

Frater George C. Connor again presents one of his super-excellent reports on Correspondence. His opening remarks are so good that we cannot refrain from copying most of them :

" In presenting this my sixth Report on Correspondence I ask permission to indulge a few remarks as to the utility of such Reports.

In the Grand Lodge of this State the Committee on Accounts, last January, introduced a recommendation that the Report on Correspondence be abolished in Grand Lodge. After a full discussion, the recommendation was rejected by a rising vote of 258 against 45. Grand Lodge thus decided that the Report was of sufficient value to continue its appearance in the future. That action of the Craft prompts the remarks now about to be made, as the writer of both reports is the same person.

The Reports which it is our honor to be permitted to make for Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery are written with an eye single to the instruction and edification of my Brethren of Tennessee. If the author is prominent at times the necessity is inevitable. We never publish the kind comments of our Brethren of the Guilds, nor do we waste white paper in telling what Correspondents say of our Grand Commanderies or of this Jurisdiction. We have no personal wars to wage, no enemies to censure, no friends to flatter at the expense of truth and the funds of this Grand Commandery.

The controlling motives of this Correspondent's labors is the advancement of the Order of the Temple in Tennessee, and in the United States. He therefore carefully examines the Proceedings of other Grand Commanderies, and makes such use of their decisions, legislation and practices as will instruct his own people and prevent this Grand Commandery from running upon the rocks and shoals that threaten all legislation. To make these instructions palatable—that is, readable—we call into requisition all that is known to us of law, literature, art and Masonic Knight-hood. Experience has taught that the wisest of books are usually the least read. Reading is not the natural tendency of the human mind, and there must be training and inducements to secure the making of an effort which is not inherited.

Newspapers, and most of the magazines, have destroyed the popular taste for sedate reading, if there ever was such a taste prevalent. It is not to condemn but to declare the fact that we indulge this allegation. Those beyond the easy reach of newspapers and magazines are to a great extent without any desire to read more than their Bibles, and an occasional cheap novel. The writers of Templar reviews will not lose sight of these conditions if they expect their papers to be read and enjoyed. Hence the necessity of not holding the hay too high, or of injecting an over-clouding amount of stilted or solemn composition.