

advanced to F. C. in less than six months, nor again to M. M. without a similar interval, and only then on being certified by two examiners, offering a sharp contrast to more recent experiences in Scotland.

A few years later, in order to free the lodge from debt, it was enacted, *inter alia*, that punch was to be sold at a profit of five pence per bottle, and every brother who did not consume half a bottle was to pay a fine of six pence! The scheme subsequently fell through. At the St. John's Festival in 1762, a very interesting communication was read from the Grand Master, which, for reasons set forth, ordained that every lodge under his jurisdiction should enrol as an honorary member Bro. Don Antonio de Pizarro, Governor of Terragenia, in Spain. A Scotch Mason, Bro. Dickson, having been shipwrecked on the Spanish coast, was, with his crew, seized and imprisoned, but, on satisfying the worthy Governor that he was a Mason, was kindly treated, and the whole of his party safely conducted to Gibraltar, the commandant of which was so pleased, that he immediately returned sixteen of Don Antonio's countrymen, whom he had in durance. These facts been intimated to Grand Lodge, resulted in our chivalric brother being made free of all Scotch Lodges.—*Bro. Edw. Macbean, in London Freemason.*

INCUMBRANCES IN MASONRY.

Well, when any Masonic body ceases for any considerable time to gain accessions, and begins to lead a straggling or struggling life, the time is come to wind it up, if it neglects or refuses to perform that office for itself. Their non-action is a rank contradiction to their own professions as well as the fundamental teachings of the Order, and gives sharp witted observers outside the gate abundant opportunity to charge the whole Order, through their unrectified neglect, with inconsistency. Such incumbrances should be summarily cast off when reasonable expostulation fails to effect a change since their negative influence intensifies the zeal of anti-masons and obstructs the progress of live, energetic Chapters which are true to their high calling.

After observation, running through many years, we have reached the conclu-

sion that those who drop out of Masonry, may be arranged in two classes; first, such who are too stupid to master the esoteric work, and because of their incompetency become ineligible to office; these, discovering their inferiority, soon weary, and knowing that if they remain they must comply with the financial rules of the body to which they belong or suffer suspension, chose the latter, and save the payments of dues and assessments, flattering themselves that they have gained somewhat by their shrewdness; secondly, those who learn the work parrot fashion, but neither comprehend, nor are able to expound and illustrate its real meaning, and as soon as their inability in this respect becomes pronounced and in consequence they are not selected to impart the word, become indifferent, next non-attendant, then dimit, or what is quite as common, imitate the other class in skirking the duties of membership. The first has neither memory, understanding nor conscience; the second has memory, but lacks the other qualities. The love of money rules the first, and the love of place the other. Both are unfitted for co-operative labour. If they remain, as some of them do, they clog the efforts of their fellow-members, who keenly feel the weight of their great responsibilities and endeavor to fulfil them, but find their labours half-nullified by the voices of such members. We regard their departure from any Masonic body to which they may belong, as both a blessing and a warning; a blessing by being rid of their fellowship; a warning to be more critical afterwards in investigating the character and qualification of candidates for Masonic honours, and thus avoid the introduction of imperfect material.—*J. H. Brown.*

The latest Order which assumes to base itself upon Freemasonry, is the so-called "Ancient and Honorable Order of Knights of Constantinople," founded or revived in Scotland, and which has sent out a colony to New York. Cannot some Brother have a Constitutional Amendment enacted making fourteen nights, instead of seven, in a week? And then if the Grand Architect would vouchsafe one hundred and forty years instead of seventy, to man, all would be well. As it is, all is ill.—*Keystone.*