

to the visitor, and will show forth the spirit that is inseparable from genuine Masonry.

That visitors are treated differently in different localities is evident to all who have experience in this respect. It depends upon the place and the surroundings—upon the character of the men that make up the Body, and, especially, upon the kind of man that sits in the Master's chair—as to what the treatment of visitors will be. In some places an applying visitor is looked upon as an intruder; at the best he is merely tolerated. He is allowed to stand around in the ante-room, or find a seat for himself as best he may. Only by asking questions can he acquire any information that he would like to obtain. Not the slightest interest is shown in him, and very likely he is kept waiting a considerable time after his application is sent into the Lodge before the examining committee waits upon him. Then, perhaps, he is treated as though he was an impostor, examined at great length by a committee who desire to show their own smartness? and finally, very likely just as the Lodge is closing, he is introduced within the Body in a sort of informal manner to be left quite to himself for the remainder of the evening. This kind of an ordeal is not much relished by a Brother of sensitive feelings, and therefore it is that the practice of visiting seems going out of vogue, except when the visitor is personally known to some member or members of the Body into which admission for an evening is desired.

There are Lodges, however, that have a well deserved reputation for their courteous and friendly attentions to strangers. We recall a visit made to a lodge in a foreign jurisdiction. We were far away from home and had no friends to introduce us to the Lodge we desired to visit. With some effort we mustered sufficient courage to approach the ante-room where we were at once accosted in a kindly way by an officer in charge

who invited us to the "strangers' room," an apartment well lighted and warmed, hung about with several fine pictures, and having a goodly number of recent Masonic publications on one of its tables. The attendant took our card and soon returned with two brothers who greeted us with cordiality, and announced that they waited on us as the examining committee of the Lodge. They looked at our certificate of Masonic good standing, asked a few test questions in the most quiet and affable manner, and then, having furnished us with proper clothing, they conducted us into open Lodge and presented us to the Master, from whom we received a word of gracious welcome while he commended the stranger visitor to the kindly offices of the Brethren present. Nor was this the end; for later in the evening we received the greetings of many who were present, while especial pains were taken to show the manner of work and management in this Lodge so distant from our own Masonic home. A stranger in a strange land, we yet felt we were among Brethren and friends that night; and the remembrance of the hours thus passed lingers in our soul even now a most inviting memory.

It has well been said that "the small courtesies sweeten life, and the greater ennoble it." The genius of Masonry calls for the practice of both the lesser and the greater, and this in respect to all classes and conditions of men. Let affability and kindness be shown even to the stranger and the sojourner, that so the noble character of our great Fraternity may be made evident, while its blessed influence shall be more widely extended.—*Repository*.

Is Masonry Progressing.

No doubt many on reading this question—Is Masonry progressing?—will at once, and without any thought exclaim, it is! Look round,