

those desirous of entering our mysteries to guard against becoming members of an organization *that cannot and does not confer upon them a single Masonic Privilege*, excepting, of course, that of visiting those Lodges that at present lead a half life and dead existence under the authority of their spurious body.

(1.) No Regular Grand Lodge will ever recognize this body, ergo no so-called Mason hailing from its subordinates can ever enter any Masonic Lodge in the World.

(2.) As it is not a Regular Grand Lodge, no Grand Chapter will allow its subordinate Chapters to recognize its members as Masons, and consequently they will be unable to advance in the Mystic Art; and, as a necessary sequence these misguided men and their deceived followers will find themselves excluded from those higher mysteries, which form so grand a feature in the history and labyrinthine network of our Institution.

I urge then, the strictest caution upon younger members and particularly upon the profane, in becoming associated or allied with a body that receives fees but grants no benefits,—that pretends to confer Masonic degrees which cannot be and are not recognized by a single Grand Lodge in the world,—that was founded on envy and spite,—exists in a false ambition, and will die in disgrace and dishonor.

Yours fraternally,
R.

WISE PRECAUTIONS.

It is always wise to look ahead; to exercise a judicious caution in regard to determining any of the important relations and movements of life. By such care and forethought many unpleasant complications may be avoided, as well as the frequent embarrassments of condition to which the rash and heedless are always exposed. This careful consideration and judicious scrutiny are especially recommended to persons disposed to seek connection with the Masonic Institution. The becoming a Mason ought not to be wholly a leap in the dark. The step is far too important to be taken under the promptings of any sudden whim or impulse, and without any intelligent appreciation of the nature of the society with which affiliation is sought, the kind of company that will be found there, and the general duties that will be imposed. Because of such rash and ill-considered action, disappointment sometimes attends the initiate. We call to mind several instances that illustrate the fact. Under the impulse of personal friendship for a distinguished member of the Craft, an acquaintance of ours inconsiderately sought admission into Masonry. A most estimable citizen, he was constitutionally without a particle of relish for symbolism and scenic display,—his was a prosaic nature, to which forms and ceremonies and figurative teachings were an abhorrence. Need we say that this man was not over much pleased with Masonry? He ought never to have entered our doors; and, probably, he would not, if he had only enquired a little more carefully as to the character of the Institution.

We call to mind another very excellent person who has never been *at home* in his Masonic relations, chiefly because of his own individualism, over-sensitiveness and reticence. This man caught glimpses of Masonry in its philosophical aspects, but he did not sufficiently consider that it makes fellowship one of its watch-words, and calls at times for personal unbending in that free intercourse and cheerful companionship for which it gives the opportunity and provides the occasion. The expectations of our Brother were not fully realized; he can only enjoy a section of Masonry, and he would have saved himself from disappointment by exercising a little more care at the outset.

One other case comes to mind; A young man of noble thought and aims, acting impulsively, knocked at the portals of a certain Lodge for admission, having sought no information as to who composed its membership. The ceremony of initiation being completed, he found himself surrounded by certain Brethren not at all to his liking, with whom he was obliged to associate and fraternise! He felt that he had made a mistake, that he was not in the right place, and that he had acted too hastily. Nominally he is still a Mason, but he is not of us, or with us in any true sense.

Better exercise a little more careful thought at the beginning; let the candidate inform himself as to the character and claims of Masonry, look at the list of members belonging to the Lodge he proposes to enter, and then if he decides to go forward he will not be likely to be disappointed. All this is in accordance with the old time teachings of Masonry. More than a hundred years ago this was the rule laid down: "In the first place, when you intend to be made a Freemason, go with your friend to the Lodge, and desire him to show you the warrant of dispensation by which the Lodge is held, &c. When they produce this authority or warrant, then call for the by-laws,