

that others are of the same mind. Indeed, the aim of many Masters appears to be the "making" of a large number of members, so that he may boast of "a busy year of office."

We ask again:—How many a worthy brother has been kept from his lodge by the "full-of-work" Master, who is anxious to do his three degrees, to show his parrot-like competency?

We have ever maintained that the first duty of the W.M. is to the present members of his lodge, and that the lodge should be made to them a place of delight and comfort. Can this be attained by crowding in three hours of solid ritual?

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is a true saying, and we must remind some of our young W.M's., while not neglecting work, not to overdo the thing, and make the lodge dull for the older members who have gone through it all before, and will most assuredly be found wanting in attendance on the "Three Degree" nights.

Remember, one good old tried member is worth a dozen new ones, although they bring fees in with them, and it should be the duty of those in power to make the lodge attractive to the "old boys."—*The Victorian Freemason.*

CASTE IN MASONRY.

Natural forces tend to produce caste or a selection. But in Masonry all meet on the level, and selection or caste is only possible outside the Mason's door.

There are not a few Master Masons who belong to the Royal Arch, Knights Templar and Scottish Rite, with a strong feeling of caste. They say that a Knight Templar thinks himself above and better than a brother who is a Master Mason only. While this may be true with a few, it is not true with a majority. We are cognizant of the fact that Royal Arch Masons and Knights Templar are sometimes indiscreet in their speech,

which has a tendency to foster the idea of caste; but we believe that the Masonic soil is so wretchedly poor in those elements necessary to caste production, that should a few spears shoot up, they will be so sickly and lifeless as to excite pity rather than respect and attention. Brethren, be not alarmed; don't imagine there is caste when you cannot actually find it.—*Topeka Light.*

SHALL WE SUSPEND OUR BRETHREN OR MERELY STRIKE THEM FROM THE ROLL.

This question is just now the most important one before the fraternity. Whether or not a Mason who has refused to pay his dues until they reach a formidable sum should be acquitted of the debt by striking his name from the lodge register, is the prominent topic of debate among debating Masons. Let us examine the matter in the light of honesty and common-sense and strive to reach one equitable conclusion. And first, why should a Mason pay his dues?

1. Because without this payment of contributions the lodge can not be kept up. To refuse to pay is to destroy the lodge.

2. Because the by-laws require him to pay his dues, and he knows it.

3. Because he is as solemnly covenanted to pay his dues as he is to keep the secret of Masonry.

4. Because not to pay dues marks him a dishonest man.

5. The other members have paid money for him, viz: the Grand Lodge dues, the various calls for charity, the "Home" assessments, etc., and he is personally bound to make the amounts good.

6. Because he has enjoyed the privileges of Masonry for months and years under false pretences, in the fact that he has not paid according to his pledges.

7. Because the lodge dues are so insignificant in amount that if paid