

instance: Is it not sufficient that the brother, balloting salute the chair as a matter of form, without waiting for the W. M.'s reply, is it the W. M.'s duty to return the salute?" Where the sign of salutation is given it should be returned; ordinary courtesy demands it. We have noticed the signs returned with a slight bow by the W. M. on such occasions as the one referred to, and when the brethren were passing the East during the installation ceremony, but such acknowledgment is, to say the least, bad form.

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We congratulate the Grand Lodge of Quebec upon retaining in office that indefatigable and worthy official R. W. Bro. Isaacson, Grand Secretary, as he is an ornament to any institution and a credit to the brethren who repose confidence in him.

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Why should not the Masons of Toronto and vicinity give Bro. the Duke of Connaught, District Grand Master of Bombay who will visit our city in a few months, a reception of some sort, alike befitting the position he holds in the Social and and Masonic world? A move should be made at once, and if nothing else can be done some of our leading brethren should co-operate with the Reception Committee of the City Council, and introduce some Masonic feature in the civic reception. Perhaps Past Grand Master Kerr, W. Bro. Mayor Clarke, R. W. Bro. Kivas Tully, R. W. Bro. Wm. Roaf, and others, will give the matter their consideration.

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The sad ending connected with conferring a degree on a candidate in a Royal Arch Chapter in the United States surely teaches a lesson. A very worthy brother met his death under

such distressing circumstances, that the officers of the chapter felt it their duty to give to the public an account of the affair, which is published elsewhere. The lesson to be learned is the absurdity of indulging in such "symbolisms" as are dangerous to the life or limbs of the candidates. Moral lessons can be taught as effectually by the use of well selected words and phrases as by compelling the candidates to act certain parts, which are as foreign to Speculative Masonry as is a mixer of mortar to a Master Mason, albeit there is nothing to prevent even a mixer of mortar being a good Mason.

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From the *New Zealand Craftsman* of Dec. 2nd, we gather that some pettifogging brethren are endeavoring to retard the growth of the movement tending to the formation of a Grand Lodge in that colony. Considerable stress is placed upon clauses in the English and Scotch Books of Constitutions which provide that no lodge can become extinct when three brethren remain loyal to it, or in other words, that no lodge can change its allegiance if three brethren object. This is an absurd contention, as the clauses alluded to deal only with the life of an individual lodge, three members being allowed to retain its warrant. If the New Zealand lodges decide upon forming a Grand Lodge, the subordinates are not wiped out of existence, they merely change their allegiance, and not their membership, nor do their members retire from membership. This is one of the weakest quibbles yet resorted to to block a worthy movement.

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The General Grand Chapter of the United States, at its recent session, passed a resolution whereby the Past Mas-