

due examination, and producing proper vouchers of their having been initiated into a regular lodge, and he will prove faithless to his vow if he allow the somewhat loose system of modern avouchment to prevail under his administration.

The simplest announcement of Bro. A, vouched for, is a very frail warrant for the admission of a person we have never seen or heard of before to a participation in our mysteries. We should know who is his sponsor and on what grounds he assumes that responsibility. It is the undoubted right of every brother in good standing to vouch for another, but it is equally the duty of the Master to be satisfied that this important privilege has not been lightly exercised, before accepting it. There are so many ways in which the best-intentioned brother may be deceived, that there should prevail a wholesome caution in accepting any but the most irrefragable testimony. The brother who vouches should know for a certainty that the one for whom he vouches is really what he claims to be. He should know this, not from a casual conversation, nor a loose and careless inquiry, but from strict trial, due examination or lawful information, these being the three requisites which the landmarks have laid down as being essentially necessary to authorize the act of vouching,

The constitution of 1798, provides that you are "cautiously to examine him (a foreign brother or stranger), as prudence shall direct, that you may not be imposed upon by a pretender, whom you are to reject with decision, and beware of giving him any hints; but if you discover him to be true and faithful, you are to respect him as a brother." By strict trial, is meant that no question or answer that may be required to convince you that the person examined is what he claims to be, should be omitted. You can carefully take nothing for granted, nor allow shortness of memory to fill up an incon-

venient blank. If the would-be visitor has paid so little heed to his first instructions, or so little attention to the claims of the fraternity as to become rusty, he must go where he is known for the information he requires, and be disappointed if he expects to pick it up from an examining brother or committee. In this we would be understood as referring to those important matters that are indispensable, and not to some of the minor details, that only a bright Mason could be expected to have at his finger ends.

The particulars of an examination cannot, of course, be detailed here; but we may say, in general terms, that the errors or inadvertencies of the visitor should not be corrected, for that would be giving him the hint we are warned against. With an aged brother, or one who has long been debarred the privileges of the craft, by journey or sickness, patience is to be commended. If he has ever received the true light, the spark, though dimmed, will eventually brighten up by his own unaided endeavors, and one such trial will always serve to remind him of the necessity of keeping his treasures where he can find them when wanted.

But it is not so much from any carelessness in regard to examinations that we have to apprehend danger, as from the uncertain application of the third point in the landmark referred to—that is, lawful information. The Tyler's voucher is very often an uncertain guide; for he may be deceived by great similarity of personal appearance, or from a certain conviction of having seen the person applying somewhere, and hence jumping to the conclusion that it was in a lodge; or the Tyler may have known that a person was a member of a lawful lodge, but not that he had since been put under discipline; other instances could be cited, were it not that they will readily suggest themselves to the brethren.