

to all present to the varied amusements of the evening.

The committee, consisting of Wor. Bro. Carroll, W. M., and Wor. Bro. Pye, Wor. Bros. Hunt and J. H. Dickinson; and Bros. Rorke, Dyre and Crossland, performed their duties in a very complete, pleasing and gentlemanly manner, and judging from the hearty enjoyment of the whole proceedings by the numerous guests, will no doubt realize the fullest satisfaction in the fact that their labors resulted in an evening of unqualified enjoyment by all present.

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#### MASONIC ITEMS.

High fees and low dues are suggested as the best means of retaining members.

The *Victoria Freemason* does not like the officials of the Grand Lodge of England very much, if we may judge from the following:—

“The reply from England to the Grand Lodge of South Australia with reference to the recognition of the latter by the former is characteristic of that English officialism that is so notorious. The communication referred to, may mean everything or nothing, and, take it all in all, is but a repetition of the letter received in Victoria upon the subject some 22 years ago. In one sentence it conveys the intimation that England does not wish to put anything in the way of the formation of distinct Grand Lodges for the Colonies, and in the next it claims the right to continue such Lodges as wish to remain under its authority, asking for a return of the number in each Lodge in favor of local self government, and hinting very strongly that provided there are sufficient in each to retain the warrant and work the Lodge, such Lodge shall continue under England’s authority. Now, as the amended constitution of England provides that any three members may retain the warrant, it is easy to perceive the drift of the whole thing.

There appears to us an utter want on the part of the officials of the Grand Lodge of England of a capability of grasping the whole matter in a large way. Indeed, it seems but too apparent that their great aim is to throw every obstacle in the way of allowing the Colonial Masons to arrange their own affairs.

We cannot for one moment suppose that the Masons in England as a whole have the

least desire to hinder the establishment of self government here—everything points the other way. It is with Masonry as with all other matters in relation to the Colonies—Officialism rules, and the sooner we are clear of it, and can show our full determination to attend to our own affairs and rule our own house, the better it will be for Masonry in the Colonies.

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The Alnwick Lodge in England entertained Bro. J. B. Patterson, M. L. A., during his recent visit to England, and shook him by the hand as a brother. This stirred up the bile of some of the officials of the District Grand Lodge of England here, who wrote some 14,000 miles to endeavor to provoke a quarrel, and create dissension. And for what? Simply because the members of the Alnwick Lodge did not see things with the perverse bitterness of the officials referred to, and refused to believe that a brother under the Grand Lodge of Victoria was less a brother than if under the Grand Lodge of England.

We cannot see, however, that anything has been gained—we rather fancy indeed, that the biter has been bitten, and that the recoil has been somewhat unexpected. Excepting that the Alnwick Lodge repudiates any intention of superceding its Grand Lodge by any official recognition of the Victoria Grand Lodge, it maintains its position, and in opposition to the style adopted by the English officials, still continued to designate the members of the Victorian Constitution “Brothers.”—*Fr.*

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JOBEL Rose Croix Chapter, U. D., at Chesterville, was duly organized by Past Grand Master Ramsay, assisted by V. Ill. Bro. Hy. Johnston, on June 23. Ill. Bros. M. Brown, M. D., 95°, M. W.; R. Casselman, 95°, (W. M. of Chesterville Lodge, No. 820) being S. W., and W. W. Merkley, 95°, J. W. The Chapter will meet alternately at Chesterville and North Williamsburg.