

official, but whoever he is, if he be "warranted" genuine by the head of the craft, you cannot go astray in receiving his instructions. Here let me mention another, and an excellent way to perfect yourself in the work. Become a member of an authorized lodge of instruction. We have such a lodge in Philadelphia—Temple Lodge of Instruction, and I know many efficient officers who have been trained by its methods. It meets in a lawful place, and it performs its functions well. Brethren often come long distances to attend its meetings, and perfect themselves in the work."

About this time Bro. Tunker was out of breath, and Bro. Slake observed, "I see it all—I see my errors, and how I should correct them. I wish I had seen you a year ago, and had this talk, for it would have saved me a world of trouble. Here I have been groping in the dark, while the light was all around me. Well, I see my way clearly now. I won't stumble from lodge to lodge, wasting valuable time to no purpose, but I will get my instruction from authorized sources, and take the royal road to the royal learning of the craft."

Sensible Mason. Other Masons may become sensible, too. If we have aided them in any degree by reporting this conversation, they are welcome to the good advice so freely given.—*Keystone.*

### MINDS ABBREVIATED.

The world is full of men with little or no principle, and unfortunately for the well-being of the institution, too many of such material attain membership within our fraternity, when a closer discrimination on the part of our committees would determine such applicants for affiliation with honored and honorable men, as below the grade of respectability.

Precepts, 'tis true, exercise a happy influence with many, coming within the pale of Masonic teaching, but rarely do we find a case-hardened

man, whose instincts bend to those vices which are the out-croppings of the saloons that ever make good Masons, or are at any time inspired by fraternal feelings of brotherhood which link craftsmen together as a band of brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist.

Obligations and ties with them are thrust aside at will, with as little compunction as the pulling off of a glove.

Scarcely have they passed the sublime degree when we find them contriving with their ilk to control the affairs of the lodge, occupying and controlling its offices, or a failure to succeed in this, endeavor to ruin its fair standing.

We draw no fancy picture, but deduce principles from actual subjects, those improbable things within the circle of Freemasonry, many of whom are immature by either years or experience.

That many of these are as yet in a state of Masonic adolescence and hence are presumptively *previous*, must be apparent to older craftsmen who need but take a retrospect of a single decade and therein observe—of those yet in the first part of their Masonry—the plus of exceedingly *fresh* blatherskites now in our midst with no other apparent aim, other than the requisite qualification—"to be with the gang."

This is the kind of damaging material that is surreptitiously brought into the fraternity, so to put it, who dishearten honest, well-meaning brethren—too often driving them from their hitherto peaceful lodge homes. This is the ilk that make rings. It is just such who are ever found attending to every other person's business but their own, who seem unable to speak well of any one, who are always ready and only too willing to circulate a slander against a brother.

Any slanderer is detestable, but especially does this apply to a Mason—only in name.—*Corner Stone.*