

Lodge upon the prosperity of the Craft in Vermont, and says it was never more harmonious and prosperous than now.

So may it long continue.

The following forcible remarks upon the evil referred to, will apply to other Jurisdictions than that of Vermont :

"I am able to speak of only two evils which have any general prevalence. The first is of a negative character but none the less an evil. It is that of indifference or inactivity,—a sort of lukewarmness towards Masonry which characterizes so many of our brethren. These profess to think well of Masonry—they speak well of it. Some of this class occasionally attend lodge meetings and pay their dues ; others do not even do this. They do not realize that Masonry is any benefit to them ; they receive no benefits to realize. They do not put themselves in position to receive any. It is only those who are willing to go out of their way and on foot to succour the needy ; or to bend the knees in supplication for a brother's welfare ; whose breast heaves with feelings of benevolence ; who are ready to stretch forth the hand in support of the falling ; and whose mouth whispers good counsel to the erring ; and whose ear is open to the cry of the distressed, that are in position to receive and realize the full benefits of Masonry.

"The other evil of which I would speak is a spirit of intolerance—a disposition not to submit to the regulations of Masonry. It arises from disappointment in not attaining some end desired, while the disappointed members chafe—sometimes rebel—because of the restraint of some requirement under which the object sought is defeated. Such lay to heart their defeat and seem to attach more importance to it than to a steady observance of salutary and necessary rules. Their feelings of disappointment over-master their judgment. This spirit is oftentimes found among the most zealous. The indifferent rarely if ever exhibit it. Indeed it results from disappointed zeal, and the more earnest the zeal the greater the disappointment. It is sometimes found when an aspirant for office has been defeated, the majority of the lodge not appreciating, according to his idea, his qualifications, for official position ; or when some brother in the exercise of his inviolable right of the ballot has black-balled a favorite candidate ; or when a trial has resulted differently from what was expected, and an accused brother who was thought guilty has been acquitted or was punished when believed to be innocent, or when a favorite scheme of any kind has been frustrated. In such instances a spirit of intolerance takes possession of the most active of the brethren and cools their zeal or turns it in the direction of doing evil. And yet the brethren most exercised by this spirit justify it upon Masonic grounds. They claim to be doing their Masonic duty. Herein lies the great danger. They think an evil has been done, and the effect of their action is to attempt its redress by doing another. A little examination will demon-

strate
to the
official
hands
deser
their
candide
been c
in viol
chagrin
upon
appoint
as good
in lodg
charit
noble

"Th
not in
but in
rests o
brothe
his ear
that h
Mason
questi
Mason

"I
more o
ties th
it seiz
there h
tivity
tion.
which
cause,
stoppe
to pass
But it
almost
and eff
zealous
and bre
"Th
comple
cannot