

sittings in the lodge for sixty members, irrespective of the officers.

The chair of the I. G. is a piece of antique curiosity, it was presented to the lodge by a worthy brother now a resident in Toronto—Bro. Sutherland.

The floor is covered with a valuable oil-cloth—the walls are appropriately papered and paneled in oak—the ceiling is richly papered and embellished by a contro piece, reflecting great credit on the artist.

The door is surmounted on each side by a knocker, representing a hand. The fanlight is of stained glass, its shape the segment of a circle; the All-seeing eye, square and compasses are neatly worked in the centre.

On the right and left of the Master's chair, and a little in advance of it, are elegant tables and chairs for the accommodation of the treasurer and secretary.

In the centre of the room is a chaste marble altar, near which, and in their proper places, are "the three lesser lights of masonry." A splendid gasolier is pendant from the ceiling in the centre of the room: there are gas lights also at the east, west and south.

The anterooms are appropriated for the services of the tyler, for dressing and preparation rooms, and have proper and convenient furniture. The windows throughout are tastefully decorated and fitted.

We tender our sincere and fraternal congratulations to the members of the Elgin Lodge, on the possession by them of so elegant and beautiful a lodge room, and hope the energy they have displayed in obtaining it may be successfully imitated by the members of other lodges of our city.

Correspondence.

Whatever is intended for insertion in the "Pioneer," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor do we hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

To the Editor of the Masonic Pioneer.

Sir and Brother,—As you are now the *custos morum* of the craft in this city, let me beg of you a place in the columns of your journal, to call your attention, as well as that of all good men and true, to the fact, that the craft are daily imposed upon by itinerant mendicants; and to suggest some new regulation to deprive them of the pecuniary benefits so lavishly bestowed on unworthy objects. Numbers of them have not been associated with a lodge for years; many never entered a lodge after receiving their degrees; the most of them never contributed a shilling beyond the initiation fee towards the benefit of the order, and

forget, indeed, they are masons, until all other resources fail, then they are laid in chains, singing the praises of the order they dearly love; call upon us, and remind us of our duties to aid a brother in distress. Some of the most accomplished of them you will discover with masonic emblems curiously wrought in their breast pins, rings or watch keys; and one, a New York book pedlar, here a short time ago, actually sported a cap with masonic devices conspicuously worked on the band, and brass buttons having masonic emblems curiously worked on them. These men bring disgrace upon the craft, and lay us open to the ridicule of the uninitiated as well as draw upon us their contempt. Another set are continually signaling you in the street with masonic salutations. It is much to be regretted that there is also a growing disposition among some highly esteemed brethren to imitate these imposters, by wearing conspicuously upon their apparel, a masonic device. Did they but read Oliver, they would learn, that "Masonry does not expect her votaries to expose her to the gaze of the world; in her modesty, she shrinks from the boast of her existence, preferring rather to see her advertised through the medium of untold benevolence and acts of hidden charity. Her excellencies flourish most when cherished in the warm bosom of charity that vaunteth not itself, rather than in that sort which bringeth forth the flower without the fruit."

While upon this subject, I would draw attention to another custom fast growing among us, which is equally reprehensible and unmasonic, by which the sacred temple is turned into a house of speculation. Brethren forgetting the solemn declaration they make on the very threshold of the order, that "they are not prompted by mercenary or other unworthy motives to solicit, &c.;" violate their sacred honor by placing upon sign boards, cards and advertisements, that which should be confined to such of the brethren alone as are exclusively manufacturers of clothing, jewels, &c., and never ought to be mixed up with any affairs whatever, verily, to them we may use the language of Scripture "thy house is a house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves." This custom has attained here to a great extent from a mistaken conception of the institution. It is a custom which, I feel satisfied, can easily be put down, and if masters of lodges would only devote a portion of every lodge night to other lectures than those on ordinary routine the practice would soon cease. If, Sir, you will only exercise your influence to check the evil, I feel certain the more respectable portion of the brethren will at once see and remedy it, by the force of example, and no brother who does not want to be branded as using the craft for mercenary purposes, I am sure, will hereafter be guilty of the offence.

Should you deem this worthy of a place in your journal, you will again hear from

MARK.

To the Editor of the Masonic Pioneer.

Sir & Bro.,—Allow me, through the columns of your welcome journal, to congratulate the masonic community of Canada, upon the publication in our midst of a *Masonic Pioneer*. The want of a periodical, through which, to express our views upon important questions has been long felt particularly in this city; and rely upon it, Mr. Editor, the praiseworthy exertions of those who have toiled, and are now labouring to meet this want, will be heartily appreciated and rewarded by those who are interested in the progress of our "time honoured institution." More especially do you deserve our thanks, for the position you have assumed with regard to the organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

A class of our brethren in this province having refused to recognize the legality of the proceedings taken to establish this Grand Lodge, although clear and undeniable facts have been tendered for their consideration; we of the Grand Lodge of Canada, cannot but feel grateful to the journalist who undertakes to divest the subject of any ambiguities, and who would voluntarily sacrifice time to win our stiff-necked brethren from their prejudiced ways. The series of articles upon this subject which you propose publishing, will, I trust, clearly prove to these brethren, the strictly legal position in which we stand. The advantageous effects of your periodical will be made manifest in a variety of ways. For instance those brethren who have used every effort to crush the movement which I have above alluded to, who have cried out far and wide, "heed not the 11 rebel Lodges" who are ungrateful to their parents, will now have an opportunity of proving in print that their assertions have been justifiable.

However, on the grounds of common sense, without calling to my assistance ancient or modern masonic laws and usages. I appeal to those who deny that the step has been legally taken.

Is there not a sufficient number of talented and intelligent masons in Canada, to manage the affairs of the craft without reference to England? Has not the neglect on the part of the Grand Lodge of England, in delaying to answer our petitions, and to transmit documents which were required, justified us in considering that a separation would be advantageous? Have not the large sums of money which we have been compelled to send as dues to the Grand Lodge of England, caused a heavy drain upon our funds? And is it not better to employ these sums for masonic purposes in Canada? Does not our assumption of the right of self-government in freemasonry, strictly resemble the right of self-