

but leaves the care of his loved ones to the tender mercies of the world, if he should be summoned in his manhood to present his work to the Master Overseer. To day there is no excuse, as the means of providing for one's family is brought within the reach of every mason by the payment of small monthly dues to the different Benevolent Associations that are doing such a good work in providing for the widow and the orphan.

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ON Wednesday, 18th ult., R.W. Bro. Geo. J. Bennett, P.D.D.G.M., delivered his lecture entitled "Allegory and Symbol," in the Masonic Hall, Bathurst Street, under the auspices of Occident Lodge, 346 G.R.C. The large hall was crowded with representatives from almost all the City Lodges. The lecture proved of immense interest to the brethren assembled, and cannot fail to benefit those who were privileged to listen to it. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to Bro. Bennett, who replied in his usual brilliant style. R.W. Bros. Malone and Tait, as well as other brethren congratulated Bro Bennett on his lecture.

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THE following remarks made by the lecturer on an unseemly and uncalled for innovation, is well timed, and from the impression left on the minds of his hearers, will no doubt go a far way in removing the same. Bro. Bennett said:—

"The lecture in the first degree embracing as it does an explanation of so much of our symbolism is replete with admonition and instruction, and if decorously rendered should make a lasting impression.

"In our lodges it is the custom of late years, and a reprehensible one to

my mind, to applaud the Junior Warden on the completion of his recital. Why one officer should be singled out as the subject of a demonstration for merely doing his plain duty, is beyond my comprehension. Applause of any kind during the rendition of the ceremonies is as much out of place in a Masonic Lodge, as a step dance would be before a church altar. Masters now and henceforth should discourage so unseemly a display. No matter how seriously and impressively the lecture may have been delivered, if it is followed by hand clapping, the good it was intended to do, or might have done, is completely destroyed, from the fact that the candidate is disillusionised. He has been under the impression that the lecture like the ceremony that preceded it is given for his benefit. The moment his ears are assailed with applause the solemnity of the occasion is rudely dispelled and he awakes to the idea, and you cannot blame him brethren, that the lecture has been delivered with some other object than to convey instruction to himself."

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THE question of Masonic Homes is a live one in many Grand Lodges on this Continent. Our neighbors in Michigan possess an excellent institution in Grand Rapids, which would be a credit to the Craft in that State if the Grand Lodge would assume the running of it, relieve it of its debt, and place it in a sound financial position. If once assumed by the Grand Lodge, we have no doubt of its ultimate success; our friend the *Tyler* is very anxious for Grand Lodge to take up this work, and from what we can read it is only a question of time when the brethren in that jurisdiction will see it to be their duty to follow the *Tyler's* advice.

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A CORRESPONDENT in *The Freemason* suggests that as his H.R.H. the