

last year that an announcement was made from this place which revealed the certainty of its accomplishment within a reasonable time. Since the formation of this Grand Lodge but few, if any, more notable functions have fallen upon a Grand Master to perform than that of laying the corner stone of that Temple in this city on the 6th ... October last, according to the ancient customs and rites of the fraternity, in the presence of so large a concourse of deeply interested spectators, and assisted by so large a number of Craftsmen."

The Grand Master advocated the holding of annual district meetings. Successful ones had been held in the St. Francis and Ottawa districts during the past year. During the year the Grand Master had granted a petition to revive Corner Stone Lodge, No. 37, at Cowansville. Speaking of the state of Masonry at home, the Grand Master stated that, with one exception, peace and harmony had prevailed, and there were many hopeful indications of awakened interest in Masonry. He continued: "The promise of increased prosperity in the near future exacts from the Craft a large measure of caution. The popularity of a fraternal society may easily become a source of danger. It may be the means of bringing about discord and trouble to its detriment. The essential factor in any society is the character of its adherents, hence fraternal ambitions for increased membership should be subordinate to the wise and time-honored rules of the Craft. It cannot be too often repeated that 'the chief safe-guard and protection of the order is the ballot box,' nor that the fraternal franchise should be seriously exercised, under the consciousness that it may have serious and far-reaching effects. The tiled limits of the Lodge room should be carefully guarded against the unworthy, and that Brother who rightfully uses the adverse ballot, in cases of doubt, is rather to be commended than vilified. There is a strange sentiment abroad among careless or superficial thinkers, that a man who persistently and repeatedly endea-

vors to force his way into the Order must have special merit, and be entitled to consideration, even beyond those already within the pale.

"THIS IS A DANGEROUS FALLACY."

"For the man who tries to push himself into a society in which unanimity is a guaranteed condition—who tries to evade that condition in order to gain admission, is either so lacking in sensibility and a proper understanding of the decent proprieties of civilized life as to render him unfit for fraternal membership, or, on the other hand, he seeks admission for personal gratification and selfish motives. In a social club such efforts would be condemned. In one sense every lodge is a social club, to which all Masons are entitled to entrance and fraternal recognition. Conceding this, the feelings, and even the prejudices, of those of the faith merit every consideration in Craft privileges, to the exclusion of those without the order. There should be no question of motives. The bond is, that a Brother's rights shall be protected in those respects. The very life of the organization depends upon the scrupulous observance of the obligation. Nor should apologists be formed for the recipient of Craft mysteries by fraudulent or unlawful means. In the ordinary transactions of life there is a common sense rule, that no party to a fraudulent act can derive advantage therefrom. Is there a different rule in the Craft? That absurd, catchy phrase, 'once a Mason always a Mason,' is twisted into service as a cover—a phrase as true as to say 'once a Pagan always a Pagan,' precluding the possibility of change. The pretension would exclude suspension or expulsion, and render the tie terminable only by death. It is true that what has been mentally received cannot be taken away, but the outward connection and privileges can be taken away."

After speaking of several other matters of deep interest to the Order, and giving a well-deserved meed of praise to the venerable Grand Secretary, M.