

ante-room, which, harmless elsewhere, often results injuriously to the young Mason. Men of refinement dislike it, while those of less discernment, fancy that in joining Masonry, they are connecting themselves with some rollicking club or society. The Directors of Ceremonies should perform their duties with seriousness, and allow no one to interfere with them, even by their presence. When first received in the lodge, the candidate should be made to feel that the work in which he is engaged requires his whole fidelity, and that the lessons which are being inculcated are meant with all seriousness. Every officer should consider well the part he has to take in the work, and perform it to the best of his ability. And when the candidate is to be instructed in the lesson of charity, or any other of the virtues, he should be made to feel that the teachings are for him alone—that is, “he should be talked to.” Too often are these lessons given in the same way a boy would recite his task at school, and with many references to a monitor. It is only within comparatively a few years that these assistants to the lazy have been brought into use. The attentive ear only received the sound. When a candidate notices that the Master, who should be a perfect workman, reads out of or refers to a book, he naturally loses interest, as he fancies he “can read for himself at some future time.”

Then as the candidate advances step by step through the various degrees, it should always be borne in remembrance that he is like soft clay, easily moulded; but that his mind, like the clay, will become hardened in time. The first impression which he may receive will be left for good or evil. As the work becomes completed, so will it permanently retain the marks of those impressions made at the outset. The candidate should be taught the “essentials” in a perfect way; the instructor ever remembering what they are, and why they

are employed. The novice may easily learn what is right; but it is not so easy to make him “unlearn” what he may have acquired wrongfully.

Then let every officer feel that it is his bounden duty to perform his share of the work well. Every Master should also consider that it is a part of his obligation to teach his apprentice properly, so that he may be turned out a skilful workman, always entitled to his full wages, no matter in what part of the civilized world he may be called upon to travel during the period of his existence.—*New York Sunday Times.*

A HANDSOME GAVEL.

An exquisitely wrought and finished gavel was exhibited in the *Bulletin* office this morning by Mr. V. V. Ashford. The workmanship and polishing of the article enlisted the services of three first-class artificers. It was cut out and constructed by Mr. Green, turned by Herriok, and polished by O'Tremba. The handle is composed of orange, lemon, algaroba, and cocoanut woods. The head consists of puhala, koa, kou, sandal, milo, and kauwila, so that the whole implement contains ten varieties of native woods. The handle is also finished at the end with a neatly wrought piece of walrus tusk from the late Queen Emma's effects. All the islands in the kingdom were laid under contribution to provide the several pieces. One piece comes from near the site of Captain Cook's monument, another from Kailua, the first seat of missionary operations, a third comes from the King's grove at Waikiki, and the rest from other points of historic interest. The gavel is intended by Mr. Ashford for presentation to Occident Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Toronto, Canada.—*Honolulu Bulletin.*

Fifty-six lodges of instruction were held in Michigan last year.