

I know of no further suggestion on the subject of dues save to follow the law. It is the duty of the Lodge, it is particularly the duty of the Master, to see that the dues are collected, and to see that they are remitted when the Brother cannot pay them. It is not the duty of the Lodge, to square its books, as one attempted to do, by resolving, with some enthusiasm, to remit all dues to date and then begin again. Delay only increases the burden of the Brother and turns him away from the Lodge, for he hesitates to attend a body he owes, and whose law he is constantly violating. At last, after years of waiting and annoyance and dissatisfaction, he leaves the order, driven from it by his own neglect and the fault of the Master and Secretary. I find that such delinquents are not usually the poor, hard-working brother with a family to support. Such seldom have difficulty in paying their dues. It is the richer brother, grown tired with the duties of the order, and choked with care and attendance on some body he calls "higher," and wishes no longer to waste his time on the old and plain duties of Masonry, the old-fashioned duties of life. If he were made to bear this slight cost in money, usually less than one cent per day, he would be a better and a happier man and Mason.

The present membership of Subordinate Lodges is 23,737, showing a net increase during the year of 611.

There is a most charming account of additions to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum, and the importance attached to these departments in Iowa is just what might be expected of the bright literary minds,—the polished ashlar of the Craft in this jurisdiction. Thus, appropriately, does the proper Committee deal with the importance of literature in respect to Freemasonry:

In every well-governed Lodge a book—*The Book*—is one of the "great lights;" and without its rays the darkness is too intense to permit work to be done. We claim to be the "sons of light;" that our ancient Brother Pythagoras discovered that the square described upon the hypothenuse of a right-angled triangle is equal to the sum of the squares described upon the other two sides, and called it Eureka. We are taught industriously to occupy our minds in the attainment of useful knowledge; to study the two globes, which are represented to be the noblest instruments for improving the mind. The study of the five orders in architecture is recommended to the Fellow-Craft, as is also that of the several liberal arts and sciences. The Worshipful Master sits in the oriental chair of King Solomon, from whence he is admonished to dispense Masonic light and knowledge to all uninformed Brethren. In fine, the Craft is to use Freemasonry as the lever to move the world.

How best to do this is answered by the edict of the Supreme Architect of the Universe: "Let there be light." Light comes from books; books are gathered into libraries, and from thence the light shines into the darkness until the darkness comprehends it, and the mission of the Craft is accomplished.

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