

generally reckoned not by the members or persons present, but by the number of Lodges represented. A Grand Lodge might be opened in the third degree with the quorum prescribed for a Lodge of that degree. But I do not think that it could proceed to the transaction of business, unless the number of Lodges required by its constitution was present. The same rule prevails in respect to the quorum of a Grand Chapter or a Grand Commandery.

IMPARTIALITY IN LODGE.

We suppose it is human, because it is so common for men to show partiality between the rich and the poor—the great and the small—the strong and the weak. This feeling, however, should have no place in a masonic lodge. On her chequered floor stands Justice like adamant, facing the burning prejudices of our nature, and demands in the name of God and the brotherhood, perfect and absolute impartiality. It is a crime against the principles of the institution to bend the laws in favor of the influential, and yet execute them against the humble and helpless. We have been present sometimes when we thought this wrong was committed while the list of “delinquents” was being called off, by seeing how certain parties were excused, and others held to a strict account. Our sympathies are instinctively with the poor and humble brother, who, toiling through the year, is hardly able to make ends meet, yet, who stints himself to meet his obligations, because he loves the principles of the institution, and whose hand is ever open to the poor and needy. When we see him in arrears, we go through the calendar of his slim income and the many demands on it. If he is a sober and honest craftsman, we want to see him excused, if he asks it, and if he fails to get his notice, give him further time. We love to see a lodge appreciate such cases and act manly on them, and not deal any more severely with them than with Bro. Dives “who has probably forgotten” that he is under obligations to the fraternity. We cannot always judge by appearance either. Sitting one evening in the lodge, we noticed a brother whose outward appearance, both of person and dress, suggested to us that “there is a man who certainly does not understand masonry beyond the idea of an aid association.” We made up our mind to test the case. When opportunity offered, we took a seat beside him, and as the work on the degree progressed, we watched his face as it lit up when fine lessons were correctly and well expressed, and saw him frown when they were mangled. We could hear him correcting the officers in half audible tone. A case came up for charity in behalf of a widow and her children. Her husband had never known want—in fact, had been very well off during life—but through a long sickness and disastrous circumstances, all was lost except a little, which was soon consumed after his death. His wife had never done any work, and was therefore doubly helpless. A member heard of it and brought in her claim. A certain other member of the Pharisee sort, rose and opposed the appropriation with sundry remarks, among which he said that the widow by hard work could support herself, and further, that if her husband had acted prudently, he could have left her well off, &c. We could see the blood boiling up in the veins of the humble brother beside us, and as soon as the other was through, he, in a very few practical words, settled the case. He said no widow should be held responsible for the imprudence of her husband, and it was no crime of hers that she