

M.s and other lodge officers are sadly neglectful of some of their most important duties.

Such a state of affairs must not be suffered to continue, and if need be, the G. M. must issue instructions to all D. D. G. M.s requiring in detail, all necessary information of every kind concerning lodges, and that the same be duly reported to him as also to Grand Lodge in Annual Communication. Let all W. M.s who have not already done so,—immediately ascertain where all their Lodge Records are, and take the necessary steps for their proper care and preservation.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

THAT ENGLISH MUDDLE.

"That for ways that are dark
And for tricks that are vain
The heathen Chinese is peculiar."

Just at this particular juncture it may not be absolute waste of time to take into consideration for a few minutes, that peculiar institution—The Montreal Masonic Board of Relief—that has thus far so arrogantly defied the Grand Lodge of Quebec, by refusing to obey the edict of non-intercourse, not only in receiving as members representatives of local lodges acting under foreign authority, but also in affording assistance to Masons who have been interdicted.

According to its By-laws the Board is composed of one representative from each contributing lodge in the Montreal District, and the parties open to assistance by the Board are transient Masons, their wives, sisters and children, who may have depended upon a Mason not belonging to a lodge in this district for support, who should (to entitle any of them to such relief) be in good standing, of which proof shall be forthcoming.

On this basis, then, the Quebec lodges have been subscribing their

funds for the assistance of their dependents, and Masons in good standing, not for those whom our Grand Lodge has declared outside the pale of Masonry. It would seem only reasonable that the monies so obtained should be applied to the purpose for which they were granted and to no other. In matters Masonic there should be no mis-application of trust-funds, and when such does occur the guilty parties should be held to strict account. As to the point of soliciting money for one purpose and applying it to another we will leave to legal minds to decide what the common law would call such style of procedure.

Many of the members of this board being Past Masters it would only be fair to infer that by virtue of their installation to that office and the obligation assumed at that time they would feel bound to carry out to its full extent the edict of Grand Lodge. It is idle for this board to arrogate that collectively they can do what individually they are precluded from doing by order of the highest Masonic court in this province. Past experience should teach them that the Grand Lodge of Quebec has nothing to gain but contempt by toadying to England. It seems a mystery what good purpose they can expect to achieve by thus far neutralising the edict. Why should the punishment be robbed of any of its painful consequences to the law-breaker? These men tell us plainly by their acts we will not comply with the laws of the Craft; we place ourselves outside and above them, and accept the consequences. Why not take them at their word? The decision has not been given without ample time for consideration. Let them relieve their own people when necessity arises, or get out of the country altogether, and this having been done and the edict withdrawn there will then be no reason why Quebec Masons should not assume the responsibility and they will do it gladly.

Certain parties in Montreal have of late been championing the cause of the