

Moral—Never despise a Superior Force or Power; it is wiser to avoid it. Take everything at its proper value, and never read between the lines, unless you want your wings singed.

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A fruit-grower while inspecting his orchard one day noticed that a Favorite Tree was not progressing well. A closer inspection showed that some of the Limbs were affected with Black Knot, whilst others were threatened with Black Heart. The Trunk of the Tree being in good condition the fruit-grower determined to save it, and proceeded to prune liberally. The Idiot of the town happened to pass when the pruning was being done, and not understanding the necessity of such an operation, ran through the streets shouting "The Man with the Knife!"

Moral—Never criticise what you do not understand, as needless fault-finding only makes you the subject of ridicule.

POINT, LEFT, RIGHT.

BY THE ANCHORITE.

Masonic law as well as Masonic teachings declare the solicitation of candidates an unworthy proceeding, and one that should be severely condemned. "Touting" for candidates lowers the dignity of the Masonic Institution, places the candidate in a false position, as he must perceive when he signs the application form, and proclaims that the solicitor is ignorant of the first principle of Freemasonry. If it is wrong to tout for candidates, is it not also wrong to boom certain brethren for office? Sometimes the booming process is conducted with the consent of the candidate, and frequently at his instigation. The booming is carried on at times publicly as well as privately; publicly, in periodicals that contain Masonic news or in the lodges; privately, by interested brethren, who expect preferment should their candidate

succeed, or who are under some business obligation to the office-seeker. Such a condition of affairs is disgraceful, and should be frowned down.

In this jurisdiction we are surfeited with this booming business. Even so important a personage as Grand Master Walkem, by some mischance, unfortunately forgot the dignity that is attached to the position he has hitherto so ably filled, and he recently descended to the level of the boomster. How Bro. Walkem stepped into a trap, artfully set by designing brethren, is to me a hidden book, and doubtless will be to many others, but the mystery does not remove the mistake nor lessen the serious blunder that establishes a dangerous precedent.

I see no wrong in mentioning the names of prominent and worthy brethren as suitable for certain offices, but when brethren are lauded to the skies, held up as perfect paragons of purity, and declared to be the brightest lights in the Masonic firmament, how I long for even the slightest cloud in the atmosphere to hide them from sight.

Occasionally the booming is carried on without the consent of some of the brethren. An example is to hand. Our esteemed Grand Treasurer, Bro. Edward Mitchell, has been nominated as the next Deputy Grand Master, and that in a vehicle which has obtained the reputation of puffing up brethren at their own request. Bro. Mitchell has thus been placed in a false position, and has felt it his duty to announce that he does not seek the office. Why should Bro. Mitchell be placed on an equality with professional office-seekers? What has he done to be thus humiliated? Some of the candidates so ferociously and hysterically boomed are not of that calibre to command respect, and consequently a worthy brother is brought forth to lend tone to the proceeding, or to make amends for the deficiencies of the others.

Where will this booming business end? Now that it has commenced, and is being conducted on similar lines to political campaigns, we may expect