

Lecturer receiving \$10 a day. Beyond this lodges pay him when he is called to instruct them. -- *Masonic Home Journal*.

FICTITIOUS AND REAL VALUES.

An old adage says that 'fine feathers make fine birds.' No one will take exception to this sentiment. Feathers are nature's adornment of birds, and in many varieties are about all there is of them. This adornment constitutes their chief value, and the more gorgeous the feathers the higher the price for the bird.

Another old adage says: "Worth makes the man, the want of it the fellow." All ought to agree in this sentiment, but public opinion does not always sustain it. Money enables men to adorn themselves in fine apparel, which often serves as a passport to a position in society which they are wholly unfit to occupy. Birds and men are alike bipeds, but here the resemblance ends. They each have a different kind of value. The one lies in the adornment; the other is what there is beneath it.

Freemasonry has an adage which says: "It is the internal, and not the external, qualifications of a man that should recommend him worthy to be made a Mason." No one, Mason or otherwise, will take exception to this sentiment. The theory is all right, however much it may be disregarded in practice. A superb physical exterior may conceal a vile heart, and a fine suit of clothes is no index to the character within it. While, as Milton says, "Money brings honor, friends, conquest and realms," it is none the less true that among this favored class there are many who are like the man described by Pollock, "who stole the livery of the court of heaven to serve the devil in."

Appearance is often deceptive. Internal qualifications are hard to determine when a man seeks to disguise his true character. Masonic Lodges are

thus sometimes imposed upon by unprincipled, designing men, who apply for admission through mercenary motives. Having gained an entrance into the Lodge their purpose will be best served through advancement to its highest official honors. As a further investment in the same line all the "higher degrees" are taken in the shortest time possible, and a conspicuous sign is at once displayed upon his watch guard that the world may know that he is a "high Mason." He is usually conspicuous on all Masonic public occasions, and cuts quite a swell among more modest but better Masons.

Masons, as a rule, are discerning men. They can distinguish between the false and the true, and many in this day and generation are beginning to learn that there is wisdom in St. Paul's injunction to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." The best phase of Masonry is shown in the unostentatious simplicity of the Blue Lodge. Here it is Ancient Craft Masonry as it has stood the test of time, unadulterated by modern fashions and ideas. There is not much in it to a "show" Mason, but very much to one who has the inner qualifications of heart and mind which make him a worthy brother. The one is like the bird whose value is in its beautiful plumage. Pluck its feathers and there is nothing left. The other is an honest man—"the noblest work of God." The one is a rumbling stone in the temple of Masonry; the other the perfect ashlar which gives symmetry and durability to the noblest edifice that has ever been erected.--*Masonic Advocate*.

Brethren should remember that silence is absolutely necessary in a Lodge. It is grossly disrespectful and an evidence of ignorance to see brethren laughing and whispering when a degree is being given. It is worse still to see and hear the Secretary and Treasurer counting the dues, etc., when the W. M. is addressing the Lodge.