

CHANGES THE COMPLEXION.

If there is any truthfulness in the assertions made regarding the uselessness of the great majority of the Board of General Purposes, a strong effort should be made to reduce the numerical strength of that body. We have even heard D. D. G. M.'s speak disparagingly of the Board—frequently without any cause—and doubtless such remarks have led to recent attacks. It is strange that the Board allow some half a dozen, as is asserted, to do all the work, but it would not be so strange if we were informed that these half dozen usurped the functions of the Board, entirely ignoring the majority. There is a strong tendency in humanity to keep at the top, and so strongly is that developed that brilliant men are often trampled upon by others less capable, but who excel in energy. As Masons are only human they cannot be expected to possess greater virtues than the balance of humanity. The great trouble in connection with all bodies of men, is that a few look upon certain offices and duties as their sole privileges, and any attempt by new officers to seek information is regarded and treated as impertinence. This should not be the case in Freemasonry, and no brother, however exalted may be his position, should assume superior qualities, either as a business man, ritualist or jurist. Arrogance is never a sign of intelligence, but invariably accompanies ignorance. Many clever, capable, and talented brethren, take very little interest in the Craft, even when attending Grand Lodge, as they find without the least effort that individual superior intelligence cannot cope with combinations. There may be useless brethren on the Board, but there are those who are never given an opportunity of displaying their abilities; and never will until a complete re-organization or wiping out of existing

arrangements is effected. It is claimed that the introduction of too many new brethren might lead to disastrous results, as the novices would be unacquainted with the business, or would wreck the institution by introducing new features. Such an argument is senseless. How many members of Grand Lodge were willing recently to displace Sir John Macdonald or Mr. Mowat, and yet the partizans never thought for a moment that such displacement would be dangerous or ruinous to the country. Governments have been overthrown, politics completely reversed, and yet Canada still flourishes. So it would be with Grand Lodge. If every member of the Board was thrown aside, and the management of the Craft placed in the hands of entirely new members, no harm would ensue. The usefulness of any institution is increased, and its popularity made more apparent, by the greatest possible number being interested in its welfare, while the tendency of the one-man *regime* always has been productive of despotism, disloyalty and frequently rebellion.

MASONIC HALLS NOT DANCE-ROOMS.—

Our brethren on the other side of the globe are as well aware as any, of the Masonic proprieties, as witnesses the following from the *New Zealand Freemason*:—"It appears to us as amounting to a desecration when Masonic Halls are converted into dance-rooms, and we cannot comprehend why a place consecrated and dedicated for the solemn proceedings of the Fraternity should be deemed of a less holy character than churches or chapels. No good Jews or Gentiles would think for a moment of permitting any secular amusement to be carried on in their places of worship, then why, we ask, should the floor of a Masonic Lodge Room be utilized for any purpose but that for which it was intended?"