

GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES.

It is a universal practice in all Grand Lodges of Masons, in the consideration of all matters of importance as affecting the welfare of the Craft, collectively or individually, to first refer the subject to a committee for investigation, and such committees are expected, as a result of their investigation, to recommend, by resolution or otherwise, such action as should be had in the premises. Great reliance is, therefore, placed on the report of committees, and subsequent action is largely influenced by them. It is thus a self-evident proposition that upon the ability of the standing committees at any annual meeting of a Grand Lodge will largely depend the character of its proceedings and their conformity to Masonic law and usage. The appointment of these committees is one of the prerogatives of a Grand Master, and we do not hesitate to say that it is one of his most important duties as the presiding officer of a Grand Lodge, for upon his judgment in appointing these committees will largely depend the wisdom of its transactions.

Bro. Parvin, of Iowa, who has had as much experience in the workings of Masonic Grand Bodies as any Mason now living, and who stands second to none as the champion of correct Masonic law and usage, refers to this subject in his recent report on correspondence, in which he fully expresses our sentiments, and we quote his words:

"In our judgment, the most important part of the Grand Lodge legislation is the exercise of this prerogative of the Grand Master—the appointment of his committees. When Grand Masters exercise this duty simply to reward some friend, or to bestow a favor upon some favored Lodge, and disregard the more important matter of selecting men *amply qualified* by reason of knowledge, experience and willingness to

work, we can not expect such duties to be well performed. We have striven for years past to secure the desirable result of having placed at the head of our committees the ablest men to be found, without regard to their locality or whether they have filled an office before or not, and thus secure a class of reports which shall prove a special object of interest to the brethren abroad and at home who are students of Freemasonry. When we read the proceedings of some of our sister Grand Lodges, and find at the head of their important committees men of not only reputations well established at home but equally so abroad, we are sure of finding reports worthy of our reading. No brother should assume a position or the performance of a duty for which he was not prepared and to which he was not willing to devote his time and labor. 'Every mission constitutes a pledge of duty; every man is bound to concentrate his every faculty to its fulfillment. He will consider this rule of action and the profound conviction of that duty.' This was the declaration of a great man, and our brother thinks that the sense of duty performed brings with it its own reward, not only in the committee, but to the Grand Lodge for whom such service was rendered."

The above from the *Masonic Advocate* is timely and important. The manner in which some Grand Lodge committees perform their duties is often neither creditable nor beneficial. The reports of Committees on Foreign Correspondence are sometimes not worth the cost of printing them.

ANOTHER "Ass."—In the March 9th Montreal *Witness* report of the evidence given before "The Royal Labor Commission," in the city of Quebec, is the following precious paragraph:—

"Mr. Tardivel, of *La Verite*, said he was neither a Freemason nor a Knight of Labor, but he had good reason to believe that there was little difference between the two associations."