

significant may be the object, or how many workers there may be in the field of labor, if there is not this feeling of emulation, the project will be unsuccessful. There must be some hidden power to propel the work. We are not always cognizant of what the unseen power may be, still we may be actuated all the same, and our zeal may be almost unlimited, and to all appearances we work apparently unconscious. In our fraternity there are scores of brethren who labor unceasingly with the intent that we have already described. We attribute emulation to the good influences of so vast a multitude of men who are endeavoring to ameliorate their condition by the practice of the best lessons that can be devised for man.

—*Freemasons' Journal.*

EDITORIAL NOTES.

AN OLD MASON.—Bro. Jonathan Woodbury, who had been a Mason sixty-eight years, recently died in Nova Scotia, and most of the lodges in the western counties were represented at the funeral.

FREEMASONRY.—"A beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." It is the most ancient society in the world. Its principles are based upon pure morality; its ethics are the ethics of Christianity; its doctrines the doctrines of patriotism and brotherly love, and its sentiments the sentiments of exalted benevolence. All that is good and kind and charitable it encourages; all that is vicious and cruel and oppressive it reprobates.

Much of the lasting effects and benefit of Masonry depends upon the dignity and solemnity attending the initiation. If a candidate is met with a spirit of frivolity rather than of seriousness, he is most likely to conclude that the whole thing is a kind

of farce. But if the deep and solemn lessons are impressed upon his mind with that degree of earnestness which they demand, he goes out profoundly impressed with Masonry's beauty and grandeur.

R. E. SIR KT. FRANK A. REED, G. C. of the Grand Commandery of the State of Virginia, has decided that "a Knight Templar who has been suspended by his chapter for non-payment of dues, was properly and legally suspended in his Commandery by order of its Eminent Commander, upon receipt of a duly authenticated certificate from said chapter, setting forth the fact that said Templar was duly suspended by said chapter for non-payment of dues. And that said Templar could not ask of said commandery, by petition or otherwise, to be restored to the rights and benefits of Templary, until he had first been lawfully restored by said chapter."

THE BALLOT.—Secret it must be and independent. It is a duty from the exercise of which no brother should be exempt, and every brother should bear in mind that while no one can question his motives or even know how he may have voted, yet that he is responsible to his own conscience, to his Masonic obligations, and to his Creator. If he be a true Mason, he will allow no unworthy, un-Masonic motive to actuate him. No mere personal prejudice or bias, no spirit of revenge or retaliation for the acts of others, will influence him to vote unfavorably upon the application of a good, true and worthy man, either for the degrees, or for advancement. And still at the same time it is his bounden duty to reject any and all whom he knows to be unworthy, no matter what the views of others may be.

—*Masonic Tidings.*