

is the extent of our progress, and this notwithstanding the universal testimony to its need, and our ardent desire therefor. The difficulty is a lack of money, and we may not hope to erect so fine a monument in honor of our Society until this difficulty is surmounted. There is individual wealth enough among Masons, but there is not wealth enough in Masonic Bodies. The question naturally presents itself, Can this want be supplied? We answer, Yes.

"There is, in this jurisdiction a very general feeling that the only contribution one should be required to make for Masonry, is such as was, or is, made at the time of receiving the degrees; that from that time forward, the Mason, his widow and orphans, are entitled to all the rights and privileges incident to such membership, including charity to the amount of necessity, as well as the right to Masonic burial.

"This feeling has thus far prevented any Subordinate Lodge from adopting any By-law compelling contribution to its support beyond those referring to the reception of the degrees. The result has been, and now is, that the pecuniary prosperity of the Lodge depends upon the amount of work, as it is called, that is done—that is, upon the increase of membership.

"How frequently is it true that the expense attending the 'making the Mason' absorbs the initiation fees!

"There are evils attending this system which will not be elaborated at this time, not the least of which is the bringing undesirable men into the Order, and for no other reason than a desire, or it may be a necessity, to pay the running expenses of the Lodge. We shall not occupy that place in the community that we ought until this feeling is changed,—until there is a love for Masonry implanted in our breasts that shall prompt in us a willingness to contribute to its proper support. We all profess that love, and our prayer is that that profession may be certified in the future by our action."

In order to establish a fund for the erection of the required Temple he recommends a tax on Lodges in proportion to membership, the Lodges to receive in return therefor, certificates of stock to the amount so paid. We doubt if this will work satisfactorily.

Feeling reference is made to the memory of the departed during the year.

Referring to the dedicatory ceremonies at Philadelphia at which he was present, he says:

"That procession was a living witness to the world that Masons meet upon the level, for there were seen those most honored by the commonwealth and municipality, as well as the humble citizen, clothed in the same suit of black, and white apron, marching side by side, united by the same bonds, actuated by the same love, with no other distinguishing mark than such as merit in the Lodge had given him.