

a Brother will perform the duties properly. I am pleased to state that the executive of our own Grand Lodge holds this view. A Senior Warden ought to have no hesitation or forgetfulness in the little of the ritual that is allotted to him. There should be no palliation or excuse for any omission or deficiency. Such defects are direct reflections on his Lodge, and most injurious to his character of an aspirant. The Junior Warden I also deem an officer of great importance. No Brother elected to that position ought to neglect the careful study of his work. His duties are onerous and constant; activity, quickness and intelligence are requisite to a proper discharge of the duties of his office, making all announcements gracefully, properly and clearly. He should not lounge in his chair, as if he were in an Indian hammock, when announcing some visitor of distinction, perhaps giving half his name and some barbaric appellation for his Lodge, that would even make the bones of Tecumseh shake in their unknown resting place, thus producing from some better informed Brethren a smile of derision. A Junior Warden, who well understands his duties, does more to facilitate the business of the Lodge than any other officer, the Worshipful Master excepted. Let him then be well versed in his work, so as to add tone and dignity to our imposing ceremonies. Let him be so perfect that his Master need not blush at having to remind him of some trivial omission, that the Brethren need not regret their choice. These mistakes in ceremony and ritual often compel the Brethren to wish that our Lodges were conducted on the same principal as a stage, our altar serving as a box for a prompter in case of emergency, which emergency too often occurs.

To the Deacons the same remarks are applicable. When announcing let them be correct to a word, never forgetting their duties in the most minute particular, not having to be

reminded that they are the Brethren who occupy those positions, when the Master calls the Senior and Junior Deacons to advance. Sometimes they appear to imagine that any form of words will serve for announcements, and that their voices were given them for the special benefit of the Senior and Junior Wardens, forgetting that all their utterances are instructions, and ought to be distinctly heard by every one present. This class of Deacon brings a terrible pressure to bear upon our faith in the certainty of the verification in their case of the Scriptural promise: "Open thy mouth and I will fill it." And then again when some affrighted Candidate is consigned to their tender mercies they compensate for their lack of language by a pedestrian exhibition, which reminds us of runners at the Olympic Games, and often converting our Hall, which we believe to be nearly a square, into an angle of a triangle at each corner. Let their march be to the swelling tone of an organ, as steady and regular as that of a Roman Cohort, with military precision, wheeling and facing, saluting their superior officers as they march past. Let indifference, haste, and indecorum be banished, and let dignity, exactness and precision take their place, and on these first steps of the ladder let all subordinates prove themselves worthy of advancement. The Stewards have important duties to perform in preparation ceremonies. Let them so well understand what is required of them as not to have to submit to the indignity of being sent back, or of being reproved by any Officer before or after announcement. Let them be prompt and attentive to the Brethren during the hours of refreshment, particularly to visitors; to the end that the reputation of their Lodge may not suffer, nor Masonic hospitality and courtesy be forgotten; but let our time-honored custom of being kind, courteous, and hospitable one to another, with the offer of the right hand of fellowship to all Breth-