

## ORGANISING A K. OF P. LODGE.

On a recent evening those interested in the Knights of Pythias met at Miners' Union Hall, and arranged to organise a lodge of the Order in a Phoenix. A committee was appointed, consisting of C. S. Thompson, S. A. Clark and Mr. Crane to secure a charter and arrange for renting a suitable hall for lodge use. It will probably take a month to get in working order and the lodge promises to be a strong organisation.

## CLIQUE.

The power of discrimination between right and wrong should nowhere find greater opportunities to be displayed than in a lodge-room, where all are united in that brotherly love that stands as the corner-stone of our Order.

In the election of men for offices, men who will uphold the honorable traditions of our Order, we must be careful to select men consistent with the high ideal that every brother who loves the Order should have.

In this selection every brother should exercise his right, uninfluenced by anyone. Every night in our Order is capable of thinking for himself and putting his deductions into practice, when balloting either for officer or candidate.

The meanest and most contemptible action on the part of those meetings in a Castle Hall is the forming of cliques, and members seemingly with all their mental faculties unimpaired, are led to act in a way that otherwise they would despise if uninfluenced, or not surrounded by those who, it would seem, have not always the best interests of the lodge at heart, but who have only a petty grievance against an individual. Again, it is a direct insult to ask a man to vote in a certain way. It is tantamount to saying that he is not capable of using his own brains, and a man who cannot do that should be deprived of the franchise.

These are strong words, but not too strong, there are in our midst those foolish enough to be parties to any cliques, that in other societies have made discord and strife enough to end in twain the strongest society that ever existed.

Think for yourself; act as your thoughts dictate, and every brother Knight should remember the words of the immortal bard, that seem specially applicable:—

Thine above all,  
Thine own self be true, and it must follow  
As the night the day  
Thou can'st not then be false to any man."

The best system of fraternal insurance that exists to-day, is the Endowment Rank of the Order of Knights of Pythias. This is freely acknowledged by the best authorities on life insurance, and all admit that this department of the Order is better and more prudently managed than any kindred Society. It is now patterned after by others of its kind, and universally noted as a standard by which to go.

## BENEFITS OR FRATERNITY?

On no question of Pythian policy does our Order require the calm and wise judgment of its best and truest men, more than on that of the proper adjustment of the so called "benefit" feature. It has several relations to the Order and its interests and can only be dealt with or approached by those who can do so fairly, and at the same time justly—it must not be taken up rashly or inconsiderately, nor should any prejudice enter into the disposal of any measure leading up to a positive change. At the same time, there should be no faltering—if there is any danger to the Order by a continuance of any feature in its system that leads to the brink, no honest Pythian should fear to raise the note of warning—it is in this spirit that we have always lifted our voice against the dangerous system that we have of compulsory benefits—we have studied the plan out—we know it to be unjust, unfair and ruinous, and, knowing this, we have advocated a change—we have done so in good conscience, earnestly hoping that a halt would soon be called to the continuance of a system that has drained the treasuries of our funds, worked unevenly toward our membership, and sapped the Order of its fraternity.

Feeling this latter especially, we asked a good brother in the Palmetto State to write on this theme—we knew of his large heart and broad views—we knew that the Order and its interests were very dear to him—we knew that he was honest of purpose yet courageous enough to speak his mind. He understood our sentiments thoroughly, and, knowing our views, he has kindly sent us the following able and excellent contribution—it presents many new thoughts—good ones—and it suggests a solution not only feasible, but well worthy of working out. Here is what Brother Past Grand Chancellor D. C. Heyward of Waltersboro, South Carolina, has to say:

Editor "Pythian Tribune."

We read a great deal in the Pythian Press about "suspensions" and "non attendance of conventions," and while these questions are of great importance there is another problem which is even more important than either of these, which, if properly solved, will aid very much in the solution both of "suspension" and of "non-attendance," one which has become so engrafted into the life of the Order that it may be said to have caused it to bear a fruit which was not expected to be grown from the seed which Rathbone planted thirty-six years ago—I refer to the payment of benefits.

If one will carefully examine the laws of the Order, he can not fail to be struck by the fact that some of them are extremely rigid, imposing many and severe penalties. He will observe that in recent years, after creating a state of "good-standing" in the Order, they have gone so far as to deny members in that state admittance to their lodge rooms, in case their dues are not paid to a certain period. That this is going very far for a fraternal organisation, no one can deny, and were the Order as at present conducted strictly a fraternal organisation no such severe measure would be necessary. Friendship and brotherhood do not depend upon dollars and cents, but friendship and brotherhood are not the all in all with the Order to-day.