

sire to pose as a "kicker," although that peculiar individual, who is usually to be found in all bodies, is not without his good qualities. But it makes us very tired to see the profane press continually harping upon the fact "Mr. So-and-So is a prominent Mason, having taken all the high degrees, and being a Knight Templar and member of a mystic Shrine," when the fact is apparent to all that in some instances the Brother thus spoken of is really a drone in the hive of all that constitutes Freemasonry. We recognize no "high-up Masons." If a man has received the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, he is as high up the Masonic ladder as one can climb upon this earth. — *Masonic Recorder*.

MASONIC DRONES.

If there is one thing more than another that we especially dislike it is a drone, whether in the bee hive, the Masonic Lodge, or the world at large, it is all the same—a worthless, lazy, indolent life—living on the labor of others. That there are many such in every phase of human life is evident to the most casual observer, and hence it is not surprising that more or less of them find their way into our Masonic Lodges. That they are the bane of the institution of Freemasonry is evident to every one who has ever held a supervising position in an official capacity in the Order, and how to make them available is the problem that many have attempted to solve, but the result has been generally far from satisfactory. They still exist with their blighting influence; the vitality of Masonry is sapped to its very roots by their connection with it, and it withers in the noon-tide of its prosperity, as the plant in the sandy soil withers beneath the scorching rays of a meridian sun. It is almost a wonder how such drones ever became Masons, for their petition must have come as their own voluntary act, and they have never been known to do anything voluntarily in a Masonic

way since. They pay their dues, when compelled to do so, to preserve their Masonic standing, and attend their Lodge in obedience to a summons for the same reason. If asked to perform any Masonic duty, such as sitting up with a sick brother, providing for those who are destitute, or relieving those who are in distress, they have important business which must be attended to—they are very sorry that it has happened so—but they must be excused this time. They never perform any such service while there is any possible way to avoid it, but they are the first to ask it for themselves in the hour of need, or when they can be benefitted by it, and if it is not promptly rendered to their entire satisfaction, Masonry is declared to be a humbug, and Masonic obligations the merest pretense. The beautiful lessons of brotherly love and charity inculcated so impressively in the several degrees they have taken, have fallen like good seed upon stony ground, and hence bringeth forth no fruit. Now it is evident that there must be some defect, something wrong, for this condition of affairs could not exist, and to endeavor to discover the cause and apply the remedy should be the aim of all who desire to increase the usefulness and promote the prosperity of Masonry. There are undoubtedly many reasons which will present themselves to the thoughtful Mason, but chief among them, we apprehend, is the fact that a great many men have erroneous ideas in regard to the institution before they become members of it, and not finding it just what they had supposed it to be, in their disappointment they lose all interest in it and become simply nominal Masons. They had imagined that Masonry was a highway to distinction, honor, riches and power, but found instead that it laid upon them new cares, labors and responsibilities, which they were unwilling to assume. Instead of a desire of being serviceable to their fellow-creatures, it turns out that their desire is to make the whole fraternity of service to themselves, and if this can