

hope and expectation. He has weighed his local lodges in the balance and found them wanting, and evidently considers that it is useless to waste time, energy, and intellectual power over them any longer. And now we may fairly ask, in what respect has he found them wanting? Simply this, that Masonry, as represented by them, is a shell gilded outside, but wanting a kernel. He has found elaborate ceremonial practised for the initiation and advancement of candidates, and there the whole thing has ended. He traversed three sections of a road certainly, but the last section has ended in bathos. The lodges do nothing whatever but admit recruits to their ranks, bestow a certain amount of charity, and wrangle about business details. That light to which initiation ought to be but the portal is not forthcoming; lectures are unheard of; instruction, save in the parrot-like repetition of ritual, non-existent; and a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge rendered an impossibility to the neophyte, who at an earlier stage has been charged to seek it as one great object of his Masonic existence. Such is the state of things obtaining in the vast majority of the lodges in South Africa. And it is so illogical, so disloyal to the great principles of the Fraternity, and, we are bound to say, so dishonest, that we wonder little that the country teems with the great army of unaffiliates, and that almost every lodge can tell us a dismal tale of hundreds of men admitted with fair promise enough, but who after a time gradually fall off in their attendance, and finally drop out altogether."

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

At the recent meeting of this Grand Lodge, Sir Archibald C. Campbell was re-elected Grand Master, and Brother David Read of Glasgow, Grand Cashier, at a salary of \$750 yearly. There were twenty-five applicants for the cashiership, but the contest was confined to three brethren.

The Grand Secretary reported that, in terms of instructions given at the quarterly communication in August, he had prepared and forwarded addresses, signed by the Grand Master, to her Majesty the Queen, in reference to the marriage of the Duke of Fife and the Princess Louise of Wales, and to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and Lord Fife and his Royal spouse. The reply from the Duke of Fife, dated from Mar Lodge, was in these terms:

"Dear Sir Archibald,—I have just received the address of congratulation which the Grand Lodge of Scotland has been good enough to send to the Duchess and myself on the occasion of our marriage, and I write on behalf of the Duchess as well as on my own, to tender you and the brethren of the Grand Lodge our warmest thanks for the honor they have paid us, and for the good wishes they are kind enough to make for our happiness and prosperity. I can assure you that we are both greatly touched by the mark of sympathy and goodwill from the Freemasons of Scotland, and we value the kind words contained in the address more than I can say.—I remain, yours very truly, FIFE."

It was reported that the income for the first 11 months last year amounted to £4199, and for the corresponding period of this year to £4743, showing an excess this year of £456. During the last quarter about £170 had been voted from the Fund of Scottish Masonic Benevolence to distressed Masons or the widows of Masons.

MASONRY ABLY DEFENDED.

Not long since Canon Knowles, Principal of St. Bee's Theological College, made a violent attack upon Freemasonry, which was replied to by the London *Freemason*. Since then Rev. Bro. E. Bigoe Bagot, P. G. Chaplain of East Lancashire and Cheshire, has also replied, from which we take extracts.