

matters are carried outside the lodge doors, and that next morning to the candidate's surprise, he is informed by a non-Mason that he was black balled last night. He is disgraced in the eyes of those who are not members and who do not understand the true inwardness of affairs. The State has provided for the punishment of libelers and slanderers, but in our own midst we have a slanderer whom the strong arm of the law cannot reach. Such a man cannot have one of the principles of the Order at heart, viz, 'to be happy himself and endeavor to communicate happiness to others.' I can suggest no remedy for this disease. It requires such heroic treatment that I am not justified in prescribing.

"How do we stand in the city of Toronto to-day with regard to this question? Are our lodges teeming with men possessed of large hearts and liberal, manly spirits, who would scorn to wreak their vengeance by the improper use of the black ball. I thought so when I sought admission to the Order; I thought so when I was enabled to go from lodge to lodge and fraternise with my brethren, but if there is truth in what I heard in a city lodge a few months ago, there must be wolves in sheep's clothing in our midst. I have thought seriously of what I heard that night, and have concluded that it is high time you should become aware of the position of affairs in one of our lodges, that you should be aroused from your lethargy, and brought face to face with your duty in order to protect the Order from the dangers which are assailing it. God forbid that anything I shall now say should be the means of preventing reconciliations in that lodge. It is my earnest prayer that it should occupy the proud position which she once held in our midst, but if what the brother openly stated that night is true, there is little hope for reconciliation. I see what was once the strongest and wealthiest lodge in our midst dying as if by slow poison, and why is this? Simply because members abuse their privilege

by blackballing indiscriminately, and as I am informed, no matter who is presented for ballot, though he occupies the highest position socially, morally and intellectually in our land, he is sure to fail in his effort to gain admittance. This has been going on for years, and the consequence is that two or three men are enabled to retard its progress, members will not attend, and the chances are that the Charter may have to be handed in. I heard the Master of that lodge declare that an offer had been made for a cessation of hostilities if the lodge would receive back to its arms one who had been expelled for holding religious views and opinions not consistent with the doctrines of Freemasonry, and that such offer was rejected, for as honest men and Masons they could not admit one whose views are so at variance with the teachings of the Order. If this is the true state of affairs then I thank God we have such a lodge in our midst. Your duty and mine is plain with regard to it. She is fighting our battle. She is fighting for all that we hold dear—for the beliefs that have made us respected and revered in all civilized countries and ages. She is badly handicapped, she is fighting against fearful odds, not only for her own existence, but for our honor and reputation. What are we doing while this battle is progressing? Are we acting a manly part I ask? I am only awakened to the fact that we are taking the coward's place in this conflict; that we are allowing this lodge to waste its substance, to waste its strength, in a fight that properly belongs to you and me. Brethren I give you this subject to take home with you and think over. You may gain more light on the subject as I have. I trust you will come to the conclusion that it is the duty of every lodge in the city and district to hold up the hands of your brethren in this fight, that their charter must not be surrendered, that she shall not be allowed to die in poverty while our coffers are full, that she must be sustained at all hazards even if we have to