

shares, the remainder being divided among the Lodges in Rio Janeiro and a few private holders.—*The Triangle.*

(The Editor & Proprietors do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions of Correspondents.)



MONTREAL, MARCH, 5861.

Previous to our giving up all hope of a magazine or periodical in Canada devoted to the interests of Freemasonry being self-supporting, we have determined with laudable ambition to send a copy of the March number to every lodge in the Province. We are extremely unwilling to believe, or even be led to think, that out of nearly one hundred and fifty lodges under the Grand Lodge of Canada, and say, perhaps, a dozen under other dispensations, they are unwilling or unable to support a journal whose interests are wholly devoted to affording such information, and disseminating such ideas relative to the exoteric portions of our science as will enable our readers to be at once bright as well as properly informed Masons. Five or six members from each of the above-mentioned lodges, taking the paper, would insure its continuance, and at the same time prevent a direct loss to the proprietors. We feel that we have fulfilled our mission faithfully, and in some, and not a few cases, received the cordial thanks of the brotherhood, but we cannot but feel at the same time that our American brethren can fairly charge us with want of manliness, want of back, and generosity, should we allow the thing to die, as it were, in the bud. What say they? Our Canadian brethren cannot support a paper at the low price of \$1.00 per annum, surely they must be poorly informed upon what goes on in the Masonic world; and so it is. What a candle is to a room to afford a means by which one object may be distinguished from another, so is a masonic periodical to the fraternity. As an exponent of particular views on Masonic subjects, its columns have ever been open to the craft, and we trust that not a little sound information has been disseminated among the members of our order.

As the continuance of this journal will depend entirely upon the result of this month's canvass we earnestly request all who purpose subscribing to send down their names a once, accompanied by a remittance for the ensuing year, (this, however, can be paid after the 1st May proximo.) A goodly show of subscribers will be our only inducement for continuing its publication.

ON VOUCHING FOR BRETHREN.

By the Editor.

The practice of vouching or asserting in open Lodge that the Brother seeking admission has been regularly entered, passed, and raised in a legally constituted lodge, has been of late years, more especially, a growing and pernicious practice. Among the older Masonic writers, it was seldom if ever resorted to, "Every apprentice being well understood in the work of his maister;" nor indeed do we find the habit on the increase till about the year 1800, when many who were known to be brethren, though too indolent to keep themselves duly posted in the Ritualistic portion of our ceremonies, were "certified" for, and from that period up to our own day, as we have before said, the evil is on the increase. It is by no means a misnomer to call it an evil, since we have known the most unpleasant results follow the examination of a visiting brother, after he had been "duly vouched for" by another brother. Many other equally disastrous effects would result, were the mysteries of our order jeopardized by being placed in the hands of those who have neither time nor ability to attend to them. What we most anxiously desire is to set before the brethren what we should or do consider as the veritable masonic law on the question, and we feel sure that those who have the interest of the craft at heart will at least give us credit for the good intention of preserving everything esoteric from the profane.

Our first proposition is, that no brother vouch for another brother, *unless he has sat in open lodge with him*, and then vouch only to the extent of the degrees which were at that time under consideration.

Secondly, That when one brother vouches for, or becomes, as it were, security for another, he does so from a distinct understanding that any examination or questioning relative to the brother's proficiency had been conducted in the presence of one brother (at least) equally competent with the examining brother, who shall be also satisfied as regards his qualifications, and that the said examination in all cases take place in the anteroom of the lodge in which he seeks admission. We are well aware that to this rule the objection will be raised, "how then are you to afford masonic charity?"

But to this we readily answer, by saying, that to all rules there are exceptions, and to all well-governed lodges there is a charitable committee, composed of at least three members of the lodge, the R. W. M. being either an acting member, or one *ex officio*, and it is in cases specially coming under this rule, which would fall more particularly under their notice. To vouch for a brother, without having sat in lodge with him, betokens a want of manly firmness and true masonic spirit on the part of both the voucher and the party vouch-

ed, the latter requiring a voucher usually as a cloak for his ignorance, if not for some baser purpose, while the former is desirous of appearing to be some one, by introducing members of lodges superior, perhaps in social position to his own, thereby leading the brethren to imagine he has sat in these lodges, or else in concert with the party desiring admission, in violating the most sacred promises, and reaping eternal damnation. It should be the earnest endeavour of any and every brother to keep the portals of the temple safe and inviolate, and surely with the very loose system at present adopted in respect to vouching, its security cannot expect to exist as we should wish, nor its secrecy be steadfastly maintained. It requires the signatures of two brethren in good standing, together with the unanimous voice of the lodge, by ballot, to even admit the candidate to but a very small interest in our ceremonies, and surely when the probability exists of his gaining a further step towards the most holy place, a greater amount of caution will certainly be required now than heretofore.

We earnestly call the attention of the brethren to what we have said, and feel that no offence can be taken, nor any inconvenience induced by a rigid adherence to the rules we have laid down, but rather a satisfactory knowledge is acquired, the knowledge of feeling that we are really amongst brethren,

"Who can meet upon the level
And part upon the square."

To those of our readers who are fond of everything connected with Freemasonry, we would recommend them to purchase a copy of the portrait of the Lady St. Ledger, probably the only woman to whom any of our mysteries were revealed. They have been prepared at great expense, and in the full hope of being remunerated by the craft, the publishers have appended a history of this celebrated woman's initiation in a pamphlet form, which accompanies the picture.

The low price charged, \$2.00, which does not more than cover actual expenses, should be an inducement for every mason to come and purchase.

They are for sale by Bro. Hill, Office of the *Canadian Freemason*, No. 2 Place d'Armes.

We are happy to learn that a R. A. Chapter, under the Grand Lodge of Canada, is being rapidly organized in this city, the Principals are, we believe, M. E. Comps, Bernard, Isaacson and Levey, the latter Bro. P. M. of St. Andrews Lodge, Toronto. That this was much wanted, is admitted on all hands, since from the unpleasant feelings which were generated by the organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada, many of the brethren here did not feel themselves quite justified in being exalted in a foreign Chapter. The number of