

tion with all races and conditions of men—the high and low, rich and poor. Under the glow of its inspiration, our jewels, our working tools, all our paraphernalia, take an ideal import, transcending the limits of mere physical measurement; and pregnant with infinite suggestion radiate a spiritual light even to the boundaries described in the answers to the questions in the Entered Apprentice degree—"How long?" "How broad?" "How high?" "How deep?"—lifting all those who have this "first preparation" into the full perception of the grandeur of our order, and the profound significance of its symbols. —*Samuel B. Spooner.*

ONE CAUSE OF NON AFFILIATION.—A very fruitful source of irritation on the part of members, and a strong inducement to non-affiliation, is the neglect of Secretaries to present bills for dues promptly. When a member receives a notice that if he does not pay his back dues, charges will be preferred against him, and it proves to be the first notice he has had of any being due, he is naturally indignant, even though he has neglected to inquire, and should naturally expect that some had accrued. Many a time he is so disgusted as to permit the lodge to suspend him, when he would have paid his dues with pleasure, if the Secretary had hunted him up and presented them. If a Master finds that he has a three handed Secretary, (that is, one with a little behind-hand,) let him see to it personally. It is better to keep an old member than to gain a new one, and zeal in the former direction is to be commended while it cannot be permitted in the latter.—*Masonic To'ten.*

There seems to be a happy combination of amusement with work at the Royal Masonic Institution for boys, Wood Green, as we are reminded by the recurrence of little entertainments and concerts that are given there now and again. One of

these pleasant gatherings took place on Wednesday evening, when the Carolina (Original) Minstrels,—very original, we should state—carried out a very interesting programme. There were sentimental and comic songs, instrumental music, two Ethiopian trifles entitled, "The Pilgrim Fathers" and "A Photographer's Difficulties." The fare was varied and sufficient to satisfy all reasonable demands. Bones and tambourines figured among the instruments called into use, but we missed the tinkle of the banjo, without which the negro element of the entertainment could hardly be said to be complete. The very nature of the performance and the performers themselves render criticism unnecessary, but we may say that all who took part in the amusements on Wednesday night acquitted themselves well. We are often told that the English are not a musical people; perhaps not, in some senses, but if our city establishments—from one of which the entertainers in question hail—can produce so efficient a set of performers, able to please and even satisfy a moderately critical standard, we think the slur is fast being wiped out, if it ever existed. The School Boys' Band played during the evening, under the baton of their Master, Mr. Whare. Several visitors were present, and the whole proceedings were pleasurable and satisfactory. —*Freemason's Chronicle.*

### A NEW FEATURE.

We have been frequently asked to devote a little of the space of THE CRAFTSMAN to matters other than Masonic—a story, poetry, humorisms, etc.—so that the publication might have an interest for other members of the family besides the one who subscribes for it. We introduce this feature with this number, and hope the change will meet with approval.