

On the other hand, the Brother who, knowing or believing an applicant to be fit material for the Masonic Temple—such an one as Masonry loves to welcome to its shrine—whose listening ear would catch true Masonic meanings from the instructive and instructing tongue, and in whose faithful breast the mysteries of Masonry might and would be safely lodged—such an one as Masons would be proud and glad to call Brother, and who might be a benefit and prove an acquisition to the Lodge, and yet, because of unworthy motives, or from spite or spleen, or a desire, perchance, to get even with the Lodge for some real or fancied slight, or for any other reason not Masonic, casts a black ball against, and thus, by his one vote, rejects such applicant—the Brother so casting such black-ball commits a threefold Masonic offence, intensified by the fact that it is a coward's act, striking from ambush and in the dark. Alas, how many wrongs have been inflicted upon Masonry by the acceptance of those who ought to have been rejected, and the rejection of those who ought to have been accepted!

I believe in a high standard of requirement for admission to Masonic privileges. "Quality, not quantity," should be our motto, and a high standard of requirement on our part will ultimate in a better class of applicants, both in the mental and moral sense.

The House of Assembly of New Jersey extended the privileges of the floor of the House to the members of Grand Lodge during its sitting. In almost every constituency of the Province of Quebec, the fact of a candidate for election to our House of Assembly being a Freemason, or having anything to do with Freemasonry, would be pretty certain to ensure his defeat. But then the principles that underlie the civilization of the majority of the population of Quebec, are rather those of the seventeenth than of the nineteenth century.

Our hearty congratulations are extended to R. W. Bro. Joseph Hough, Grand Secretary of New Jersey, upon the incident which we find reported in the following lines:—

The Committee appointed to procure a testimonial to be presented to the R. W. Grand Secretary, reported that they had procured an album containing an engrossed address to R. W. Bro. Hough, and a gold-mounted ebony cane, which Report was received and accepted.

M. W. P. G. M. Cannon, in feeling words, paid a touching tribute to our Right Worshipful Brother for the faithful services rendered for the half century now closing, presented the album containing the engrossed address and the gold-mounted cane, with the sincere hope that our beloved Brother would not require the services of the latter for many years to come.

Fifty years of continuous service as Assistant Grand Secretary and Grand Secretary is something of which few, indeed, can boast.