases use judgment and discretion, keeping in mind the harmony and best interests of the Lodge as well as the right of visitation. It is the duty of the Master to admit or deny as shall best preserve the right of visitation and peace in the Lodge. For instance, objections on account of bad character should be needed, and discipline should follow ; objections because of personal grounds ought never to be made, if made the Master should act for the welfare of the fraternity.

We have much pleasure in reproducing the following admirable reflections from the concluding portion of the Grand Master's address :—

You will observe from the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters that a large majority of the Lodges are in good shape, and of necessity casting an influence for the betterment of their fellows, and the moral welfare of their respective communities. To uphold and perpetuate our institution such must be the character and influence of individual Masons. A genuine Mason must be a good man. When the precepts of Freemasonry are trampled under foot, then the institution will sink to the level of modern societies. Then I beseech you, my Brethren, while we are taking heed to walk squarely before God and man, that heed be taken also of the character of those who may knock at our doors. It should be so to day and always, that Masonry and true manhood are synonymous. Is it so ? Is the name of the Most High always revered ? Are there none with brain steeped by intoxicants ? God pity them and justly punish those others who, for the sake of gain, make brutes of human beings. I do not ask for perfection, but I do expect of Masons such a manhood as will not dishonor an institution that teaches morality.

There are 87 Lodges in West Virginia, with a membership of 4,131, showing a gain over the previous years' reports of 248.

Past Grand Master George W. Atkinson presented a brief report on Foreign Correspondence, his public duties as a member of the American Congress having absorbed most of his time. He promises us a greater treat next year, and our anticipation thereof is a pleasant one.

M. W. BRO. JOHN M. HAMILTON,
Grand Master.

R. W. BRO. GEO. W. ATKINSON,
Grand Secretary.

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