

the Constitution has elapsed; that the examination which precedes the passing and raising is treated as a mere matter of form, and that even if the candidate answers correctly all the stipulated, or what is termed the usual questions, this in itself is no evidence that he is thereby rendered fully competent to take part in the routine business of the Lodge. On the other hand, it is the exception that an E. A. or F. C. does not strive to be "raised," and if such an exception does occur, it will probably be found upon closer examination, that that party became disappointed at his initiation, and in consequence thereof indifferent to Masonry altogether, and that he had better never have been proposed. To change a system for the sake that of insignificant, small number who do not seek advancement, and then even with but slim prospects, if any at all, of making them take an interest in Masonry, could surely not be considered necessary, nor wise, nor judicious.

*Fifth.* "That it is not right to let an E. A. be present to witness the routine business, etc., etc." Now what harm can there be in letting an E. A. see and hear the routine business? At some time, he has to become familiar with the mode of doing Lodge business, and that knowledge should also form a part of the qualification for advancement to the higher degrees. The time of his apprenticeship is unquestionably the proper time to gather information and to acquire that knowledge; it is only unfortunate that that term is too short to enable him to gather information, but even if with his defective knowledge of the routine business, he does vote

upon an account or other subject, it is of very rare occurrence that his vote alone will turn the scale, and if it does, his vote is at least an unbiased and impartial one. And as for the hearing of unpleasant discussions, it is better he learn at once, before he advances any further, what he has to expect to hear and see, that he may make up his mind whether he will apply for further advancement or not, and no longer grope in the dark.

*Sixth.* "That the system is practiced in the United States and gives good satisfaction." This is at least one tangible reason for advocating the introduction of that system into our Lodges here; and we may at once add, as another reason, because the Grand Lodge of Manitoba has recommended the introduction of the same. There is no doubt that to quite a number of our brethren in Canada a variety of systems practiced by our American brethren possess a peculiar charm for them; equally certain it is that to many Masons in Canada, the English system possesses peculiar charms; and who will blame either for the propensities and prejudices; they are natural, and need no explanation. That the Manitoba brethren desire that change is a natural consequence of what preceded. They, in at least one Lodge, if not in more, "work" like, or similar to, the Americans, and of course they also want to do the routine business like the Americans. And why should they not give expression and effect to their American sentiments?

Upon the whole, it is found that all except the sixth and last argument is aimed at the poor Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft; it is they who are