

ceived his second degree, that by conferring upon him the sublime degree of a Master Mason, intelligence flashed into his brain as by magic, and that he thereby became an intelligent voter? It is said that the E. A. require more experience before they are entrusted with the ballot; but pray where are they to gather that requisite experience? Experience is consequent on age, one evening is certainly insufficient. The E. A. is taught who is a fit and proper person to be made a Mason; he learns the answer and must know it before he is advanced; he has impressed it upon his mind, and if no older member seduces or misleads him, there is every probability that he will give an unbiased, conscientious vote upon truly Masonic principles.

*Third.* "That it is absurd to allow our E. A. to vote upon an application for affiliation, etc., etc." This is another very singular argument, and the reason advanced for its support, if any reason at all, should equally exclude from voting upon an affiliation one who is only a Master Mason where the applicant is a Royal Arch Mason, for be it borne in mind that the Grand Lodge acknowledges the Royal Arch (though, unfortunately, the Constitution leaves us in the dark as to the meaning of such acknowledgment.) The Entered Apprentice, by a unanimous vote of the Lodge, has been accepted and made a member of the same; and in due course of time, often two months thereafter, he is made a Master Mason; he may be, and often is, more intelligent than some older members; he may, and often does, become a more noteworthy member than some

of his seniors; he may know good Masonic reasons for not desiring to associate in the same Lodge with the party proposed for affiliation. If such party nevertheless were elected without the E. A. having a chance to speak or vote he would, in compliance with the charge he received at his initiation, abstain thereafter from entering his Lodge, and be debarred from being passed or raised. Would it therefore be wise and prudent to run the risk of losing a worthy member, and incur the risk of adding a questionable character? Moreover, is it not a tacit admission, when asserting that Entered Apprentices cannot give an intelligent vote, either open or by ballot, that all parties elected for initiation are so elected in direct opposition to one of the strict conditions upon which alone any brother has a right to recommend or ballot for an applicant for initiation, because one of the essential conditions for admission is that the party be possessed of a "sound judgment."

*Fourth.* "That by excluding E. A. and F. C. from full membership would induce them more anxiously to seek advancement, etc."

From this argument, it must necessarily be inferred that it is the rule that Entered Apprentices are too slow and indifferent in seeking to be passed and raised; but is such supposition borne out by the facts? The actual fault is that the E. A. are but too anxious to be "raised;" that they are often impatient if for some reason or other a passing or raising as announced does not take place; that it is considered as a matter of course by nearly all Lodges to pass or raise whenever the time stipulated by