

meet this contingency there are two resources. One that is always available, is to seek the proper officer who has been entrusted by the Grand Master with the work, and authorized to communicate it. The other is to attend the Communications. After the Grand Lodge is opened. This right, perhaps, is not generally known; at all events, the opportunity is one that Freemasons who seek to be "bright" and perfect workmen, should always be ready to avail themselves of. There is no authority equal to the supreme one, for imparting life and knowledge, and hence, when it sits as teacher, all Master Masons should be ready to attend as learners. Yet we do not believe that one out of a hundred, nay, one out of five hundred Masons, excepting those who are *ex-officio* members of the Grand Lodge, ever attend it. Brethren, if you wish to possess the true, standard work, attend the Communications of your Grand Lodge, and of every Lodge of Instruction that it is in your power to attend. Were even the officers of all Lodges to be present, we would not witness that discrepancy in the work, and lack of uniformity, which often characterizes two Lodges that meet in adjacent rooms or perhaps two Brethren members of the same Lodge, in the Master's chair at different times.

The work must be *perfectly known*. This is the second important particular. Some Masonic workmen are so sickly and stupid and lame in their utterances that it is both shameful and painful to behold them. They go feeling their way along, like blind men, stumbling at every step; in fact, many a blind man, if he could hear them, would laugh at them without seeing them. This sort of ignorance is inexcusable, for it comes from inattention. Freemasonry presumes that every Brother has a mind, and in some cases it seems a presumption indeed. The only part of us that is divine is the mind, and shall it be said that we neglect it? Brethren, *know* the work, for you *ought* to know it, and *can* know it, if you *will*.

The work should be *perfectly done*. This is the last point. A graceful, forcible and emphatic delivery—ah, there is a charm about it that lights up the *tamest* language as with the fire of inspiration, and makes the *noblest* speech seem the language of one higher than man. It breathes a spirit into works, without which they are dead. It communicates, not merely to the ear, but to the very soul of the hearer, the essence of what is meant, and does not allow him to go away empty. Eloquence is the philosopher's stone, which transmutes leaden words into golden ideas. It clothes naked language with a dress, gorgeous as the apparel of a king. It electrifies thought, so that it courses its way through the listening multitude, making them all as one man. There is nothing like it. And Masonic workmen may all possess a measure of it—not the same measure, but some measure. Do your best, Brethren, to obtain the true work, to know it perfectly, and to render it effectively.—*Keystone*.

---

Masonry prides herself upon her antiquity, her universality, her sameness throughout the world, that her expressions of joy or sympathy can be poured into the attentive ear of every tribe; and all nations, from the barbarous savage to the most refined and enlightened, can frame to pronounce her language, and are ever ready to respond to its calls for charity.