

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

MASONIC RECORD.

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WHAT MASTERS OF LODGES SHOULD DO.

An historian informs us, that as a Roman consul remained in office but one year he was usually anxious to distinguish his consulate by some remarkable event. This anxiety was laudable. The holding of office is a trust, and if every office-holder would seek to accomplish during his term something at once notable and noble in the line of his duty, something to which those over whom he ruled could ever recur with pride, something which history might embalm and all good men admire, secular annals would tell a different story from the average one, history would be worth reading, life worth living, and all elections would be pregnant with meaning, and indicative of happy results.

Ma-onic elections are annual ones, and there is good reason why every Master of a Lodge should be actuated by the high purpose of the Roman consul, to signalize his official term by the performance of some praiseworthy act, for the advancement of the best interests of his Lodge. We say his Lodge, since he is the head and front of it, its *Master*, responsible for its action, and for the individual action of all of its officers as officers.

The Grand Lodge and Grand Master know no one but himself. Bearing this weighty responsibility, he should govern himself accordingly.

Let us look into this matter; let us endeavor to arrive at at least a part of the duty of every Worshipful Master.

We shall not refer to such commonplace matters as his regular and punctual attendance at the Lodge, and his active effort to have every one of his elected and appointed officers follow his example in these respects, since all this goes without saying, and the veriest incompetent can at least do this much. But to be punctually present is a small part, although an important part, of the duty of a Master of a Lodge. If he be present, merely perfunctorily, to do what chances to offer to be done, any one else at all qualified to sit in his chair—such as a Warden or a Past Master—might do as well, or better. He should be *complete master of the situation*. He should have given anxious thought, from the close of the previous Lodge meeting, to the subject of making the next meeting peculiarly interesting and attractive. Let him lie awake at night thinking about it if necessary.