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J. B. TRAYES, P.D.D.G.M.,
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PLAIN TALK.

FRANK W. BAXTER.

As the season is now upon us when our Masonic bodies are being called "from refreshment to labor," a little plain talk to the brethren and officers may not be out of place; but, in so doing, it is the farthest from my intentions to say or write anything that can in any manner offend the most fastidious mind; on the contrary, I would only admonish, and, if I perceive errors, innovations or any violation of the fundamental principles of Masonry, I would point them out, and if possible say something that may cause them to be remedied.

Should I inadvertently say anything that should hit a "sore spot," I am perfectly willing to be forgiven; but if the coat, by any circumstances should happen to fit, why, put it on and wear it until the defect, if any, has been remedied. Bear in mind that I speak as brother to brother, prompted by the true feelings of brotherhood, not by envy, malice or hatred.

In the first place, each and every Mason has duties to perform which must not be overlooked or neglected.

First, non-attendance. If there is anything that will discourage a zeal-

ous officer, it is non-attendance on the part of the members of his lodge. An officer that performs his whole duty is early at his post. The faithful Master delights in opening his lodge, performing the work to be done, and closing it in due season; but if the brethren do not second his efforts, and loiter by the way, early means late.

The degrees, to be properly worked, requires more than the constitutional number to be present. Empty seats speak no words of encouragement to the faithful officer; therefore, my brethren, if you would encourage your officers come early and stay; do not simply step in for a moment, plead business (?) engagements, and then spend the evening with convivial associates; but come to stay and perform your share of the work that is to be done.

Again, the question of material, which, by the way, is a very important one, presents itself. As the winter months approach, applications for initiation into the mysteries of Masonry will begin to come in. Now, every Mason has a duty to perform, which upon no account must be neglected, if they would sustain the