

he ought to be, nor what he might be, and certainly he would not like to be judged by the past. We want to be better and to do better, and it is by the better things we should like both God and man to judge us. We feel that way. It would almost be blasphemy in our ears to bid us glory in our past as something worthy of our gifts and opportunities. We should listen now to the young sweet voice of 1900. To us it seems to say: "You have been spared in the land of the living and the place of hope; you gaze with tears upon what you deem an unworthy past; you mourn over time mispent, opportunities thrust aside and worse than wasted. I come to you out of the bosom of eternity to make your blood flow freer, to inspire new hopes, and to robe your future with a halo of that light and beauty which ever seem reflections of a diviner clime than ours. Begin. Nail your colors to the mast. Begin. Let there be no delay, no hesitation, no faltering betwixt two opinions. Begin. While faith is strong, hope is clear, and love is warm to lay the foundations of a newer, fresher and better character. Let the dead past bury its dead." We have read that on a certain coast there is a man who lives in a house entirely made out of wrecks. The floors are the decks of the ship, and the walls were taken from wrecked parts, of the smashed remnants and fragments of better things. How many lives are like this queer house. Were you to examine them you would find that they were made up of broken promises, broken resolutions, unrealised aims and blasted hopes. They are made up of wrecks. Something was lacking, yes, that vital something was lacking which binds all in a man as with grappling hoops, and makes him strong to bear and fight. Or in other words there was no divinity within taking all, and out of all shaping, forming and making a character in unison with the perfect model.

Now, when a man comes to this point—the point of turning over a new leaf—depend upon it he will see to his principles. You cannot knock principle out of a true character. What we mean when we say "he is a man of principle," is that he is a man of sterling character. A man without principle is not a man at all. A man meaning to do well should see to his principles. Without these he is like a ship without ballast or helm or compass, and there can only be one ending to a life lacking true principles. A man of principle is the want of the age. We are in a world where evil principles are rampant, and where these are ever clashing with the good, and if a man is a true man these grand old principles of justice, honor, honesty, temperance and purity, must be the backbone of his life. We often hear the remark: "So and so is a smart man, but he has no principle." Well, a man without principle is an unprincipled man. There is no intermediate stage. We must either be the one or the other, for the one who has not got good principles has got bad ones. Do not think of turning over a new leaf if you lose sight of these facts. Long ago it was a problem in mechanics to find a pendulum which should make the same number of vibrations in winter as in summer. That has been solved. By a process of compensation the rod lengthens one

way as much as it contracts the other, so that the centre of motion is always the same. The pendulum swings in January as in June. What is felt to-day is that the power dominating men is sadly susceptible to change. Some men are better at home than they are when abroad. The change is due to lack of principle. We need a something which shall make us manly, truthful, honest, wherever we may be.

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#### THE BACHELOR'S COMPLAINT.

Returning home at close of day,  
Who gently chides my long delay,  
And by my side delights to stay?  
Nobody.

Who sets for me the easy chair,  
Spreads out the paper with such care,  
And lays my slippers ready there?  
Nobody.

When plunged in deep and dire distress,  
When anxious cares my heart oppress,  
Who whispers hopes of happiness?  
Nobody.

When sickness comes in sorrow's train,  
And grief distracts the fevered brain,  
Who sympathizes with my pain?  
Nobody.

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#### RULES OF LODGE ETHICS.

- Never remain unattached if you can help it.
- Never use another's regalia.
- Never put on any other jewels than what you are entitled to.
- Never be absent from meeting if you can help.
- Never be late in your attendance.
- Never propose or second an applicant for admission unless you personally know him to be of good report.
- Never forget that the admission of an unworthy brother is enough to bring discredit to the whole institution.
- Never propose a candidate unless he is in reputable circumstances.
- Never cast your ballot in favor of a candidate unless you know him to be worthy, and his moral character beyond reproach, and his company congenial to members.
- Never fail to exercise your right as a member of your Lodge.
- Never forget to get by heart your constitutions and by-laws.
- Never fail to pay your dues in advance.
- Never forget to carry the receipt for dues, it may be of use some day or other.
- Never let it be known directly or indirectly who you ballot for.
- Never be afraid to do your duty when you are sure that the candidate is unfit for acceptance.
- Never be backward in supporting an application for help from a poor and worthy brother.
- Never refuse work when given to you.
- Never require to be told twice to do a thing.