

be regularly read by them. The more of the membership who take a Masonic paper, the more interest in things Masonic will be manifested in lodge meetings.

We venture to assert, that no lodge whose membership read such papers, will lack in having attractive meetings.

The amount of unpardonable ignorance among officers is astonishing, and a better state of affairs cannot be expected until we have a competent Grand Lecturer.

A comfortable, clean lodge-room, is also essential. It may be plain, but the jewels, floor and furniture must be kept clean, the room warm, well ventilated and lighted.

Every member should be encouraged to participate in the proceedings, and not confine it to a few, who are everlastingly assigned to the various duties. Yet proxy speeches should not be permitted, and business should be conducted according to the best rules. If there is no special business on hand, select some good readers to read a short extract from your Masonic paper, and discuss it; then send the editor an account of your work, expectations, surroundings and news, occasionally. Make it short. This will be interesting to your neighborhood, as well as to others, and will tend to build up your lodge.

Vary the exercises, by putting to each member, as a class in school, a question in the lectures. Do not try to do too much all at once. Remember, short, spirited meetings, which leave something to think and talk about, are the successful, enjoyable meetings.

This for a year faithfully, and let us know the result.

The above, from the *Masonic Home Journal*, is so good, that we repeat every word for our State of Texas.—*Texas Masonic Journal*.

The G. L. of North Carolina celebrates its centennial in 1887.

LEADING PRINCIPLES OF MASONRY.

Belief in God, who will reward virtue and punish vice.

Fraternity, or the brotherhood of men.

The obligation resting upon all men to obey the moral law.

The exercise of that toleration which grants to others the same right to entertain and express opinions, which we claim for ourselves.

The equality of all men before God, and in natural right and in the eye of the law, and the exercise of that liberty of action, opinion and speech, which, regulated by wise laws, is necessary to the pursuit of happiness.

The promotion of peace, and the amicable adjustment by arbitration of all difficulties, state or individual, where possible, by mutual friends, instead of a resort to law or to arms.

Respect for and obedience to the civil government, and the laws under which we live.

The cultivation and practical application of that broad charity which "thinketh no evil;" and bestows upon the needy with open hand.

On such principles, all men, disposed to be just and inclined to peace, may unite and together work for the good of all. This institution does not build its platform of principles so high, that none but such as are already saints having wings can get up to it, nor so narrow that few can stand upon it when they get there; but it is made for mortal men, full of infirmities, and is broad and strong, and may be reached by "all sorts and conditions of men" who are worthy, and desire to be made wiser and better, and do good to others.—*Bro. J. A. Keister*.

Two thousand dollars were appropriated for the present year by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, to the Masonic Asylum at Oxford, N.C., at the recent Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.