

ing Tools of the Freemason, so far as the Lodge is concerned, in the beautiful language of our Ritual. Thus, my Brethren, the Working Tools of a Master Mason teach us to bear in mind, and act according to the laws of the Divine Creator, so that when we shall be summoned from this sublunary abode, we may ascend to the Grand Lodge above, where the world's Great Architect lives and reigns forever and ever. So MOTE IT BE!

Masonic Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

DEAR SIR,—The event of the month has been the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and the session passed over quietly; nevertheless, to many of us it will afford a subject for many pleasing memories, as it was the means of bringing together into one room many of the dear old faces we love to look upon, and some we never see now except at these annual gatherings. It says something of the vitality of the institution when we see men coming such long distances from the far east as well as from the far west to unite with us once a year round the Altar of Masonry. No matter how old we get, the fire of Masonry on our altar seems to never grow dim or lose its freshness, and it develops one very curious trait in man that even the strongest non-conformist is here found to be a strong stickler for what may be termed Ultra-Ritualism—a rigid adherence to and no deviation from prescribed forms and ceremonies being absolutely the order of the day. What a curious speculation it is when we realize the fact that the tenets of our order together with its forms and ceremonies handed down from time immemorial by tradition, which is usually not the best mode of preserving exactitude, should in this instance have succeeded to such a degree that, go where you may, no matter what language you speak or is spoken in the country you go to, there you will find our rites and ceremonies celebrated and the “universal language” of Masonry so conserved that no difficulty will arise in your recognizing your brethren or being recognized by them. Is not this something marvellous when we remember how much stories of the common things of life lose or gain in their periphrasings, be the journey only a short one. Pleasant though our annual gathering is, there are certain things that are well worth being looked to with the idea of instituting some little improvement in the mode of handling them. 1st—See the large amount of valuable time

consumed, and with so small a result of business transacted—this should not be so. Another item is when the first and subsequent sessions are adjourned, one never knows with any degree of certainty to an hour or so when labor will be resumed, notwithstanding the hour is solemnly announced from the East with the addition of the word “sharp” rendered emphatic until you come to practically realize its emptiness. Here in this way is practically wasted several valuable hours a day, the employment of which would much facilitate business and tend to conserve the good tempers of anxious brethren. Every one knows in how much better a state of mind a man is to transact business when he approaches it free from annoyance, than he can possibly be when he is exasperated by the want of punctuality of those whose appearance he is obliged to wait for, and nothing so aggravates the soul of a punctual man as to have his time frittered away by the shiftlessness of those who have never learned that “time and tide wait for no man,” and from all appearances are never likely to appreciate the value of a lost quarter of an hour, and seem to fancy that to you it is also a matter of supreme indifference. Another defect in management is not fixing, on the first day of meeting, a set time for the election of officers for the ensuing year. To me it appears that the time most suitable would be on the first day, say at eight o'clock p. m., announcement of which should be made early, or could be placed on the “agenda” usually enclosed with each summons. Everyone then would have due notice, and no one could claim to have been taken by surprise and thus deprived of his right to vote. Outside delegates could have no objection to this idea—they are sent and come to devote their whole time and attention to Grand Lodge matters, but there are many local men engaged in mercantile pursuits whose time during daylight is not at their own disposal. Some of them may, perhaps, be able to spend an hour or two of daylight at the session, but when many men having votes are employed in one establishment, it is simply impossible for them all to get away together during daytime, but a very large percentage of them can, and do, put in their appearance during the evening session. In any case, when the hour is announced thus early no dissatisfaction can result; other engagements can be put aside for this one, or, if not, no one can claim that a hole and corner job has been perpetrated, or that men were foisted into office by a back door movement.

The foreign Lodge question received what may be termed a passing notice, but from some mysteriously significant hints it was gathered that no long time would