

If ever we are to have a Temple in Toronto now is the time to make a move, and secure a site before prices take another advance, or the best locations are secured for other objects. Already thousands of dollars have been spent upon the hall, and yet it is so defective as far as ventilation is concerned that at times the air is simply poisonous. Deck it out with a new carpet and some paint! Whoever saw a scarecrow dressed up in new clothing?

### BLACKBALLING CANDIDATES.

The following was received quite recently from a brother who takes a deep interest in Freemasonry, and although it was doubtless intended as a suggestion, we take the liberty of publishing it in full, as it furnishes a suitable text for some timely remarks:

"DEAR BROTHER HAMBLY,—I think an article on the obligations of a Mason, if it is possible to deal with them, would have a beneficial effect. I find that young Masons are too prone to blackball a man for trivial personal reasons. A little plain advice on this subject might do good."

As our brother anticipates it would be difficult to deal, even in a purely Masonic journal, with the obligations. Under peculiar circumstances, certain specific portions might be referred to, but there is nothing in them that applies to indiscriminate blackballing, and we think the omission a very proper one. Freemasonry is a peculiar system of morality, the morality not being of an erratic character, but confined, we might say solely, to our institution. In this respect it is peculiar, and in this alone. None but men possessing the keenest instincts of morality are eligible for admission into Freemasonry, and consequently it is unnecessary to

define in the obligations what a right-minded man should not do. Once a man crosses the threshold of a Masonic lodge he enters upon a new life, and such appeals are made to his reason that none but an imbecile or a bad-hearted man would ignore. There are very few imbeciles in Freemasonry, but it must be admitted that there are scores, yes thousands of narrow-minded men, who are so blinded by prejudice, envy, hatred or jealousy that the commission of a fair action is performed only when some selfish object is to be gained; this class can never rise beyond their natural level. They are heartless, without one spark of manhood or honour, and their knowledge of right and wrong is regulated solely by pandering to or gratifying their personal feelings. These are the brethren who resort to blackballing when their low passions are aroused, and they carry it on with a bitterness born of Satan.

The question that the unthinking brother will probably ask is, how did such men secure admission into Freemasonry? There is but one truthful answer to this question, namely: the desire to increase the strength of the lodges numerically. Retribution invariably overtakes the evil-doer, and those lodges who have sinned in this respect are now reaping their reward. In most cases where lodges have largely added to their membership improper material has been received, and that material invariably causes trouble. This is no random statement, but is based on close observation during a period covering a score of years.

Freemasons are given the use of ballots to determine who shall become members, but it was never intended that they should abuse that power. No