

shall the same slipshod, slovenly policy prevail in the present as in the past?

It is our firm conviction, that the administration of Grand Master Brodie missed a golden opportunity when it neglected this subject. It is equally our conviction, that the administration of Grand Master Lawrence is bound to take warning by the example.

There is no necessity for the Most Worshipful brother to wait until the next session of the Grand Lodge.

'Twas his active mind, progressive with far-seeing ideas, which has made the Masonic Hall reading-room one of the beautiful facts.

Let the Grand Master, then, add further to his excellent record, by appointment of a commission of competent brethren now, to enquire into this whole subject, and prepare a well-digested plan for submission to the Grand Lodge, at its next annual communication, to the end that the present unworthy musical (?) service may be done away with, and a new state of things inaugurated that shall redound to the credit and not the discredit of the fraternity.

We confess to a feeling of shame and indignation, when, in our frequent visitations to the various lodges in and about the city of New York, we are compelled to listen to discordant sounds that pass under the name of music—Heaven save the mark!—and observe the strange apathy with which the brethren tolerate the outrage.

In other relations of life, would they display such indifference? As members of churches, clubs, societies, or other social gatherings, where music is required; or, as patrons of the theatre, the opera or the concert, they would very quickly bring about a reformation, either by unmistakable tokens of disapproval, or else by absenting themselves from the inflection.

But in Masonry, it seems they are content to put up with a performance, that an "organ-grinder" would reject

as beneath the dignity of his instrument.

Is not our ritual entitled to respectful treatment at our hands? Must we give attention to every other detail of its proper and decorous observance, and neglect the one that vitalizes and beautifies all the rest?

Through the *Corner-Stone*, we have urged that the Grand Lodge should attend to this matter, because individual lodges cannot be expected to possess the requisite material for a chorus, or even a quartette. But in the meantime, any lodge so fortunate as to number among its members, trained musicians, sufficient in numbers and variety of voices to render the music in full harmony, can do much to initiate this grand and beneficent reform, and set a glorious example to all the rest. Such a lodge we believe St. Cecile to be. It includes on its roll the names of the most eminent professionals in New York, every one of them fully competent to take hold of and carry through this worthy enterprise. May we not appeal to that lodge to lend the weight of their example and authority, and above all, of their well-trained musical ability, to the glorious achievement of this long-needed reformation, that it may be started, sustained, and crowned with success.—*Corner-Stone*.

FROM REFRESHMENT TO LABOR.

The sultry dog-days of August have once more been weathered, and those who hied themselves to cool retreats to enjoy refreshing lake breezes, or the invigorating mountain air, during the heated term, are returning refreshed and strengthened to their homes, to take up the toil and cares of business for another season. Those less favored, who could not afford the luxury of a vacation, but are compelled to perform their daily task the year round, can rejoice that the enervating season is passed, and they can work with some degree of com-