

when the blue lodges will have to organize and present a solid front against this continually growing army of camp followers and plunderers, irrespective of name, jurisdiction, antiquity, or anything else. That will be a dark day indeed for Ancient Freemasonry. Give to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to the Craft the labour, love and allegiance of a true Craftsman.

THE BOARD OF RELIEF.

The occupation of a carping critic is at the best unenviable. Much as we desire to refrain from such a task still there are occasions when universal dissatisfaction among the brethren must find vent in some form. This is our position with regard to the Board of Relief of Toronto. For some time past we have every reason to believe it has had neither the sympathy nor that confidence of the Craft which its sacred office demand.

Not very long since the institution was dragged into the courts of the profane, and although the case against the president failed for the time, the impression must have gone abroad that Masonic charity is a cold and heartless thing. Then at the same time there was a vigorous kick in some of the city lodges, with threats to withdraw their support and membership from the Board. Whether the fault lies in the Board itself or in the management is to some extent an undecided question.

We have taken the trouble to procure a copy of the by-laws and also the circular that led to the litigation. The preamble to the by-laws states that "it is necessary for the purpose of protecting the members of the Craft and lodges in the city of Toronto that a more systematic method of dispensing the general charity of the craft be adopted." For this reason the Board was consti-

tuted, and composed of one representative from each of the contributory lodges. The objects of the Board are, to relieve worthy Masons not members of Toronto Lodges, and as far as possible the widows and orphans of Masons who have not a special claim on the local lodges. The revenue of the board is derived from a monthly assessment of five cents (only 2½ levied) per member from all the contributing lodges, payable quarterly in advance, and also such appropriation as the Grand Lodge may make.

So much for the by-laws. We will turn to the circular, which consists of the financial reports of the secretary and the treasurer. We find the Secretary's statement fearfully and wonderfully made. Out of the chaos we resolve, receipts as follows:—Cash in hand \$226.71, Grand Lodge donation \$100. Next comes Grand Lodge pensioners \$740. Why this item appears is a mystery, because we find it duplicated without comment on the contra side of the statement. Then follows contributions from the lodges as follows:—Wilson, \$69.60; Stevenson, \$34.80; King Solomon, \$88.20; Rehoboam, \$90; Zetland, \$34.50; Ionic, \$59.70; Zeta, \$11.10; St. John's \$58.50, in all a total of \$446.46. Then comes "Loans returned \$116.30." The treasurer's cheques to the secretary \$728.11, and miscellaneous \$190.10. This last item should really be classed as loans returned. This brings the total receipts up to \$2,547.62 about twice the actual amount.

Turning to the expenditure we find that the names of all who received relief are published paragraphed, whilst the names of those who repaid loans are given under "loans returned," and are set in close type without paragraphs. In this way more prominence is given to the Expenditure column, but at the same time an injustice is done to the borrowing brother. This is not a budget speech, so we itemize:—Payments to treasurer, \$723.40; local relief, principally to widows belonging to city lodges, \$186.80; loans given breth-