

We sometimes think that our neighbours create for themselves difficulties and annoyances that a little less law-making and regulations-enacting might have avoided.

Why arm the discontented and mischief-maker with such a weapon for evil?

This practice of the separate ballot for each degree and the equally injurious one called *estopping* without charge or trial, are evidently producing their natural and legitimate results. Masonry has been quietly pursuing the peaceful tenor of its way with us here away down East, for the last hundred and twenty-five years, and the only ballot or estopping process, so far as we have learned, has been the first one; nor have we ever heard that the Institution has suffered with us for the want of these Masonic clogs.

Let our material be what it ought to be—of mature age, sound judgment, and strict morals,—and then let us select for Worshipful Masters or rulers of the Craft men of good report, true and trusty, and held in high estimation among their brethren and fellows for their intelligence and high moral standing, and depend upon it the machinery will move along smoothly, with perhaps an occasional but after all a harmless interruption.

Reference is made to the dedication of the Temple at Philadelphia, at which he assisted, and which he thinks to be "the most costly and the most complete Masonic Temple in the world."

He had been present at a social gathering of the Craft, in the shape of a Masonic pic-nic, on an island in the Potomac—the scenery of which is thus described:

"From the island we looked out upon scenery which nature seems to have sketched in her most inspired moods. Scenery noted by Jefferson as indicating the claim of his native land, to the ownership of objects of interest no less striking than those beyond the seas. The majestic and the sublime, the picturesque and the beautiful were so strikingly contrasted and combined as to impress even the dullest student of nature. As the eye advanced from crest to crest of the frowning summits surrounding us and anon measured the chasm which opened between them, it was able to comprehend something of the fierce warfare which in ages gone had been waged by the proud waters fighting their way to the sea."