

of personal privileges. The high office which I hold with so much pride and pleasure has its obligations, which I have endeavored to discharge faithfully and in the highest interests of the noble Order, which, be assured, will suffer no deterioration so long as the insignia of the Supreme Grand Master remains in my hands.

EXAMINATION OF OFFICERS.

When improvements can be affected in the working of a lodge, there certainly is no just reason why an old order of things should be adhered to,—indeed, it ought to be the aim of every W. M. to make his meetings as attractive and instructive as possible. That such a desirable state of affairs is not general, must be patent to every brother who has visited lodges in different parts of the Colony,—in fact, the rendering of the ritual and lectures in a creditable manner is the exception—not the rule, and we would suggest the adoption of a course for effecting an improvement in this respect. It is not too much to expect that aspirants to office should, at the least, become conversant with the duties required from them, and yet instances have been brought under our notice in which officers of different grades were sadly deficient in knowledge of the ordinary work of a lodge. We might even go farther and assert that brethren have occupied the Eastern chair who could not even open and close a lodge in a creditable manner—who were, in fact, mere automatons, the P.Ms. having to conduct ceremonies that should have been performed by the W. M. This being the case, we ask, what must have been the feelings of an intelligent candidate when an agitated splutter spoilt what ought to have been a most impressive ceremony? It is, unquestionably, a most creditable ambition on the part of a brother when he aspires to the position of a W. M., but he should not overlook the fact that the prosperity of his

lodge must depend, in a great measure, on the manner in which he may conduct his proceedings, and strive to acquire the information necessary for making him competent to creditably discharge the duties he has undertaken to perform. To this end, the governing bodies would act wisely, we think, were they to institute a system of examination of aspirants to the different chairs, and suffer no brother to take office unless he gave proof of his qualifications for performing the duties that may be required of him in a satisfactory manner. This subject we take to be a highly important one, as the adoption of our suggestions could not but prove the means of making lodge meetings attractive and causing increased interest in Masonic proceedings to permeate the ranks of the Fraternity generally.—*New Zealand Freemason.*

A FAMOUS CORNER STONE.

From the *Boston Herald* we learn that the corner stone of the Bennington (Vt.) Battle (Aug. 16, 1777.) Monument, was laid Aug. 16th inst., with imposing Masonic ceremonies by the G. M. & G. L., A. F. & A. M. of Vt., assisted by the R. A. Masons and the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Vt., their Excellencies the Governors of Vt., N. H., and Mass., with their staffs, the officers and members of many local friendly societies, and civic and other organizations; many military companies, bands of music, a select double quartette choir, &c., and an immense concourse of spectators.

At the close of the Masonic ceremonies, fitting and eloquent addresses were delivered by M. W. Bro. Alfred A. Hall, (St. Albans,) G. M. G. L. of Vt., Gov. Ormsby of Vermont, and by the Hon. J. W. Stewart, "orator of the day."

The closing words of the G. M.,