

of reasoning has injured beyond calculation nor conception our Lodges, and is neither logical or reasonable. Common sense, judgement, and above all experience, cry out against it.

"Order is Heaven's first law, and this contest,
Some are, and must be, greater than the rest."

Let me particularise. A Master to render his Lodge successful must first be respected by the Brethren, perfectly conversant with all the ritual and ceremonies, previous to installation; he ought to be able personally to open, close, and work his Lodge through every degree. No deviation ought to be sanctioned or permitted from this rule. He ought to have a knowledge of the rules of Masonic debate and order, have no hesitancy, and show no lack of knowledge when points of order or other questions of ruling arise. He should also rule properly and promptly, and preserve perfect order, should suffer no private conversations or personalities, and not permit a hair's breadth of deviation from rectitude. Another of his duties should be to check the growing tendency of some Brethren to convert a Masonic Lodge into a second-rate debating club, without first adopting as one of the laws, that to become a member they must be endowed with debating qualifications, and have at least received the Master Mason's degree before they be permitted to discuss Masonic Jurisprudence, and three months in the Society before they aspire to the position of Warden. A Master ought to respect the Brethren, protect them in their rights and privileges, and raise none to position but the worthy. I would not counsel a Master to be arbitrary, though on occasions he will appear to some to be so. As the Master of a Masonic Lodge is an Autocrat, he must, when in his judgement the occasion requires it, exercise his prerogative. Outside and beyond our written law, rulings and precedents, he is *the* law on all questions, and for us there remains but present submission, the only redress

being by appeal to a higher court.

The next officer on whose exertion depends the welfare of the Lodge is the Senior Warden. He must be in accord with the Master if they desire an harmonious term. I consider the the position of Senior Warden, though not the most arduous, yet a most important and responsible one. It is similar to that of a Premier. He is an adviser, a councillor. His duty is that of Regent in the absence of his Sovereign. I often think it is the quietest year of office, a breathing space, an opportunity to fit him for the duties of the higher position. He ought to avail himself of this opportunity to prepare for the other and more responsible office of Worshipful Master, so that if elected he may be thoroughly finished for the good work. If the probation, in some instances, be extended, so much the better for him and the Lodge. We might pause to ask here why so many promising Wardens make such inferior presiding officers? We answer, that in our opinion, too much importance is attached to memory, and too little to knowledge gained by the study of Masonic authors. Some Wardens flatter themselves because they have committed to memory a certain amount of the ritual that they are qualified when called upon to fill the position of Master. Why are so many Lodges called to account for some breach of laws? We believe this is the reason: I do not depreciate the gift of memory, but effort ought not to end here. The correct exemplification of our work is important, but not *the* most important portion of a Master's duty. A Master of a Lodge, without a proper knowledge of Masonic law, will be like a Ship at Sea without rudder or compass to steer by. I believe that a dispensation to fill the chair of Master ought not to be granted to any Brother who has not served a full term as Warden, except in cases of actual necessity. It will be an exceptional case, indeed, where such