

porated with the installation service, and the rest omitted. Extraneous, unregulated ceremonies, do not comport with the dignity of the Masonic Institution.—*Freemasons' Repository.*

### MASONIC LODGES, AND HOW TO SUSTAIN THEM.

"In all our lodges, there are altars, upon which constantly rests the Holy Bible, which we recognize as the 'moral and spiritual trestle-board' of our faith; and thereon, the Great Architect has drawn the designs which every faithful craftsman is expected diligently to copy. Hence, it is unmistakably recognized as one of our landmarks: 'A Mason is bound by his tenure to obey the moral law, and, if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid atheist, or an irreligious libertine.' Masonry erects no system of theology for its votaries; it sustains to the church-militant the same relations which the asymptote bears to the hyperbolic curve, ever approaching, never touching it; and it contemplates the promotion of man's truest happiness, by the inculcation of genuine morality, and the practice of the triune virtues,—*Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.*

"While it is not sought to enforce impossible conditions, every Mason, by his tenure, is obligated to live soberly, act discreetly, and uniformly obey the moral law; he is rigidly enjoined never to mention the name of the Deity, but 'with that reverential awe which is due from the creature to the Creator.' While paying all lawful respect to those in authority, it never mingles in the political controversies of State, or seeks to influence in matters of religion.

"Even amid the angry dash of arms, and the fierce conflicts of civil war, its holy mission was to relieve suffering and misery, to pour oil into gaping wounds, and to provide for the dead suitable burial. Hence, it has witnessed the rise and fall of dynasties, and has survived to com-

mand the confidence and respect of all, and to receive within its fold the good and great of every nation.

"Wherever you find a bright and fearless Master, assisted by a prompt Secretary, you will see a flourishing and well regulated lodge; but whenever you discover these officers ignorant or indifferent, you will find the lodge in arrears, and, in all probability, be importuned with petitions for the remission of dues, which self-respect requires should be promptly met, and dimits and decay mark its downward course."

This is, doubtless, the principal cause of the apathy which is so widespread, and which is depleting our numbers, year after year, and filling the land with non-affiliates and suspended Masons, who are, at best, but a reproach to the fraternity. In the selection of officers by our constituent lodges, too little care is exercised. Qualifications, which might be available for the chairman of a ward club, are not the character required of the Master or Wardens. Once elected, these officers should attend to their masonic duties with as much energy and zeal as they give to their several vocations in life. Especially should they make it their business to "visit the sick, comfort the afflicted, and relieve the destitute;" not in that ostentatious manner, which defeats any possible resulting good, but with that true spirit of charity, which "letteth not the right hand know what the left hand doeth." Were lodge officers, from Master to Tyler, faithful in the performance of their known duties, the world would see fewer masonic ruins.—*From Correspondence, G. L. Louisiana.*

It may be news to learn that the bladders used by the Shriners, are not filled with gas; that is furnished in abundance at the banquet! But it is said, however, they are inflated. Now whether this refers to the Shriner or the bladder, we are unable to explain.