

MASTERS AND MEMBERS.

How many times Masters of lodges have felt chagrined because of, thoughtless complaints by the members, arising in part, oftentimes wholly, from faults of the persons complaining; no one can tell so well as the Masters themselves, who preside or have presided over lodges.

The Master of a lodge has a multitude of things to which he must necessarily give attention, and many of these may not be known until the hour of lodge meeting. On this it is not necessary to enlarge, though it may be well enough to venture suggestions.

Possibly the Secretary may be late in arriving—why? is answered by many reasons; Committees fail to report—never mind why, the fact remains; officers are not in their respective places at the hour named, though they should be; but uncertainty increases, with it anxiety comes, and the meeting which the Master had hoped should be a model one, opens, goes through with the business, and closes in such a sort of half satisfactory manner that all present feel a depressing influence, and go their respective ways without analyzing the cause. Under such circumstances it is an easy thing to say, the Master was not social, and to place at his door the blame for the failure to have a thoroughly successful meeting.

While this feeling is being entertained concerning the Master, will it not be wise to look about for the members, and ascertain, if we can, where they are and what they may be doing to help along the work of the lodge? But, as a question of fact, was the Master unsociable or was he thoughtful? Had he time and opportunity to greet every member cheerfully, when he indeed was the one to feel the depressing facts which none could know so well as he, because none other had a similar care. Officers indeed there are, but some are slow in getting into their places. Nevertheless, the Master must provide

—what other members of the lodge can not or will not, if he can?

Is it not made his duty to see that the members are properly instructed—and if his officers lack ability to supply their defects? Under all circumstances, even the most favorable, he is to watch carefully the progress of their performances, and see that the long established customs of the institution suffer no derangement at their hands.

Sociable indeed he might be, cheerful even unto animation, but there sits a brother in the back row of seats bulwarked against approach. Have we not seen a brother so entrenched in a lodge, and so remain from the opening to the close, and finally come out of his stronghold of necessity, and sagely remark that “the work went very well but the lodge didn’t seem social.”

This is not a solitary instance by any means; its counterpart can be seen at lodge meeting much too often, but the fact that it is unintentional does not cure the trouble. The truth is, the Master, by virtue of his office has cares not experienced by officers or members, to lighten which far too little effort is made by them.—*Liberal Freemason.*

“FREE BLOW” MASONS.

This class are full too numerous and deserve a notice. They are selfish, conceited and brazen. “Cheek” is a part of their make up. They will put a nickel into a charity box, with a pompous air, and eat and drink five dollars worth of solids and liquids at some one else’s expense, looking the while as though they were the host, and appearing to be oblivious of the fact that they are beating their nutriment out of some whole-souled Brother. This class of beats are never present where they have to pay, but let a banquet be served where no money is exacted, and they appear in the front seat, and act as though they were conferring a favor by their presence. To them, a Masonry that costs nothing is the proper thing. They worm their way into official posi-