

the neighboring republic. For our own part we think it is better under the circumstances to let well enough alone. Too much legislation is neither necessary nor advisable—in fact we have too much as it is at present.

REMINISCENCES OF A SECRETARY.

SECOND SERIES—NO. 15.

Webster, in the unabridged dictionary defines "Expediency—The quality of aiming at selfish or inferior good at the expense of that which is higher; self-interest, self-seeking, often opposed to moral rectitude."

Yet expediency is an important factor in our every day life, as well as Masonically, and in the nominating conventions of both political parties the word is often applied. Our party leaders do not inquire is he honest, is he capable, and is he worthy of the distinction we are about to confer upon him? but rather "can we elect him?" What strength can he bring to the ticket? and what good will it be to us to have him elected? and thus too often inferior men are selected, simply because they are available. Sometimes those persons nonentities, and therefore have few enemies, or they are unscrupulous, and resort to every expediency to attain their ends.

And too often in our lodges it is found expedient to select men for office who should have remained as floor members. Sometimes it will occur that there is a lack of interest; either nobody desires the Mastership or those that are the most anxious are the least qualified for it, and then members, although they wish only the good of the lodge, will consent to any inferior member taking the chair. In some cases the personal ambition of one man will kill off or destroy all interest in lodge affairs. He will constantly plot to secure the Master's

chair for himself, and only allows those members to occupy Wardens' positions who would not become his opponents, or candidates for the distinction of the East. I have in my mind's eye Masons who were Masters of their respective lodges year after year, and when, after they had destroyed all interest in the lodge's welfare, had, so to speak, driven away good men, and all those who were ambitious for office and who had helped them and stood by them and by the lodge, and thereby created a void and a scarcity of good material for officers, and then upon at last retiring from the East, the lodge is compelled to take up either some old Past Master, or some Warden who frequently wanted to be Master before, but had been prevented by the aforesaid selfish autocrat, and then, if the lodge is not successful, as it seldom can be under the circumstances, the ambitious Ruler points to his administration, and says: "See! I can run this lodge as nobody else can," forgetting that he himself had brought about this state of affairs. He had made a wilderness and called it Paradise. He was all the time destroying the usefulness of his lodge and the interest of the members in its welfare, and still calls this success.

Very often some illiterate brother has slipped into a Warden's chair, and straightway feels himself entitled to become Master. It is true he knows the ritual (and knows nothing else) nothing of Masonic law or usage; has not the slightest executive ability, nor any knowledge or aim at the higher and nobler tenets of the Institution, but he can rattle off, parrot-like, the entire "work." He must not be interrupted, or else he is obliged to commence over again where the interruption took place. You might as well call an Italian organ-grinder a musical genius, because he grinds out the finest operatic airs; and yet brethren will come to the lodge, hear this man repeat his "lessons," and,