

means not a few men enter the lodge prejudiced against the institution—prejudiced on the very threshold of entrance by the folly and wickedness of its pretended friends.

But their is another method by which the spoiling of material is effected. A case comes to our memory which is in point. The candidate was a man of education and taste, and had a very clear view of the "fitness of things." He was received and conducted by an officer who had to be prompted from beginning to end. This necessitated many a hiatus in the charges, and made them unmeaning, ridiculous and without connection. The Master was nearly as badly posted, and in addition made sundry frequent and extensive encroachments on the rules of grammar, and variations from Webster in pronunciation were like angel's visits in the early times of the human race—early and often.

What could be the effect of such a ceremony on this well educated, man of taste? He was disgusted, and had it not been for his good sense and discernment, which discovered beauty and grandeur under the mass of rubbish, he would have been one of the rejected stones that go into the heap of spoiled materials.

Let these two examples suffice for the present. They are each of a class that do incalculable injury to the cause of morality and Masonry. They destroy many goodly stones—much valuable material which otherwise would be placed in the positions which they ought to fill and where they are needed to rear the walls of the sacred temple. How much higher might have been the walls but for this wanton destruction! How much grander would these walls appear now, but for these spoiliations, the work of unskillful craftsmen!

The moral is obvious. No good Mason will seek to impress upon the mind of one who is about to be conducted through our ceremonies that they are foolish, ridiculous or vain. Knowing them to be full of valuable truths and beautiful and appropriate illustrations, the thinking Mason will neither by act or word give the impression that they are otherwise.

Neither will the good Mason so mangle, mutilate and murder the ritual as to disgust educated and cultivated men. Should his disadvantages be so great that he cannot do otherwise, let him never assume duties which he cannot perform, lest he spoil the material supplied for the erection of the temple. Brethren, if we commence to lay good work, true work, let us have care not to "spoil the material.—*Voice of Masonry.*

OLD WARRANTED LODGES,

By William James Hughan.

It is a curious study to trace the old Lodges, and but few can accomplish it thoroughly from the scarcity of details, and the scarcity of the "Engraved Lists" and other records of the whereabouts and circumstances of the Lodges early in the eighteenth century. The earliest warranted Lodge dates from the year 1721, all previous lodges, if constituted before this period, and subsequent to A. D. 1717, being extinct.

There are still two out of the four which formed the first Grand Lodge, in existence, and apparently more firmly established than ever.

Of these "time immemorial" Lodges we forbear to say anything now, although their history is full of interest to all Masonic students. Our present intention is to present a transcript to our readers of an old list of Lodges working in the year 1730.

The oldest one we know of *in print* is that attached to the Book of Constitutions, 1723, and which consisted of XX Lodges (say A. D. 1721). The one we append is of the year 1739, and numbers sixty-seven. We have not met with any list of regular Lodges between 1721 and the foregoing. Until very recently we did not know of any before 1733, in which year the one preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, was written, and was the property of Brother Richard Rawlinson. LL. D. and F. R. S.

Full particulars of the latter is contained in the *Freemason's Monthly Magazine*, for February, 1855. The number therein recorded was 116, or in other words, an increase of Lodges amounting to about sixty per cent. in three years!

The next list we have includes all the Lodges warranted to April 20th, 1737, the last being numbered 160, thus showing an increase of about one hundred and fifty per cent. in seven years. We hope to prepare an exact list of all the Lodges in existence at the "Union" of 1813, distinguishing each by its number under its former Grand Lodge, also the numbers as altered in 1823 and 1863.

A LIST OF REGULAR LODGES ACCORDING TO THEIR SENIORITY AND CONSTITUTION.

1 King's Arms in St. Paul's Church Yard, 1st and 3rd Monday in every month. Constituted 1691.