

Past Grand Master William Blatt submitted a capital report on Correspondence, extending over 68 pages. His introductory remarks upon the leading topics of discussion with the Masonic writers of the day are exceedingly interesting. He is down on Cerneauism and has no use for the degree of P. M. Of the saloon question, he says:—

It is being largely decided against the eligibility of the 'keeper.' We have always disliked legislation upon this point. Our reasons are, that the standard of masonry is, in our estimation, so high that it seems to us lowered by deeming that class of legislation necessary.

Speaking to Bro. Brown, of Kansas, in regard to the secrecy of the ballot, he says:—

He expresses himself against permitting any discussion preceding a ballot for initiation upon the character and standing of an applicant. He believes more evil than good to be the result of such practices. We believe that no good and only evil can be the result. A free and honest expression of views would clearly indicate a member's ballot which can only be detrimental to the best interest of the Craft, which is the best reason against it.

We have sat in Lodges and seen almost every member present permitted to rise and express a favorable opinion upon the character of the candidate about to be balloted for. Supposing a black ball to have been cast in such a case, where only one or two Brethren remained silent, there would virtually have been no secret ballot at all. Wor. Masters should permit nothing to be said in the Lodge in favor of the character of a candidate, outside of what may be contained in the report of the Committee of Enquiry. Should he do so, he violates the principle of the secret ballot. What one Brother may say may be repeated by every other member of the Lodge present, excepting, perhaps, by him who casts the black ball.

We are delighted to note that he holds sounder views upon the necessity of a belief in the God of the Bible than did his talented predecessor in the reportorial chair, Bro. Frank Thompson, to whom, in previous reports we have sometimes talked back at considerable length upon this subject. Noticing Bro. Barkley's criticism of Bro. Thompson's views, Bro. Blatt says:—

The implicit belief in God, not a God, a reference for the Bible, are matters upon which the very life of the institution rests, and upon which our whole superstructure of moral as well as dogmatic philosophy is builded, and he who

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