

time, until by years of training one is fitted to take his place. Change of managership or director is one of vital importance. I hold, a Master cannot form, develop, and successfully carry out his designs in one year, nor can a new Master carry out those designs for him. How many estates suffer by losing their head, most of the designs fall through, one half are a financial failure for want of seeing as the deceased saw them, and not knowing or possessing his faculties for operation. A Lodge ought to weigh carefully every item of expense, and contract no unnecessary debts. We, as Lodges, have no more right to contract debts, without the means of speedy payment, than a private individual. Let us, as Lodges, take the Scotchman's advice to a friend whom he feared was in advance of his means, "Robin," said he, "never drive one horse until you can afford to keep two."

My last suggestion for successful management is the proper discharge of duty of the two most important Boards in connection with our Lodges. I refer to the Committee of Benevolence, and the Board of General Purposes. The Board of General Purposes is the Cabinet or Executive of the Lodge, the mill through which all important matters ought to pass before being offered to the Lodge. To this Board is committed the examination of the character of all candidates; what a responsibility here devolves upon them! If we have one blot upon our Escutcheon, one stain upon our spotless garments of relief and truth, this committee is in a great measure responsible; how careful then they ought to be in investigation, and how impartial in reporting? Brethren, what think you of a Lodge whose Executive exists only in name? Where is the faithful discharge of duty? The lynx-eyed vigilance that ought never to sleep in guarding our portals? Oh! for that unyielding, brave, and fearless discharge of obligation, like the Sentinel of the Lost Legion

at Pompeii, never relaxing, never wearying, fearing nothing but failure. A committee to be faithful to their Lodge must scrutinize all expenses, permit no over-charges, form all contracts, offer what they can to competition. I suggest to all such committees the propriety of counting the cost, try all things, prove all things, hold fast that which is good.

The other important Board which, for the success of Masonry's great mission requires proper management, is the Benevolent Board. A Board of Benevolence exists, or ought to exist, in connection with every Lodge. The question of grave importance is, are they faithful in discharge of duty? We ought to know as Lodges on what principles, and by what arrangement the funds we contribute for benevolence are distributed. In the matter of benevolence, a Lodge to carry out its design at organization, and to fulfill one of the purposes for which it exists, must contribute a portion of its income for the relief of poor brethren. There is nothing so telling, or effectual as systematic giving. City Lodges contribute 10c. per month for each member, amounting to an average of \$90.00 per annum; the ten contributing Lodges with the Chapters subscribe nearly \$1,000 yearly. No Benevolent Board, Charity Board, or Board of Relief, distributing this amount, besides large amounts from other sources, no twelve or fifteen representatives from the various Masonic Lodges and Chapters, and constituting such a board or committee, ought to be without regulations, laws, and rules for their guidance. They ought, for a satisfactory and faithful discharge of duty, to have their own position and the position and responsibility of each officer distinctly and clearly defined, to whom and to what amount their funds ought to be contributed. If we, as Lodges, subscribe so liberally, we ought to know how our funds are disposed of. If the bodies thus contributing appoint a Repre-