

this is productive of endless confusion and diversity in the work, greatly marring the beauty and symmetry of our ritual."

The work of Missouri has been selected as the standard work of New Mexico.

#### MASONIC LITERATURE.

R. W. Bro. Frank W. Baxter, of Highgate, Vt., sets forth his views on "Masonic Literature" at considerable length in the *Keystone*, and forcibly points out the necessity of brethren giving more attention to the literary features of Masonry. He says:—

It is a lamentable fact, that the members of the Masonic Institution, as a whole, do not patronize Masonic literature. Why it is so is more than I can explain. It certainly cannot be that Masonry has not a literature that is worth perusal, for it has, and one, too, that is worth the perusal and hearty support of every Mason.

It is also a deplorable fact that there is so little pecuniary remuneration in Masonic literature, that a great portion of our best talent is debarred from entering the field. Bread and butter must be had; if our Brethren will not give Masonic literature adequate support, our students enter other fields that will. They have the right to expect that Masons will patronize their own literature; but when they find that they do not, or will not, they retire from it.

Yet in spite of the many drawbacks, Masonic literature has made rapid advancement within the past half century. If it will continue as it commenced, what now appears obscure and mysterious will be made plain, and light will dawn from darkness. New fields have been explored; old libraries ransacked and old manuscripts found, that have thrown much light on the past history of Masonry.

Years ago, our brethren were content with the traditional tales that our

ritual gave them; they accepted them as literal facts, without investigation as to their reality. Not so, however, at the present day. They now want and will have something besides traditional stories; they will not accept as facts the unsubstantiated statements that come from the imaginative brain of many of the Masonic writers of the eighteenth century.

There is a vast field that remains unexplored; there is plenty of room for study and plenty of themes to write about.

A few have penetrated far into these unknown fields and have given the results of their researches to their Brethren; but it has been done out of pure love for Masonry; not from any hopes of pecuniary reward.

Mackey, Hughan, Morris, Macoy, and others have made it the study of their lives. To them are we indebted for much light in Masonry.

The neglect on the part of the Craft to patronize their own publications is all wrong; there is no valid excuse for it. The old, worn-out excuses of "haven't time" and "can't afford" it, have time and again been proven as nonsensical in the majority of instances; there are individual exceptions, where these excuses may hold good; but they are rare; they must hunt up something new. The great trouble lies in the want of inclination.

In a literary sense, the Craft seems to be in a perfect lethargy. Would that it lay in my power to wake them up. I would gladly do so, and in such a manner that they would not want the dose repeated.

Our Grand Masters, authors and lecturers have urged the Craft in vain to give more attention to the literary features of Masonry. Those that do hear or read these addresses think that they are not meant for them, but for some other brother.

The Worshipful Masters of our Lodges could, if they would, do more than anyone else towards bringing about an interest in Masonic literature.