

section: In some cases the defaulting brethren are being let alone severely. In others Lodge committees have been organized to seek out the brethren who have been suspended for years past, and to offer them restoration to membership, and that the amount for which they were suspended and that has accrued during suspension shall be forgiven. In another Lodge a committee has been appointed to look the matter up; and taking the statistics of that Lodge, find that from all causes the brethren average about eight years as paying members, and therefore they recommend that when a Brother has paid equal to ten years dues (in one or more sums) that he be thenceforth a life member free from Lodge dues; so that ere long no doubt, on the whole, the matter will be put on a somewhat more equitable footing, and the writer will have the proud satisfaction of knowing that his labor of love has not been altogether in vain, notwithstanding the sophistries that have been promulgated to sustain the crying libel on the principles of the Craft that has so long obtained. It is a somewhat curious fact that there never were wanting men claiming to be the ambassadors of Jesus Christ who continuously advocated the propriety of slavery as a purely Divine institution, and the evil went on spreading all over the land till the day of retribution came, and the abhorred thing was devoured for ever in a sea of human gore. And now, in conclusion, brethren, let us never forget that, gloss over our wrong doings in any way we may, so as to make them appear to ourselves not so bad after all, that truth and justice are eternal, and our sin will surely find us out.

ACACIA.

Masonic Leeches.

In the natural world, we have no doubt, leeches are often efficacious, but in the Masonic world never. The life-blood of Masonry never gets in

that congested state which requires its pores to be opened and its benefits scattered for the support of the unworthy. Although the wealth of the craft is great, so are the legitimate demands upon it; and while to dispense charity to the unfortunate Brother, the widow and the fatherless, is one of its high privileges, it is equally its duty to see that its facilities for doing so are narrowed, through the action of those who are Masons only in name. Every non-contributing, unaffiliated Mason is a leech upon the body of the brotherhood. He is sucking its blood; he is fattening upon its rightful dues, which he unlawfully withholds; he is a second Ananias; "keeping back a part of the price."

The Ancient Charges positively affirm that "every Brother ought to belong to a Lodge." The reason is apparent. We are all members of one great family; we share heartily each other's joys and sorrows; the affections and the means of the fraternity are ours; therefore, when we enjoy so great privileges, we should unhesitatingly bear, each one, our share of the common burdens. To be a Roman citizen was once to possess the highest claim to consideration and honor. Rome is no more, but a greater than Rome is risen. Masonic citizenship stamps one as the peer of the highest of earth's rulers, and there is scarcely a corner of the world where he cannot summon to his aid, at need, the willing hearts and trusty hands of brethren. But is the unaffiliated Mason, who is not indigent, honest when he benefits in any degree by Masonry, he meanwhile contributing nothing to its support? We unhesitatingly say, no. He is defrauding the parent Masonry to which he owes his very existence, as a Mason—and can there be a greater offense in the eyes of any honorable man?

The number of non-affiliated brethren in all of our jurisdictions, but especially in the West, is alarmingly large, and still on the increase.—We