

## U. S. MASONIC BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The following letter will interest a number of brethren who are insured in the U. S. Masonic B. Association of Council Bluffs:—

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, Oct. 12, 1889.

GENTLEMEN.—It seems that an enquiry coming to us from a brother in Toronto, Canada, in regard to the payment of certificates held by us as heirs of the late W. D. Stillman, M. D., and that some misapprehension, or not intended aspersion, has been cast on your association in the minds of the fraternity in Canada, would beg to correct the same as simply due to you.

The delay in the payment of the certificates was with the consent of Mrs. Dr. Stillman, obtained after an explanation by Secretary Jameson that a Mrs. Brewster, of Fredonia, Kansas, a beneficiary of your association, was depending on the fraternity for support; that her claim had not been assessed for and her present embarrassment could only be relieved by the payment to her of money assessed for some one else. The fact of our residence in the city made it an easy matter to explain matters to us, and it was arranged within a manner entirely satisfactory to us that Secretary Jameson should pay to Mr. Brewster the money obtained on the assessment to pay our certificates, and it was agreeable to us as an act of justice and Masonic charity.

The money due on our certificates was paid to us at the time agreed upon with Secretary Jameson, and all business matters with your association have been arranged to our entire satisfaction, and your association has maintained a reputation creditable to the fraternity and an honour to it.

The undersigned, Geo. H. Stillman, having recently joined the Masonic Order has taken insurance in Division A and B in your association, and desires to express his pleasure at the satisfactory manner in which the association conducts its business, and his confidence in the association and its officials. Very truly,  
SALLIS N. STILLMAN.  
GEO. H. STILLMAN.

We have much pleasure in drawing attention to the advertisement of the U. S. Masonic Benevolent Association, of Council Bluffs, Iowa. This is a purely co-operative benevolent association, exclusively for members of the Craft. The association has not only come to Canada to do business but to stay, and they have opened offices at No. 14 Yonge Street Arcade, with Bro. J. A. McMurry, agent for Canada. Bro. McMurry will be pleased to give enquiring brothers the fullest information and particulars on calling or addressing him at his office.

### WHY HALT BY THE WAY?

DEAR BRO. EDITOR.—I would much like to see your idea of a Past Masters' Association carried out. If two or more F. M.'s from our city lodges would meet and take the initiatory steps something might be done. I believe if such an organization had been in existence ten years ago we would now be numerically stronger and our lodgework would be better. Besides, Montreal would not now be leading us in the important matter of having a temple built by, and belonging to, the Craft. We may blow as much as we please in Toronto, but sift it down fine and we are not what we are cracked up to be.  
REHOBOAM.

### AS THEY ALL SAY.

To the Editor of *The Freemason*.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—All my sympathies were with your expressed sentiments on "One cause for Apathy" in the *Freemason* for October. I am one of those who have been grieved and shocked at the use made of a once respectably conducted Masonic journal. It seems now to be, as you say, but a channel for abusive tirade against Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge officers. No more of it for me. Please add the eight names herewith to your subscription list.  
G. E. W.

### A DISTINCTION WITH A DIFFERENCE.

SIR AND BROTHER.—Suppose a brother is proposed for honorary membership and notice of same is put on circular in ordinary way; and suppose when it comes round to meeting night that the proposer is reminded that if his motion is put as it is on the circular his friend will, if elected, possess the doubtful honour of being a member without the complete advantages of membership. When the time comes for him to present his motion, he adds to it the words that makes all the difference, and that gives to his friend the privileges of a paying member in good standing. Now, Bro. Cowan, was the W. M. right in permitting that motion to be voted on when it was so materially altered from what appeared on the circular?

Yours fraternally,  
O. MEGA.

### ALLEGED MASONIC JOURNALS.

PRESTON, 21st Oct., 1889.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Your editorial in last *Freemason*, entitled "One Cause for Apathy," I read with much interest, and fully endorse every sentence of the same. How can it be expected that readers of a Masonic periodical, especially young members of the Craft, can be induced to patronize such papers which are full of personal animus, speaking with contempt of almost everything that pertains to the working of Grand Lodge, and the doings of its officers, ridiculing reports submitted to Grand Lodge by some of the most zealous members of Grand Lodge, and expressing the hope that some powerful revolutionist may soon rise and uproot the whole Grand Lodge system. How is it possible that such reading can produce any benefit to the Craft or instil in the minds of young Masons any lofty idea of our noble Order? They read nothing but fault-finding and ridicule, but not a single article containing a suggestion and a plan for improvement where defect is alleged to exist. The article above referred to has induced me to send you herewith a paper which I prepared and read at our lodge here, on an occasion when there is no "work" and nothing before us for discussion. It is not strictly speaking a Masonic subject in the narrow sense of the term, but it certainly cannot be classed among the prohibited subjects for debate or consideration in a Masonic Lodge. The article treats on "The Benefit Associations." Should you, however, decline to publish it, I assure you that you will not offend me.

Believe me to be, yours fraternally,  
OTTO KLOTZ.

[The interesting paper referred to will be found in another page.—Ed.]

### WORE OUT HIS PATIENCE.

DEAR BROTHER COWAN.—When you remark that brethren grow weary of the eternal dunning of the impetuous Masonic publisher you are not very far wide of the mark. I had taken for years a monthly pamphlet, but it did not keep up to its standard, and I quietly dropped it. I gave no reason for my course. I did not feel that I was called upon to do so. I believe that my silence was hint enough to be taken. It was no use, however. Urgent appeals were fired at me in drop shots and volleys. There was no letting up. I might have yielded had they not sent the paper too. A glance at its venom tainted columns steeled me to determination, and although I cannot drive from my hearing the doleful demand "a dollar or your life," yet I am valiant in the resolve to give no encouragement to a Masonic publication that in its conduct is but a poor example for the young Masons who hope to see in it an illustration of the fundamental principles of the Craft he is learning to love.  
BELLEVILLE.

### SLIPSHOD MASONRY IN CAPE BRETON.

EDITOR FREEMASON.—Perhaps it may be considered presumptuous in a young Mason to censure older brothers, not only this but censure a whole lodge; therefore I cannot do.

This however, I will say, I will give you some facts regarding a Cape Breton Lodge that I have been visiting, and allow you, Bro. Editor, to do the scolding, and as *The Freemason* is taken by many of the members a little talking to may be of benefit to this degenerate lodge.

This Lodge then is presided over by a Bro. who never took the P. M. degree. This W. M. man pretends to confer a degree and the bro. who generally officiates, openly and unblushingly avails himself of unlawful sources of prompting. In a case of rejection the ballot has been retaken. A man known to be a law breaker has been received and initiated while drunk, and laughing throughout the ceremony. This communication is not called forth by any ill feeling; on the contrary the writer sincerely wishes the lodge well and only does this with a hope of working a reform.

HERAIRD.

### VAULTING AMBITION.

SIR AND BROTHER.—There is a peculiar brand of candidate for office of honour who believes that it will create a diversion in his favour, if in the year prior to the election he makes it a point to "take in" as many lodges as possible, visiting them with a pleasant smile and winning way, posing prominently as scrutineer in the lodge room or speech-maker at refreshments, not too ostentatious, you know, but "getting there" every time. He reminds one of the desert bird which, when pursued, conceals its head in the sand and fancies it is wholly invisible. A Past Master of one or two years standing who conceives the idea that he is ready-made for the district, and that the district is ready-made for him, possesses more nerve than falls to the lot of the average man. The ludicrous feature of it is that the venter is so thin that all can see through it. Why doesn't the *Freemason* go for them?  
PYTHAGORAS.