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For THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.]

### Practical Suggestions for the Management of a Masonic Lodge.

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When requested to read an essay on a Masonic subject, not to exceed twenty minutes in its delivery, the difficulty was to condense matter into such space as to make it instructive and interesting, as well as to do ample justice to each suggestion introduced. I desire the Brethren to bear in mind that these suggestions are not given with a view of being dictatorial, neither is there personal or direct allusion to any person or Lodge, but they are applicable to all Lodges, and are intended to raise a spirit of inquiry and examination which may stimulate all to new exertions towards excellence, so that matters hitherto deemed of little importance, yet which are serious, may receive due consideration. It has been said life's comforts and happiness consist in little things, so does the smooth, easy, regular and pleasant working of a Lodge consist in the manner in which matters of seemingly little importance are performed.

My first suggestion to insure success is regularity and promptness in attendance on the part of officers and members. If a Lodge desires suc-

cess, let the officers and members set an example of punctuality, which all active members will not be slow to follow. As the hands of the clock indicate the hour, the Master ought to sound his gavel, and that sound ought to find an echo and response from all the Officers of his Lodge, even at the risk of fault finding from tardy brethren. Want of punctuality cools the fervor of the recruit and the enthusiasm of the veteran. Some Masters deem their presence of little importance at the specified time, hence many young and zealous Brethren who are punctual and eager to see and share in the work, so much have they been impressed by our ceremonies, yet by a lack of attention on the part of those who govern the Lodge, their new born zeal and earnestness is nipped by the chilling wind of indifference. The Lodge that is served by Officers who are not alive to these things may write ICHABOD on its portals. In such Lodges carelessness, indifference and forgetfulness are the weeds of rank growth, which flourish in their precincts, producing a malaria, spreading barrenness and sterility, with de-