

## BETWEEN THE PILLARS.

There has been very little doing in local Masonic circles during the past month. After the excitement of "At Homes," elections, and other pre-Lenten entertainments, there is always a certain amount of reaction, and at present this reaction is at its height, so Masonic news is rather scarce.

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I am pleased to learn that Bro. Hamblly is once more back at his desk, grinding away at "copy." The next issue of THE CRAFTSMAN will be brought out under his fostering care. His friends will be pleased to hear that he is entirely restored in health. It was just as I said—too much work. A little rest has completely restored him.

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I was pained to see disturbance at the last meeting of King Solomon's Lodge. Trouble has been brewing there for a long time, and it is openly asserted among the members of the Craft in this city that it is almost an impossibility for King Solomon Lodge to receive an initiate, as several of the members are leagued together to kill the lodge by blackballing an applicant. This is a sad state of affairs. At the last regular meeting things came to a crisis, when after the ballot had been passed a member rose and charged all those present with unmasonic conduct. The lodge stood from 7.30 to 12 p.m. in angry discussion. A trial will probably be the result. The innocent as well as the guilty present are included in the charge, and a determined attempt will be made by the lodge to free itself from the infliction that has so long weighed it down. May the grand architect of the universe defend the right.

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There is a slight disturbance between Stevenson Lodge of this city and the Bowmanville Lodge over a question of jurisdiction. Stevenson Lodge it appears made a member from the Bowmanville district, and the Bowman-

ville brethren are objecting. The matter will likely come up in the Grand Lodge. Who will get the \$20 ?

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I have in my hands a copy of the annual statement of the Masonic Hall Trust. The sheet shows a balance in the treasurer's hands of \$243.19, and a stock account owned by the nine lodges of \$6,068.00.

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The following clause is interesting reading :

The attention of your Board was brought to the unsafe condition of the cornice, also the state of the walls and ceiling of the Blue room, and the necessity of obtaining a new carpet, the present one being so badly worn that it would not likely stand another taking up. Estimates were obtained as to what it would cost to have the walls repainted and a new carpet purchased. The expense was so much that it was deemed advisable to ask the consent of the lodges forming the co-partnership ; but, as the unanimous consent of all the lodges was not obtained, your Board have abandoned the idea of obtaining a new carpet for the present.

We have also to report that the landlords have agreed to expend the sum of \$300 in repairing the cornice and in ventilating the Hall. Your Board have decided to expend a further sum of \$350 in repairing and renovating the Hall so that it will be a credit to the Craft. The two amounts of \$20.23 and \$72, for Library Fund and Furniture Accounts respectively, will be used towards that purpose.

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There will be the tallest kind of a row over this clause, as I believe after issuing the statement the Board has now billed those lodges that agreed to pay \$100 for their donation.

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I have been opposed to the idea of spending any more money on the Hall