

In the associations and work of related life, there is plenty of scope for the exercise of this quality, as honorable distinction or influential position is sought by those who apply themselves diligently to the interests which they, with others, have in charge. There is nothing discreditable in cherishing a laudable ambition for political advancement and striving for official place, so long as no unworthy steps are taken to gain such preferment, and provided there is a conscious fitness for the post of service desired. A member of any association is fully justified in wishing to become prominent in the direction of its affairs, and to be a recipient of the honors it has to confer.

And this rule applies to the Masonic organization. There is no reason why any well qualified brother may not cherish a wish to secure the titles and places of official rank and influence which Masonry has to offer. If he has studied the system, if he has been faithful in every position where he has been placed, if he is confident of his ability to be largely useful to the institution and his brethren, were he called to an important office, or given a more exalted rank, then, most certainly, he is in no sense culpable because he has some natural aspiration for the place and the honor. Ambition of this sort, however, must be resolutely held in check by other and superior principles. A sensitive and high-minded brother will never stoop to use unworthy methods for obtaining Masonic preferment. He will make no bargains; he will enter into none of those larger or lesser alliances sometimes formed for the purpose of parcelling out the offices among a few men and their favorites. He will prefer the humblest station to any success which can only come to him by the sacrifice of his manly independence, or by the use of those methods which are altogether opposed to the genius of Masonry.

It is not always the wisest and ablest brethren who get to the front. Some men are held back because their abilities and independence are appreciated, weaker men being preferred by "the power behind the throne." It is rather a compliment to them than otherwise, that some men are kept from becoming Masters of lodges, and are held back from other influential positions. All honor to brethren who, though they may cherish a desire for the distinctions which Masonry has to confer, yet refuse to enter into a scramble for the offices, and will have nothing to do with the arts practiced in the lower realms of political life.—*Freemasons' Repository*.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

In reply to "Unity," in THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN I will endeavor to meet his assertions by contradictions as to the progress of the so-called and self-constituted Grand Lodge of Quebec, and for reference I have carefully gone over the printed proceedings issued by that body from its irregular formation to the present time.

1870—Members on the Roll.....1496
1876—Lodges affiliated from G. L. C. . . 596

2092
1880—Members on Roll.....2343

Net gain in 12 years for 55 lodges.... 251
No. of joinings from 1869 to 1880....2648
No. of withdrawals for same period...2397

251
Thus showing that the capital
started with in 1869 of...1496 members
and with the 20 lodges in '76 596

2092 has progressively melted away.

They also report to have received from the subordinate lodges about £4000 stg., and boast of having expended about £150 for benevolence out of that amount in the same period, the balance being assumed to be running expenses. It may be asked how the increase from the formation of that body to the present number of 2343 is accounted for. Simply by adding the strength of the 20 lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada who in 1876 joined the G. L. of Q.

Why, Sir, I assert without fear of contradiction, that there are more unaffiliated Masons in the Province of Quebec than would make up in numbers two Grand Lodges, each larger than the G. L. of Quebec.

Does "Unity" claim to demonstrate his progress from the above? There must be a reason or cause for the want of advancement; and from the above is it not manifest that his alleged progress is altogether imaginary? And why? Because the composition of the G. L. of Quebec will not compare with the respectable classes of the community.

Its officers are placed by those who form and complete their arrangements over the wine-cup and the card-table, on Sunday as well as Saturday.

The principal officers in some of the lodges have no status in society, and may frequently and openly be observed under other influences than their own natural ones. The trickery and deception practiced amongst those of them desiring by any