

clining membership, empty exchequers, and waning reputations. The Lodge that is so fortunate as to have Officers prompt and punctual in their attendance is a Lodge which will be found flourishing and prosperous, its executive displaying zeal and energy in the discharge of duty, imparting that zeal and energy to all the members as the electric spark flashes along the wire, communicating itself to all who come in contact with it, and instilling new life and vigor. Promptness argues interest; where we are interested, we are alive and anxious to discharge our duty, and punctual in its performance, leaving no means at our disposal untried to further our object. Let the three principal Officers take as their example our glorious Luminary in his three stages, rising in the East, attaining his Meridian splendor, and setting in the West. His chariot wheels are never a moment delayed, his beams never behind their appointed time, punctual his daily race to run; as his presence is essential to vitality, so the prompt presence of those Officers who represent him in his course is essential to the vital interests of the Lodge. By prompt attendance the preliminary business is disposed of in good time, the actual work not delayed by repeated interruptions for admission, but dispatched in a quick, orderly and systematic manner, preventing one of our greatest hindrances to progress. The evil and stigma of keeping late and unseasonable hours are also removed. It also has the effect of withdrawing an obstacle that prevents many worthy Brethren from being present at our communications. If Lodges adopt this course our nights of meeting will not be occasions to be so much dreaded in many households.

My second suggestion to insure success is efficiency of Officers. Efficiency in any walk, pursuit, or profession is essentially necessary to success. It is necessary to success

that the Officers of a Lodge be thoroughly trained in and conversant with the ritual and ceremonies. It is in vain for a master to look for success if he is not well supported by Officers who are intimately acquainted with their duties. Some Masters may imagine that by their own knowledge and ability they can secure success. Not so. As well might a husbandman expect to reap an abundant harvest by merely cultivating and preparing the soil, but neglecting to sow the seed. It is an established law in the Kingdom of Nature that whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap; the analogy holds good in every pursuit. If the Officers of a Lodge will not sow the seed of efficiency, they cannot expect to reap the harvest of prosperity. This is also true with regard to quality. Then let Lodges and Masters be alive to the importance of electing and appointing Brethren of undoubted ability to the various offices. We have seen Masters poorly supported by their Officers; does the work impress us? do our grand and solemn ceremonies effect our hearts and minds, as they are calculated to do? The eloquence of a Demosthenes would be nullified by stumblings, inaccuracies and inefficiencies. Let no Lodge elect, no Master appoint, no Member accept a position in a Masonic Lodge which he is not qualified, or will not qualify himself to occupy creditably. It matters not how old a member he may be, it matters not how much respect he may command, Masonry, its honor, its credit, its reputation is at stake. These ought to have our chief consideration. How sad the mistake to elect or appoint a Brother to a position which nature, education, or ability never intended him to fill, reminding us of the Gubernatorial effort of Sancho Panza. Some reason because a Brother has been a Deacon, Secretary, or Treasurer he must needs be a Warden, and if a Warden, must of necessity be a Master. This process