

He decides that the Masonic Lodge Room should not be used by persons who are not masons, and comments as follows :

"I am *very much* afraid the *great* importance of this question has been overlooked, or at least underestimated by the Grand Lodge, for it is certainly true that the harmony of *many* Lodges in this Jurisdiction has already been disturbed, if not *broken*—by your toleration on this subject. You need not undertake to justify our *loose* practice in regard to this thing, and tell me that we have precedents here and there. I am aware of that, but what have we to do with precedents? Should we not, like men and Masons, 'rise up as with one voice,' and say away with all *modern* loose practices and innovations on the 'Body of Masonry.' Let us risk nothing simply on the score of *policy*. Why, my brethren, it would be far better that we should hold our meetings 'on high hills or in low vales,' there to talk and work Masonry, than to meet in some room, to which everybody has access, as soon as the Lodge is closed, where jewels, books and records may be inspected and perchance an original petition, with report of committee on it, or a slip of paper containing a ballot, *might* be picked up and taken away. These things have been done *time and again*. I repeat, Masonic Lodge-rooms, where Freemasons *regularly* meet to work, and transact *Masonic business*, should not be built, in the first place, jointly with other bodies, or persons, who are not Masons. Of course I do not mean to say, that other stories, or even other rooms in the same story, and detached from it, may not be owned and occupied by persons who are not Masons, and I advised the Lodge in the case before us, to buy the other party's interest or to sell its own, and afterwards rent, and to stipulate in the terms that the room should not be used except by the Lodge. In conclusion of this matter, I would ask in all sincerity how can we keep the secrets of the Order from getting into the possession of the uninitiated when they are allowed, except at such hours as the Lodge may be at labor, to enter our Masonic abode?"

The finances appear to be in a healthy state—only a small Fund in hand, but the Grand Master says they do not need much ; all they require is to pay expenses and meet the demands of charity ; he closes his interesting address as follows :

"Finally, my brethren, allow me to cherish the fond hope that the business of this session will be conducted harmoniously and with great wisdom, so that the rich fruits of 'to-day's sowing' may be reaped and enjoyed by the Masonic Fraternity in the far distant future. I beg you to not allow the spirit of innovation to encroach upon the fundamental principles and land-marks of our time-honored Institution. I would warn you, in this day of progress and of *new departures*, that you should bring into requisition the three virtues of prudence, caution and circumspection, for, as I have already remarked, we have more to fear from inward expansion than from outward pressure. An inflated prosperity may yet weaken the energies of

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