

are the scourge of society, and the sheltering cloak of Free Masonry should never shield them from the execrations of outraged humanity. Look around you, and you will see how many peaceful, happy homes, are daily sacrificed on their unhallowed altars. How many bright intellects are dimmed by the stupefying influence of liquors? How many vigorous constitutions are utterly crushed, paralyzed, and sent to premature graves by the demons that control the drunkard and the gambler? I fear that we are growing too careless and indifferent about these evils, and we must rouse ourselves to a sense of duty and discharge it without fear or favor."

We quote his remarks upon "Too much Masonry":

"I am sensible to the fact, that in treading upon this path I am liable to find myself in a dangerous conflict of fierce antagonism. But the address of a Grand Master, like everything else in Masonry, should be for a good purpose and not for the sake of relieving himself of a strain of pent up oratorical eloquence.

"I deem it to be part of my duty as Grand Master, to point out to you such defects in our craft as have come to my notice during my term of office, so that you may, in your wisdom, devise the remedy, and I should indeed be wanting in my duties as Grand Master were I to shrink from the task for fear that in doing so, I may find a number of Brethren who may be pleased to differ with me.

"During my frequent visits to Lodges, I have been not a little chagrined in observing how very thinly they were attended, except on very rare occasions. I have time and again visited Lodges that have one hundred members, but there has scarcely been enough present to fill the different offices.

"The meagre attendance has usually a very depressing effect upon candidates, for two reasons: Unless all the officers are present, the work is done in a very bungling manner, and fails to make the desired impression upon the candidate. For example, let the regular Senior Deacon of a Lodge be absent, and his place is filled by a Brother not in practice of the work, no matter how well posted he may be, he will hesitate and 'fish' for words during the work, until the whole harmony is destroyed. This, together with the fine array of empty benches, which meets the candidate's gaze, will in nine cases out of ten keep him away from Lodge meetings altogether, or else he will be told that "this is a mere nothing, and that he must seek among the higher degrees for the *wonders of Masonry*."

"Yes! I have investigated this matter very carefully in order to find a reason why the Blue Lodges are so much neglected, and the only answer I can find is, we have *too much Masonry*. The old members it seems would rather visit the other Masonic organizations—if they visit at all—and the young Mason has scarcely passed the threshold of the sanctum sanctorum, when he already petitions the Chapter, then the Commandery, and next the Scottish Rite Lodges, for their thirty-two degrees—all of them very excellent I have

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