

desires further progress, or advancement; his application acted upon, the ballot must intervene between for advancement."

oyal Arch Masonry in e prepared their his in progress. This is report was accepted,

be requested to deposit and exchange. to their printed Histories and Chapter."

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correspondence, and

High Priest.

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are reminded of the the fire which occur- building, where their

ave the devastating truction of all their t are informed that e in occupancy, and aining thereto, some ices resulting there- on-sisting of collars, of other perishable n the possession of oyed; sixteen of the l condition.

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eral good condition of the Royal Arch. Harmony and peace dwell within our sanctuaries to a large extent, and the working abilities of our Chapters, I hazard nothing in saying, were never better; and a degree of proficiency and uniformity in ritual exists, which is to be commended.

"The depressed condition of the business interest of the country has had its legitimate effect upon our material prospects, as the returns of work indicate a large decrease from previous years. It is a truism, and oft repeated by those who dwell by the sea, that 'the higher the tide, the lower will be the ebb.' This is especially true at this time, so far as regards our material growth."

He made a large number of official visits, and is fully satisfied that their system of visitation, now prescribed as the duty of Grand Officers, is productive of salutary results. He made no new decisions and selects the following for general information:—

"*Question.* Is there any masonic law regulating the use of masonic halls?"

"*Answer.* There is no masonic law regulating the use of masonic halls, but there is an unwritten law which we, as masons, can interpret from the teachings of our Order. 'Tis certain our professions do not discourage social intercourse and improvement, but a masonic hall *should not* be used as a public place for indiscriminate gatherings with no distinct object in view but amusement. There are rational bounds which we should not overstep in the use of our masonic homes, for however innocent in the opinion of many a certain class of amusements may be, the opinions and prejudices of others, who would maintain the opposite, must be considered."

In his conclusion, he gives some excellent advice:—

"Companions, the welfare of our Order requires of you constant care and vigilance if you would see its honor maintained, its privileges lived up to, and its future prosperity assured. We must each and all feel that personal interest and responsibility which is its only safeguard. Yes, my Companions, *personal responsibility* is what we must assume. It is no excuse for you that others hold themselves aloof from active participation in the vital interests of our order. Are you *giving* to the institution that countenance and support which its importance demands of all its members? The institution has honored you by accepting you as a member; will you honor it by devoting of your time and abilities a contribution upon its altar, or weave some chaplet with which to adorn the Royal Arch? If not, you are not a living exponent of the true principles of our Order, which claims, as its rightful due, the aid and support of the good and true mason everywhere.

"If these are plain words, my excuse is the complaint which of late is too often made within our sanctuaries, of a lack of attendance, owing to a limited amount of work being done, and asking a remedy. The remedy is in a large measure with *you*, the officers, who guide, direct and are expected to furnish instruction. At your stated Convocation, Companions, after your routine business is done, rehearse the work, perfect your officers, yea, your members, in the ritual, and