

stance for his acquaintance, as it was in the lodge he had first heard my name mentioned by Judge Withrow, whose eloquent pleadings for the widow had directed his attention, and ultimately, his affections toward me. And in this manner I learned that I and my children had long been objects of the especial care and solicitude of the lodge."

"I will never say another word against Freemasons again," said Mrs. Wheeler, "and I will persuade my husband to join the lodge, if he is not afraid that the church might reprehend such a step. You almost make me love old Judge Withrow."

"Well you may," said Mrs. Wilson, "but little does he need your love; he has the brave, manly love of the strong hearts of his brethren, over whom he presides. They idolize him. They love him with an affection surpassing woman's love. Their love is an offering to the truth of his noble soul; their love is that homage which true hearts pour out upon the shrine of purity and goodness. His is that fame among his brethren, which like his own good deeds, is not the less glorious from being earned and enjoyed in secret, and not the less pure from not having floated on the breath of the babbling multitude—not the less dazzling from being locked up as precious gems in the faithful bosoms of his brethren.—*Masonic Jewel.*

THE GLORY AND THE SHAME OF MASONRY.

ALBERT G. MACKAY, M. D.

THE December number of the *New England Freemason* comes to us with the valedictory announcement of the editor, that with that number the publication of the magazine will cease. During the past year it has "about paid its cost." This is consoling. Most Masonic journals die in debt. It is, of course, a matter of little importance to the Fraternity whom he has striven to interest, that there has been no return to the editor for his labor.

The news of the extinction of another Masonic periodical, mortifies but does not surprise us. Here was a magazine, which for scholarly ability had not its superior in the world, a magazine which was constantly, by its able articles, throwing light on the history and philosophy of Masonry—which must necessarily have elevated the intellectual character of all its readers—brought to a sudden conclusion, simply for the want of adequate patronage.

And almost the same mail which brings us this sad announcement, brings also the last transactions of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which inform us that there are more than twenty-five thousand Master Masons in that jurisdiction. A quarter of that number would, as subscribers, have given permanence and prosperity to the *New England Freemason*. An eighth would probably have enabled it to maintain its existence, with no reward, it is true, to the editor, but the consciousness that he was doing a good work.

It is useless to attempt to conceal the fact. Freemasons make great pretensions of attachment to the Order, but that attachment does not bring to them, as a general rule, any desire to see its intellectual character elevated. They will expend liberal sums for lodge and personal decorations, for pilgrimages and processions, but nothing for the support of Masonic literature.

Go into a commandery, for instance, consisting of three hundred members, and say to them that it is proposed to make a pilgrimage or visit to some sister commandery in a neighboring State, the expense of which will be to each member about fifty dollars. Call for the names of those who are willing to go, and it will not be difficult in most cases to obtain a hundred.

Go into the same commandery, and say to the members that there is a valuable magazine, full of Masonic instruction and information, which is languishing for want of patronage. Call for the names of subscribers to sustain the work and improve themselves, at an expense of three dollars, and the solicitor will be fortunate if he obtains ten subscriptions.

At the Centennial there will doubtless be magnificent displays of lodges, chapters and commanderies. Money will be expended for these displays without stint, but we should be ashamed to see a census taken and published of the number of readers of Masonic books in those crowds.

Of the six hundred thousand Masons in the United States how many are readers of Masonic books,—how many are subscribers to Masonic magazines? Would not twenty thousand be a liberal estimate?

It is fortunate for the few who do read, that there is in some minds an ardent thirst for study and an equally ardent thirst to give to the world the results of that study. Authors, of a higher order, do not write and publish that they may receive pecuniary