

It will be a step forward, when Masters cease to admit brethren on the Tyler's endorsement. The examination of an inexperienced or unskilled brother, can afford no just grounds for avouchment, because he cannot be supposed to have the ability of detecting error, or the judgment necessary to avoid conveying information which should be withheld.

If a brother vouch for another on the ground of having sat with him in a lodge, he should also be able to state positively that it was a Master's Lodge, duly and legally constituted, and not a lodge of Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts. Written vouchers, though indited by your nearest friend, are of no positive value. They cannot lawfully contain any of those things which it is indispensable the visitor should know; can afford him no assistance when put to the ordeal of strict examination.

Personal avouchment from one brother to another may be accepted, but no further, and then only when the brother vouched for is in the presence of the one giving the information, and the one receiving it, and then it must be given with the intent of being used Masonically, and be full, explicit, positive, and based on actual knowledge of a lawful Masonic character. But if Bro. White tells Brown that Bro. Black assured him that Bro. Green was a Mason, the information becomes too loose to have a lawful value, and must be discarded.

We trust enough has been said to put our worshipful brethren on their guard, and that they will assist in bringing about more rigid requirements in the matter of responding for the Masonic standing of unknown brethren. No good brother will object to it, and the opinions of the other class are of no importance. All will, we think, agree that it is better to refuse ten brethren who had a right to admission, than to admit one who, from the want of proper

qualifications, may bring disgrace on the lodge and its Master.—*Masonic Record.*

A BRIGHT MASON.

To very many of the fraternity the height of their ambition as Masons, is to become bright in the work and lectures. Often has the remark been made in our hearing, that time, and even money, would be no object could they but arrive at this distinction. Certainly this is a laudable ambition, and worthy of encouragement. When listening to such remarks, we have pondered upon their meaning, and endeavored to draw our conclusions as to their conceptions of the meaning of the term "bright Mason," and of the motives actuating them. To become thoroughly skilled in the ritual is essential, and a necessary qualification for a good workman, but this alone will not make of him a bright Mason in the true sense of the word. It may make of him a machine Mason, a mere parrot in the work; but to our mind very much more is required to become an efficient workman. He should, in addition to a knowledge of the ritual, be conversant with its history, its symbolism, its law and usages, and the landmarks upon which they are based. He should be able to look beyond the mere forms and grasp their inner and true meaning. He should be a Masonic student, intelligent upon all matters relating to the good of the Order and the prosperity of the craft. In short, he should enter into the spirit of our solemn ceremonies, and understand the full import of all our symbols. Then, and only then can he claim the noble name of Mason. Then and only then will he be enabled to fill any station he may be called upon to occupy, with credit to himself and advantage to his brethren, and justly claim the proud title of a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.—*Masonic Tidings.*