

of the State. How shall he be expelled from the Lodge of which he is a member? It is claimed by some very eminent Masons in the State, that, by filing a certified transcript of the records of the court in his case with the Lodge, the Lodge ought to declare him expelled from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, without any further trial. I have had occasion to consider this question carefully during the past year, and my decision, which was not satisfactory to a number of brethren, was, in substance, that this Grand Lodge, by its legislation, has provided the only means by which a member of a subordinate Lodge can be expelled from unmaasonic conduct; viz., by charges preferred in the Lodge; the summoning of the accused to answer them; the taking of testimony by a committee (if a plea of guilty be not entered); a trial, and finding, by the Lodge, upon the question of guilt; and sentence, if found guilty. I can not believe that this Grand Lodge will, for a moment, sanction the summary method of expelling a member of a Lodge in the manner suggested, without giving the accused an opportunity for defense, and, I may say, without a form of a trial. Experience has demonstrated that courts and juries are liable to err. They are not infallible. Innocent men have been convicted of felonies, and afterwards proven innocent. And the fact that a man has been convicted of a crime, and is undergoing a sentence pronounced by a competent judicial tribunal, will not justify a Lodge in departing from the plain rules provided by the Grand Lodge for its government, in getting rid of the obnoxious member. The plain provisions of our Code must be strictly followed, and neither the Lodge or the member will suffer by so doing. Of course, if it be known that a member has been tried and convicted of a felony, the Lodge of which he is a member would be remiss in duty if it did not prefer charges against him, and give him a fair and impartial trial. I do not say that the record of his conviction by the court should not be used as evidence in support of the charges, but I am fully satisfied that the record should not be considered as conclusive evidence of his guilt."

The admirable address very fittingly concludes as follows:

"With the Trowel spread liberally the cement of brotherly love and kindness; circumscribed by the compasses may we ponder well every action, that, when our sands of life are well-nigh run out, and our dissolution draws nigh, when the cold winds of death come sighing around us, and his chilly dews begin to glisten upon our foreheads, we may welcome with joy the sound of the Gavel of death to call us from our labors on earth to everlasting refreshment in the Paradise of God, where, by the benefit of the pass of pure and blameless lives, we may gain a ready admission to the Grand Lodge on High, where the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe forever presides, and there among the ransomed of earth, receive the joyful welcome, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joys of thy Lord.'"

It having been brought to the notice of the Grand Lodge, that the Grand Lodge of Kentucky was then in session to pay its memorial