

thing for our Metropolitan Institutions, they have done nothing or next to nothing for home benevolence. There is another fact as regards general benevolence which we shall all do well to ponder over, a fact perfectly well known to all who have to do with charitable associations and organizations. It is this. That those who give the most never complain of giving, and those who give the least always do it grudgingly and querulously. We feel sure that our lodges only want "stirring up" to see the matter in its proper light, and we believe that the heart of Masonic charity is neither enfeebled, decayed, or quenched. We trust that our Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution festival will evince that, despite hard times and bad times, the hearts of Freemasons are still as warm, as loving, and as unselfish as ever; and that just as in the past, so in the present and the future, (God helping us), we will maintain in their full efficiency and reality those great Institutions of our Order, which loving sympathy has founded, reared, and developed, and which constitute alike a test of Masonic professions, and are in veriest certainty the pride and glory of our English Freemasonry.—*Freemason, London.*

VARIOUS MATTERS.

There seems to be a considerable degree of enthusiasm evolved in the recent history of lodges in this jurisdiction. Meetings are more fully attended than usual, and whenever a special effort is made, there is sure to be a jam. The reason is not far off, and is to be found in the fact that hiding your light under a bushel does not contribute a great deal toward dispelling the surrounding darkness. The lodges are beginning to perceive that the old time idea that to give public notice of an intended meeting or an account of one of more than ordinary interest is not to betray the secrets of Masonry, and as day by

day the impression finds a broader influence, in like proportion the prosperity of the lodges increases. It is evident to the most superficial observer, that the labors of the press have largely contributed to this state of affairs, and that the onward movement may not only be kept up but increased by more attention to sound Masonic reading on the part of the brethren, and more business like methods in the management of lodges. It no longer suffices for a lodge to obtain a warrant, hire a hall, and vegetate like a plant in the shade, neglected by the gardener; on the contrary it must cause its light to shine before men, and surround itself with such interest as not only to attract material and visitors, but to strengthen and confirm the interest of the actual membership, and thus counteract the evils of non-affiliation, much more largely due, by the way, to a sense of weariness at constant reiteration than to any other cause. We take some credit for having in a measure contributed to the present awakening, and daily receive proof that the *Dispatch* with its great circulation has been, and is doing a work for which the brethren are evidently grateful.

From a business point of view this concerns our proprietors, and we are certain that they largely appreciate it, but for us there is a wider and more pleasant sense, which brings to our declining years the solace that while we have failed to garnish our basket and store with much goods, we have built up in these columns the leading Masonic journal of the world, through which we address a constituency reaching to the uttermost confines of the globe, and which some day we shall leave as our monument and the proof of our sincere love for and devotion to the brotherhood.—*N. Y. Dispatch.*

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