

the ritual quickly and think that is all there is of it. Others go through without learning anything at all. A few only ever become well-informed Masons. In this lack of Masonic knowledge among so large a portion of the membership lies the greatest danger to the Institution itself. They are in a position to do it much greater harm than those who assail it from without. Once inside they become an element of weakness, for they are just as liable to go wrong as right. They have never learned how to observe the cardinal virtues of Masonry, or to practice the tenets of their profession. They are apt to think the platform needs some changes or repairs, and imagine themselves competent to furnish the plans. Some seem to think the Temperance plank of more importance than all the rest, and are ready to sacrifice Prudence and Justice in their efforts to enlarge its dimensions. Brotherly Love and Charity are rolled out from under it, leaving it to topple and break in pieces. The beautiful structure, contrived by Wisdom, constructed by Strength and adorned by Beauty, in their hands becomes a shapeless mass, with scarcely a trace of its former grandeur.

Let the platform remain with all the planks as originally placed in it. Let it continue to rest upon the four corner-stones firmly planted upon the bed-rock of Masonry. Then shall Masons everywhere continue to enjoy the rich blessings that have so long been their portion, and continue to show to the world how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.—*Masonic Advocate*.

RIGHT OF SUCCESSION IN OFFICE.

Lately it has appeared that even a Grand Officer can err as to the right of succession in office, and thus cause confusion and irregularity. In nearly all the Grand Jurisdictions it is the law that no Past Master, no Past Grand Master, no Past High Priest, no Past

Grand High Priest, no Past Commander and no Past Grand Commander, has an inherent right to preside. Each has passed the East and is again on the floor, so far as the right to preside is concerned. Such being the fact, it is well to remember how the right of succession in office descends, and so make no mistake when duty demands action. In the lodge, in the absence of the Master either temporarily or permanently, it is the right and duty of the Senior Warden to preside, and in the absence of the Master and Senior Warden it is the right and duty of the Junior Warden to preside. A Warden so presiding is acting Master and responsible accordingly. If the Master and Wardens are absent, or are by any cause disqualified from acting, then it is the prerogative of the Grand Master personally, or by his deputy, to preside, and it is not lawful for any other person to open the lodge.

In the Grand Lodge the descent of the right of succession in office is from the Grand Master to the Deputy Grand Master, then to the Senior Grand Warden, and, last, to the Junior Grand Warden. If all four are absent, or from any cause become disqualified to act, then the lodges must act, because they constitute the Grand Lodge.—*Voice of Masonry*.

FAITH AND PRACTICE.

Masonically, faith and conduct go together, and the first great light is the rule and guide of both. Masonically faith and works are in unity, and thus it is that what'er betides a true Masonic aspirant follows his conductor and fears no danger. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Melchisedec, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, Jethro, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, Solomon, Daniel, Zerubbabel, the Saints John, and others, verified their faith by their works. Their practice was the effect of their faith, and the first great light holds up their example as worthy of emulation. The theory of Freemasonry is moral and religious, and hence