

MUSIC IN LODGES.

As music is one of the liberal arts which Freemasons are under special obligations to study and practise, it is quite amazing and inexcusable, how so many Brethren and Lodges almost wholly neglect to cultivate it, and hence to a great extent, fail to secure and benefit by its refining, purifying, and ennobling influences.

The sacred songs of all peoples, are full of the symbolic teachings of the Craft. Almost unnumbered hymns in the English tongue are teeming with such like sentiments. The poetical portions of the Sacred Law abound in such. The literature of the Craft is laden with like poetical effusions of a high order of excellence. The hand-books suited for use in the Lodge and on special public occasions are numerous, and can be procured almost everywhere at a very moderate outlay;—and yet, alas! how many Brethren and Lodges sadly neglect their duty in this important matter!

We know full well from extensive observation and delightful experience that there are many Brethren,—Lodges,—Chapters,—Preceptories,—Councils, &c.,—who are not unmindful of their interest or duty in these things,—but what shall be said of the many others who are so? and for whom, or by whom, no satisfactory excuse can be offered therefor?

The service of song is an essential part of the work and worship of Freemasonry, and it should never be suffered to fall into neglect and decay.

How sad and dispiriting is the contrast between the Lodge in which the service of praise abounds and that in which the reverse is the case!

Officers and Brethren, this great neglect of important duty, should not longer continue. The good of the Craft imperatively demands a revival of the study and practice of music in the Lodge. The means are within the reach of all. No Lodge is with-

out one Brother at least, who can acceptably lead the rest, in simple and appropriate melodies, with or without an organ accompaniment; and not a few Lodges contain members who are specially gifted, well prepared and generally ready and willing to lead in the praise of Him from whom all blessings flow.

W. Sir, Officers and Brethren,—if any of you have hitherto been neglectful of the duty hereinabove considered,—let not another day pass ere you begin the necessary work of removing the reproach now resting upon you and your Lodge, and soon again may there be heard therein, the songs of joy, of praise and adoration. So mote it be.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

Editor of THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.

DEAR SIR,—The letter of V. W. Bro. Borngasser in the September number of *THE CRAFTSMAN* would be interesting, if entirely correct.

The writer does an injustice, no doubt unintentionally, to the D. D. G. M. when he makes him say that "the W. M. had not the co-operation of his members."

The report reads "cannot get co-operation on the part of his officers."

This makes so vast a difference that it only requires to be mentioned in order that the V. W. Bro. may be able to give "credit where credit is due." Fraternaly yours,

FRED. J. MANLEY,

late Dist. Sec'y,

11th Masonic District.

Toronto, Oct. 24th, 1887.

[We are quite sure there was no intention on the part of Bro. Borngasser to do an injustice to R. W. Bro. John Ross Robertson, whose admirable report has elicited so much favorable comment.—ED. CRAFTSMAN.]