

of a billow, we are on the crest of a wave, that will carry us forward we cannot tell how far. The Freemasons of to-day are in every respect the peers of those of any generation or era that preceded them, nay, they are in advance of all who have gone before. They know more, they do more, and they will bequeath to those who shall succeed them a richer legacy of Masonic wealth. Our charities are enlarged, and on every radius of Masonic influence diverging from the Craft's centre there are broad lines of light, and myriad brethren doing their utmost to diffuse it to their fellows.

We are told, again, that in "the good old times" we had the "old work," the true work—not the mongrel, often-changed ritual of to-day. You might suppose, to hear these brethren descant upon this subject, that they had in their early days the very work that King Solomon himself taught the Craft, that it had been religiously preserved and imparted to them then, and that since that time it has been bartered away for a mess of Masonic pottage. What a difference the crossing of a *t*, or a dotting of an *i*, makes to some brethren! They and their preceptors were faultless; whatever they learned was truth, and any departure from it is error. For King Solomon's sake let us hug our so-called error. In many instances the memories of those good brethren are at fault, and what they claim for truth is only their own variation of what was originally taught them. We are ready to assert, and prove, that the Masonic work of to-day, especially in the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, is as pure and good, if not purer and better, than it was twenty or forty, or sixty years ago. It is pointed, free from surplusage, and conveys the primitive truths of Masonry in choice and impressive language. We believe that we are living nearer to the "golden age" of our fraternity than any of the brethren preceding us. The work of the

Craft is at least as pure and good as it ever was; there are now living as true, earnest, able Craftsmen as at any preceding era in our history; and the outlook for the future is more promising than ever before. Never let the present be degraded in your view, for it is yours to command; it is the gift of the Supreme Architect to you; Freemasonry is a heritage that you need only cherish as you ought, to transmit to posterity not merely unimpaired, but advantaged by the user; and it is a fraternity as nearly as may be, without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.—*Keystone.*

#### METHOD AND MANNER.

Method and manner are indispensably necessary to the management of lodge affairs. Masonry in the abstract may be most deserving of commendation, but it will rise or fall in the judgment of those who give close scrutiny to the institution according to the way and manner of its actual representation. Its principles require a systematic expression. There must be a due order of procedure marked out for the administration of its affair. Attention must be given to details, that thus the best use may be made of all its varied agencies for the securing of desired results.

In every department of life men profit by a wise method applied to the use of their strength and resources. By this means they are enabled to accomplish a larger amount of work, and that of better quality. "Method," said a distinguished English statesman, Lord Burleigh, "is like packing things in a box; a good packer will get in twice as many things as a bad one." When asked how he managed to accomplish so much in his official career, his answer was:—"By attempting to do only one thing at a time, and following order and punctuality in everything."

A plan is essential to the conducting of lodge affairs. A methodical arrangement will help to the best re-