

not make a true Mason, any more than the joining of a church will make a Christian.

The teachings which Masonry gives are beautiful; they amount almost to sublimity; but, if those teachings are disregarded they amount to nothing. But follow them, live up to what she expects her members to do, and they stand next to the true religion of the Most High.

Now if his desire is to pamper to the baser passions of his nature, he finds no congenial spirits amongst true Masons, and then we have another non-affiliate.

Again, *disappointed ambition* produces non-affiliates. Why so, says one. Because all Masons cannot be past or present officers, there must be privates as well.

A brother may have a laudable ambition for office. He may think that he has the ability to perform the duties of that office. Perhaps he has, but his brethren think not; consequently the Mecca of his ambition, the East is not reached. He, too, smarting under disappointed ambition, in time becomes a non-affiliate, thinking, no doubt, that he has cast his "pearls before swine." But in many instances the swine stand it most admirably without him, thinking that *his pearls were paste*.

Again, one is supposed to have no mercenary motives when he becomes a Mason. In fact, he makes his affirmation that he is "uninfluenced by mercenary motives." Many are the illustrations that can be mentioned, which will prove that he wilfully perjured himself when he made that affirmation. Let the reader stop for a moment, and see how many such Masons he can point out. He, too, seeing that he cannot make money out of Masonry, and that it is neither an insurance or mutual admiration society, soon adds his name to the list of non-affiliates.

There are numerous other instances that can be mentioned, did space per-

mit, to show the cause—the effect is seen all around us—why we have so many non-affiliates.

Now, as we have the cause and effect, let us see if we have a remedy. The whole blame lies directly to the doors of our Grand and subordinate lodges. Grand Lodges are not perfect, neither are its officers. Its members too often forget, as well as others, even when Grand Lodges are in session. Grand Masters may fume and foam; Grand Lodges may enact laws; Masters may try to execute them, but just so long as the doors of our lodges are insecurely guarded, we shall have this vast army of non-affiliates to carry. She may make less Masons by doubling the guard, but what Masons are made will not in the end be found amongst the non-affiliates.

Let every true Mason cry halt! about face! to your post! march! Now, that post is at the outer door of our lodge rooms, to guard them against intruders, and the weapon to be used is a *small black ball*. Guard that door as you would your life. Inspect, tear to pieces the mental and moral qualifications of the candidate. If he fails to conform to the test use the negative ballot, no matter what his bosom friends may say or think; but, if he conforms to those tests, then admit him and make a true Mason out of him.

If this growing evil of non-affiliation is to be checked it must begin at the very door of the lodge room. Use the negative ballot, no matter if he is a "good fellow." Good fellows do not always make good Masons. It is the internal, not the external, qualifications that we want. No matter if the applicant is of a good family, or of worldly influence, or of high social position, if he does not conform to the tests reject him, and Masonry will be the gainer, not the loser. We have already too many "good fellows" in our Institution for our own good. It's Masonry that we want, not numbers. More Masonry and less num-