

REASONS FOR MASONIC SECRECY.

If the secrets of Masonry are replete with such advantages to mankind, it may be asked, why are they not divulged for the general good of society? To this it may be answered, were the privileges of Masonry to be indiscriminately dispensed, the purposes of the institution would be subverted, and our secrets being familiar, like other important matters, would lose their value, and sink into disregard.

It is a weakness in human nature, that men are generally more charmed with novelty than with the intrinsic value of things. Innumerable testimonies might be adduced to confirm this truth. The most wonderful operations of the Divine Artificer, however beautiful, magnificent and useful, are overlooked, because common and familiar. The sun rises and sets, the sea flows and re-flows, rivers glide along their channels, trees and plants vegetate, men and beasts act, yet these beings perpetually open to view, pass unnoticed. The most astonishing productions of nature on the same account escape observation and excite no emotion, either in admiration of the great cause, or of gratitude for the blessing conferred. Even virtue herself is not exempted from this unhappy bias in the human frame. Novelty influences all our actions and determinations. What is new or difficult in the acquisition, however trifling or insignificant, readily captivates the imagination and insures a temporary admiration; while what is familiar or easily attained, however noble or eminent, is sure to be disregarded by the giddy and unthinking.

Did the essence of Masonry consist in the knowledge of particular secrets or peculiar forms, it might be alleged that our amusements were trifling and superficial. But this is not the case. These are only keys to our treasure, and having their use,

are preserved; while from the recollection of the lessons which they inculcate, the well-informed Mason derives instruction, draws them to a near inspection, views them through a proper medium, adverts to the circumstances which gave them rise, and dwells upon the tenets which they convey. Finding them replete with useful information, he prizes them as sacred; and convinced of the propriety, estimates their value from their utility.—*Masonic Register.*

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

THE Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky reports having given the following decisions during the year:—

Can a lodge hold a fair for the purpose of raising money to pay incumbrance on lodge-room?

Answer—Yes.

Is it lawful to raffle articles at a Masonic fair?

Answer—No; any violation of the laws of God or of the State, is a violation of Masonic law. Raffling is gambling; gambling is a violation of the moral law and of the laws of the State. A raffle should not be permitted in connection with any entertainment controlled by a Masonic lodge.

Upon what class of papers should the seal be used?

Answer—Upon all official documents, whether issued by the lodge or by order of the Master.

A brother was upon trial, found guilty of unmasonic conduct. The question was, shall he be expelled? The Master voted. When the vote was counted it was found to be a tie. The Master then voted again. Did he have a right to vote twice?

Answer—No. The Master can vote but once upon any question. The motion to expel was lost.

Will you grant me a dimit?

Answer—No. Your lodge alone has the power to grant you a dimit.