

and such as Masonry in turn would be pleased to honor. It is pre-eminently the noblest, the grandest, and the most sublime of all fraternal organizations, and stands without a peer in its ability to make men wiser, better and consequently more happy.

There are, however, some young Masons, and perhaps a few of the older ones, who are endeavoring to popularize Freemasonry. Without a true appreciation of its dignity and standing, they would resort to the methods of more modern organizations to attract the attention of those outside of the institution, and thereby gain new members. Recently, while discussing the propriety of celebrating the anniversary of the organization of the oldest commandery in Indiana, one of the oldest members urged as a reason for so doing, that the commandery would thereby gain several new members. The real benefits to be derived from such a celebration, the strengthening and perpetuating the bond of fellowship and love that should exist among all valiant and magnanimous Sir Knights, was lost sight of in a desire to gain new members. So it is always among this class of Masons who are seeking to popularize Freemasonry. They would fill columns of the secular press with the names of candidates, and the doings of Masonic bodies, hoping thereby to attract the attention of others and secure more petitions. Especially has this been the case in the A. and A. rite in this and other cities. The doings of Masonic bodies have been made public to such an extent as to almost disgust real Masons, those who would maintain the honor and dignity of the order as it has come down to them from the hands of those who defied persecution and even death to perpetuate the noble principles that were taught to them as Freemasonry.

What is now most needed is less ostentation and more real Masonic work. The grand object of Freemasonry is not to make Masons, but to

improve the condition of those who are entitled to its benefits. All who would become Masons should come of their own free will and accord, and because they are desirous of doing good to their fellow-men. When associated together upon this principle, Masons become as members of one family, seeking each others' welfare and happiness equally with their own. Peace and harmony will always prevail in the lodge-room and among individual members. The good example thus afforded will carry the beauty and attractiveness of Masonry into all the walks of life, and prove more potent in increasing its popularity and influence among the better class of men, such as would make good Masons, than the most gorgeous parade of Knights Templar, or any other public display that may be made. These things may do for more modern organizations, but, what is most needed in the time honored institution is less tinsel and more of the pure gold of Freemasonry.—*Masonic Advocate.*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

There are two tendencies in our modern practice each worthy of consideration by those who wish to know the right. One is in the case of those who will not think or investigate at all, and the other, those who after much thought desire to substitute their own vagaries for the actual and recognized law. A careful examination of the decisions rendered by Grand Masters and Grand Lodges, and to be found in the annual printed transactions of the several jurisdictions, will demonstrate this idea very thoroughly, and show that between the two elements just named our laws are kept in a state of effervescence; that what is done one year is undone the next, and thus uncertainty, as to the law, is destroyed. It stands to reason that the opinions of the non-thinkers are of no consequence, nevertheless they are not without danger