

of his Lodge, for it is his duty to see that they are preserved as *the property of the Lodge*.

How many such Masters are there in the United States? How many Lodges have complete sets of proceedings since the date of their charters? We would be glad if we could answer, "one in ten." We will guarantee that they do not average one in twenty. We will guarantee that not one Master in a hundred makes it his duty to read and study his Grand Lodge laws from beginning to end; and too few even read the latest proceedings. Here then is the class of candidates out of which Grand Masters have to select their deputies. It is a shame, and the shame falls back upon the appointees, who, after receiving their commissions, are almost wholly ignorant of their plainest duties.

We grant that a new appointee should not be expected to *know everything*, but God knows, they should know something, and, from the reports which we receive from many States, many D. D. G. Ms. know *nothing*. All this is the result of ambitious and incompetent men soliciting for and getting elected to be Masters, and after getting that office never condescend to be instructed by reading a Masonic paper.—Next to the Grand Master and Worshipful Masters, none should read so much and study so closely as a D. D. G. Master. He represents to a very great extent the Grand Master, hence the Grand Lodge, and any mistake in jurisprudence by him has its effect throughout his entire district, and which may be very difficult to correct without disturbing the harmony of the Craft. We worked hard for several years to get the law in this jurisdiction changed, so that the D. D. G. M. might be relieved from the lecturing business, and thus devote their whole time to jurisprudence. It was finally accomplished, and now the question comes, do they improve their opportunity? We believe the old ones have, and the new ones have got to learn. A good D. D. G. M. is not made in a year, and if he shows a disposition to learn and improve, and to visit his Lodges and instruct them in the manner of transacting their business, and giving correct judicial information, he should not be removed; each year he will become more valuable to the Craft and to the Grand Lodge. From the corps of D. D. G. M's the Grand Masters are generally selected, and they are very much mistaken, if they think that their services will not be ultimately appreciated.

A D. D. G. M. who thoroughly appreciates his high office will seek light wherever he can get it, and having got it, he will dispense it as much as possible. He will not jump to conclusions simply because he has the official authority to do it, but he will consult with his G. M. upon all doubtful points. He will not decide according to some set, or preconceived notion, without first inquiring whether he is right; for no man, however high in authority, has a right to use his high office for the sake of prejudice and to the injury of the Craft. When D. D. G. Masters thoroughly do their duty, the honor of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge is preserved, and the dignity and intelligence of the Craft promoted. Seek light and dispense it. Read, and encourage your brethren to read, and when you read—*STUDY*.—*Goulay's Freemason*.