

as I have warned others, to be very careful in the matter of admitting candidates, and to 'hasten slowly,' for the more difficult it is to join a lodge, the better class of members there will be in the long run." This is a point we have always consistently urged, and the force of the argument will be readily conceded by all who have watched the progress of Freemasonry during the past few years. It is not always, however, that the indiscriminate admission of candidates is confined to young lodges who have a promising and popular career before them. In how many lodges where, perhaps from lax administration, or the machinations of partisans, do we find that the legitimate roll of members has become "small by degrees and beautifully less," often to such an extent that initiates are eagerly sought after, in order to sustain breath within the body of the lodge, and to save it from a condition of pulmonary consumption? A knowledge of these facts fully justifies us in the expression of the views with which we open this article, feeling assured that, as the records of our benevolent funds confirm, there are many men induced—we were almost about to say, encouraged—to join the ranks of Freemasonry, who should never have become Masons. Before a man is proposed in any lodge, it should be absolutely ascertained why and wherefore he is prompted in the wish to take that important step in life.—*Freemasons' Chronicle.*

MASONIC PINS—WHY DO BROTHERS WEAR THEM?

We have been asked that question several times. Some wear them to let others know that they have been tried by the square, and that they intend to act by the plumb and meet upon the level all who have travelled the same road that they have. It means that they are men, free-born, and more than twenty-one years old,

and have been well recommended; that they are good, law-abiding citizens; dutiful sons, good husbands, kind, indulgent parents, honorable, agreeable neighbors; honest in their dealings with all mankind, and believers in God, the giver of all good.

The Masonic emblem on others, means, I wear this to deceive the world, to use it to cover rascality; to cheat, wrong, and defraud their brothers, backbite and slander them, trade on the square and make you pay twice as much as a thing is worth.

But these kind of people, like Judas of old, sell themselves for less than thirty pieces of silver. They are like water, thin, and always find their level. They need not be afraid to die, for they have no souls to lose. They are generally narrow-minded, close-contracted, pin-headed, poodle-dog men, stingy and mean. They are to the human family what warts are on the human body—excrescences. We have no patience with them. Life is too short to try and make anything of them or out of them.

We fully endorse the above. The strictures are not half severe enough.—*Freemason, Detroit, Michigan.*

EDITORIAL NOTES.

BRO. LORD WOLSELEY, in an address delivered at Whitechapel, London, the other night, told a number of amusing anecdotes, the best of which was as follows:—One of his officers, who happened to have a glass-eye, was one day examining a prisoner, a zealous follower of the Mahdi. "Why do you believe in the Mahdi?" asked the officer. "I believe in him," replied the man, "because he can work miracles." The officer immediately took out his glass-eye, tossed it up in the air, caught it, and put it back into its place. "Dy'e think the Mahdi could do that?" he asked. The man was appalled, and could not say another word.