

member must pay an equal share of these expenses, and 4. That the simplest and fairest way to raise funds for those expenses is by the collection of monthly dues. We next come to enquire,

IS IT RIGHT TO IMPOSE ANY PENALTY UPON  
THE NON-PAYMENT OF DUES ?

It is a well-known maxim in law that a statute which either requires or forbids the performance of certain acts, must, in order to render it effectual, have a penal clause whereby those who violate that statute may be punished; and it is upon that sound principle that by the By-laws of the Lodge a penalty is imposed upon those members who either neglect or refuse to pay their Lodge dues.

In regard to the *kind*, the *nature*, or the *severity* of that penalty, the opinions of the brethren may differ, and they do differ; just as the opinions of the public differ in regard to the *kind*, the *nature*, or the *severity* of the penalties found upon our statute books; thus, while some men consider a certain penalty arbitrary, exorbitant, or even inhumane, others would have the same still more stringent and heavier; and this brings us to the question of

SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

The question, "Is it right to suspend a Brother for non-payment of dues?" can, abstractly answered, be only answered in the affirmative; and why only in the affirmative? Because his solemn pledge that he would obey the By-laws, and his signature to the same as an acknowledgment to his acquiescence in them, formed part of the conditions upon which he was admitted a member of the Lodge; he, therefore, has no *right* to complain if he is punished accordingly. As a member of the Lodge he is one of those for whose benefit the expenses of the Lodge are incurred, and he must help to pay them; he cannot be permitted to plead that because he discontinued to attend the meetings of the Lodge, he received no value

for the Lodge dues which he is required to pay; the Constitution requires him to attend, and if he does not he acts contrary to what he promised to do, but this, unfortunately, is one of those duties to which no penalty is attached, and it therefore proves to be a dead letter. Nor can the plea be admitted that a Brother should be exempt from the penalty of suspension for non-payment of dues, on the ground that he has been a paying member for a number of years, and only after that period got into arrears. Such a Brother is to some extent in a similar position to a person who, after having for a number of years paid his premiums and assessments in a mutual fire insurance company, then neglects to renew, is burnt out and would claim damages for loss by fire on the plea that he has paid many years insurance and never drew any money from the company. The company would answer him that the obligations were mutual, that so long as he had paid up, he had the company's guarantee, which, however, ceased at the time he ceased to pay the premiums or assessments. The Lodge replies to the Brother referred to, that so long as he paid his dues he not only enjoyed certain rights and privileges, but had in addition thereto certain guarantees of rights and privileges in case he should fall in need to make use of them; but since the duties of the Lodge and the Craft in general and those of the Brother were of a reciprocal nature,—were mutual, those of the Lodge and of the Craft ceased so soon as the Brother had ceased to perform his duties towards the Lodge and the Craft. If that Brother never needed any pecuniary aid, so much more fortunate for him, but if he will say, he never got value for his monthly contribution, he either shows that he became a member of the Lodge for mercenary purposes, and consequently should never have been admitted, or he shows that his mental faculties are of a very low grade, or his indiffer-