

think membership fees prevent many from affiliating. They remove from place to place and cannot stand the expense of dimitting and affiliating every two, three, or five years. We know of many cases where not even one affiliation fee could be paid promptly, and as time passed all interest in Masonry was lost. If no affiliation fee had been requisite, the brethren would have applied for membership, been elected, paid their dues, and performed efficient fraternal service. With such facts before us, we advocate the abolition of affiliation fees, and the frequent and prompt collection of dues. We believe that this and true fraternal conduct, will prove an effectual remedy for non-affiliation. We suggest that lodges be required to show in their annual returns how faithfully they have discharged this duty, and that neglect of it be made a subject of discipline, and of deprivation of representation in Grand Lodge. In other words, that, instead of lashing non-affiliates so much, we apply the rod to the lodges that make them by neglecting frequent and prompt collection of dues. We believe the results of such action will be surprising.

#### NOT OMNIPOTENT.

Clear as the sun at meridian height is the enunciation of the fact that Grand Masters are not omnipotent, but the subjects of constitutions and laws, precisely as the humblest member of the fraternity. The unanimity of the Grand Easts on this topic is remarkable.

#### HONOR.

The time has been when craftsmen preferred death to dishonor. Such is not the fact now with many of the fraternity, as they wilfully deceive, cheat, wrong, and defraud their brethren and others, and indulge in degrading vices. They cannot plead ignorance of masonic requirements, as they have been duly instructed therein. They have been charged,

repeatedly, to steadily persevere in the practice of every commendable virtue, and to let no motive make them swerve from their duty, violate their vows, or betray their trust. In the most impressive manner, they oft have been taught that fidelity is to be inflexibly maintained, even unto death. They know that their honor is pledged beyond recall in behalf of their obedience to the tenets and virtues of Freemasonry; that their exemplary conduct is their only just title to masonic privileges and benefits, and that their faithfulness is to render them worthy of masonic confidence, and yet they deliberately sin. What must be thought of the professions and characters of such craftsmen? What reliance can be placed upon their honor? And what credit does Freemasonry get from their conduct? Alas! none. Its dignity is not supported, but humbled to the dust, by their acts. They are counterfeit craftsmen, or tares among the wheat, or rotten ashlar in the walls, endangering the entire Temple. Thank God, they are the minority, and the true, and good, and great, are the majority. Yes, thank God that the mass of the fraternity do maintain their masonic honor; do inflexibly adhere to their masonic vows, and do practice what they profess. To them integrity is in reality as sacred as life, and they would sooner die than betray their trust. With such brethren it is ever a pleasure to associate, as all their acts are governed by the courtesy of love, and their fidelity will stand the severest tests.

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Never complain of the lack of appreciation until you have done something worthy of being appreciated. You hold others to this rule, for you will not trust and esteem them until they have given you proof that they are trustworthy. Remember your self-conceit adds no merit to your character.