

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

MASONIC RECORD.

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Editor & Proprietor.

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.50 per annum
in advance.

VOL. XIX.

PORT HOPE, ONT., OCTOBER 15, 1885.

No. 10.

HOW SHALL WE ATTAIN UNIFORMITY IN THE WORK ?

Accuracy, uniformity, and impressiveness in the rendition of the "work" throughout the lodges are all desirable in every Masonic jurisdiction, always sought after, but very rarely if ever attained. This is not surprising. To successfully accomplish all of these would be to work almost a miracle. But, a degree of perfection may be attained in each of these respects; and how best to do this is to-day exercising the minds of the most thoughtful and active members of the craft. Among the agencies employed, are, Grand Lecturers, Grand Instructors, District Deputy Grand Masters, documentary instruction in exoteric matters by Grand Secretaries, and Grand Visitations by Grand Masters. Each and all of these are more or less valuable, but still the desired work is not anywhere accomplished. We propose to examine somewhat into this subject, and endeavor so to elucidate it, that advantage may result to the fraternity.

We take the easiest and simplest matter first, and yet the one which is practically most neglected. The procedure and minutes of all the lodges in a jurisdiction should be uniform. To ensure this, each lodge should be furnished with a blank "Form of Minutes," and a copy of the Constitutions of the craft—in Pennsylvania styled the "Ahiman Rezon." Every lodge in this jurisdiction has been supplied with these, and yet if the book of minutes of a lodge in A—

should be compared with another in B,—only a hundred miles distant, the two might be found to be as dissimilar as two books can well be, written in the same language. This is the fault, primarily, of the Secretaries; and secondarily, of the Worshipful Masters presiding over them. Neither will take the pains to follow a plain precedent. This is inexcusable. It does not require any extraordinary exercise of brains to avoid this error, but only such ordinary care as any intelligent, or even semi-intelligent, man should exhibit. All lapses in this matter, must be attributed only to sheer carelessness, and the only way to remedy them, is by persistently and repeatedly calling the attention of Secretaries and Masters of lodges to the importance of uniformity of lodge procedure, under the plain directions of the "Ahiman Rezon," and uniformity in the recording of lodge minutes, following strictly the official form furnished for their guidance.

If we cannot easily attain uniformity in the written forms of Masonry, how much more difficult must it be to accomplish correctness in the unwritten work of the craft. Here there cannot be any but oral instruction—how shall this best be given? This is the conundrum that puzzles Grand Masters and Grand Lodges. The trouble is, that instruction goes in at one ear and out at the other. It has sometimes seemed to us unfor-