

thy of the Royal Arch, or the A. and A. Rite, or any other branch of masonry. Now, this we unhesitatingly assert to be a *fatal error*. We believe any man, who is worthy of being received in the lodge, is equally worthy of being received into Capitular, Cryptic, or Scottish Rite Masonry. We would ask why a man with thirty-two or thirty-three degrees should say, "I am holier than thou?" The Profane who seeks admission within our portals, should either be worthy of these grades, or else he should not be admitted into our Order. The Master Mason should guard well the portals of his lodge, because the brother once admitted is certainly entitled to these so-called higher degrees. Then "Let Masons be true to their vows."

In conclusion, then, let masons prove to the outside world that there is really something in masonry. That our institution is founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue, and that worthy men alone are received within our ranks. If our Brothers would only remember how closely we are watched and how sacred are our vows, they would strive yet harder to uphold the dignity and honor of the Craft. But let us admit that after all there are only a few masons who are untrue "to their vows." No society is more free from *black sheep* than ours. The sanctity of the Church is cursed by such associates; the ermine of the bench is also at times polluted; so we can scarce wonder that under our banners are men who wear the lamb skin for unworthy and selfish motives.

"Let Masons be true to their vows!"

THE GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC.

The time is drawing very close for the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and yet, as far as we can learn, our "loyal" brethren in that Province have done little towards an amicable settlement of the difficulties which, for nearly two years, through the obstinacy of some, has done so much to injure the fair name of masonry; we

have no wish to tare open old wounds, but we are anxious to see some movement made before the Grand Lodge of Quebec meets. Bros. Racicot and Pickel again and again pledged themselves to do so, and it was upon that understanding that the Quebec party in the Grand Lodge of (Ontario) Canada, yielded to their solicitations, and supported their amendment to the amendment. Under these circumstances, we urge upon those brethren, who then pleaded so earnestly to be allowed themselves to settle the difficulty, and pledged themselves time and again, to strive to do so *immediately*—to move without delay in the matter, so that next month we shall be able to see every mason in the Lower Province united under the banners of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

We write this calmly and dispassionately—we cannot disbelieve men who have held high positions in the Grand Lodge of Canada—we cannot credit the assertions of many that these brethren were not in earnest, and that it was only another "blind." We won't credit such innuendoes, but we long to see something done. Every Freemason in Ontario desires it. Why should we any longer attempt to rule over our sister province, when even the ordinary members of so-called "loyal" lodges only hang to our skirts for shame's sake? Let ultra men on both sides yield a little to those, who have not been so prominent. Such a course is not beneath the dignity of any. The good of the craft should be the first consideration of all.

We have, however, said enough upon this painful subject. We do not wish to upbraid any. All we desire is peace. But we must say that if naught is accomplished before the Grand Lodge of Quebec meets next month, that Grand Body must define its position, and the Grand Lodges of the world will support it. Either it is the Supreme Sovereign Body of that province, or it is not. It must assert its rights and see that its territory is no longer infringed upon. We do not believe that the Mos. Wor-