

THE QUALITY OF MASONIC MEMBERSHIP.

No greater mistake can be made by a lodge than to be ambitious of numbers regardless of the character of the material. As a single false stone worked into a foundation may result in toppling the whole building down, so some unprincipled libertine may destroy the whole credit of a Masonic edifice.

The principle need of to-day is a strict scrutiny of the quality of the applicants for admission to our fraternity. Masonry has increased its adherents until it has become a popular institution. As long as the Church of God was persecuted, it was pure. No man sought its sacred communion unless actuated by a principle ready to stand the test of martyrdom. But, when it began to receive the patronage of crowns, and the revenues of Empires, when there were high places to be awarded, and fat salaries to be dispensed, then time-serving and self-seeking came within its pales, and introduced the corrupt leaven which well nigh worked its ruin.

Now we are strong, and those who have lost character come to us and desire to be propped up in society by our influence. Men who wish to traffic on the good will engendered of our fraternity are seeking our recognition, and may in the end turn our lodge-rooms into a den of thieves.

It is not even sufficient that a candidate be a man of pure and incorruptible principle. In addition to being under the tongue of good report, in this respect, he should be possessed of sufficient intelligence, and refined sensibility to appreciate our sublime teachings and the appositeness of the didactic symbols of Freemasonry.

Let it be borne in mind that we do not propose masonry as an imbecile school, or as a hospital. Our work is not to light the mind of fools, or to cleanse the moral leprosy of the corrupt in heart and life. It is a mockery for a man to be sporting the symbolry of our Order in the jewels he wears, who cannot give you an intelligent interpretation of the significance of our emblems. It is profane for a man to wear the sacred G on his breast, whose mouth is foul with blasphemous oaths.

Men of wisdom and worth seek the associations of Masonry upon ground of congeniality. They only in our altar oaths *confirm* the principles and practices of a virtuous life followed before they found their way to our altars. A man seeking the fraternization of Masons should be as pure in heart when he kneels to assume our vows as when he rises up from their imposition.

We commit an error, gross in its nature, when we regard Masonry as a reformatory institution, and admit to our association the ignorant and profligate.

We want *quality* of membership more than quantity. Tile the outer door. Look well to the ballot.—*Kentucky Freemason.*

We learn that the M. W. Grand Master has appointed R. W. Bro. John V. Noel, to be District Deputy Grand Master for the Province of Manitoba, and from our knowledge of that R. W. Brother's zeal and ability, we have every reason to believe that he will discharge the duties of his office with satisfaction and advantage to the Craft in that Province.