

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Donounced by the Reformed Presbyterian Church
—An Ecclesiastical Boycott Proposed.

NEWBURGH, N. Y., June 7.—The Reformed Presbyterian Synod of America, in session here, has adopted resolutions declaring that secret societies, of which secrecy is an essential characteristic, are, because of their secrecy, immoral, selfish and unjust, and they are degrading and enslaving to the conscience of their members; that in addition to the secrecy of the fraternities many of them are Christless, yet they counterfeit the worship of the church and obstruct her work, and for that reason, as well as for their secrecy, the members of such societies ought not to be admitted to her membership, and that the synod enjoin the court of this church to refuse admission to the privileges of the church to members of all secret orders, and to exclude from membership those, if any, who may have crept in unawares. In the debate on these resolutions Freemasonry was bitterly denounced.

LATE HOURS AND HURRY.

It will materially damage, if it does not finally kill, any Masonic Lodge or Chapter to commence half an hour or more after the time specified for opening.

The hour having been announced, the Master has no right to keep the brethren waiting for some laggard. The prompt will conclude that it is useless to waste their time in that way, and will soon become careless. So the disease spreads until it is next to impossible to secure a quorum at a reasonable hour; the interest fags and the Lodge barely survives.

Late openings necessitate late closings, and men whose business require that their faculties shall be active and strong, find out sooner or later that this sort of thing impairs their efficiency, and, after a while, drop out of the list of regular attendants, then cease to go except on rare occasions.

To overcome these impediments, the work is "cut short" or hurried which divests it of its impressiveness, and members find no pleasure in it. They wonder where the beauty is, and why they ever saw anything to admire in it.—*Masonic Home Journal*.

MASONIC CULTURE.

During his progress in Freemasonry, the initiate is solemnly charged to pursue such a prudent and well-regulated course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of his corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy. The study of the liberal arts and sciences—that valuable branch of education which tends so effectually to polish and adorn the mind—is earnestly recommended to his consideration. He is admonished diligently to investigate the wonderful works of Nature; to peruse the volume of the sacred law; to practice every domestic, social, moral and public virtue; and, in brief, to learn to know and to perform every duty which he owes to God, to his neighbor and to himself.

The foregoing is but a brief—the briefest outline of Masonic culture, and of the life-work of a genuine Freemason, and yet how comprehensive! It refers to and includes all that pertains to his body, in unity of him whose evolutionary status is that of a perfect man, an enlightened Freemason who has, in due course, received his last and highest degree in the Temple here below.