

READING THE ROUGH MINUTES.

I have been amazed at the omission in some lodges of the reading by the Secretary, just before the closing of the lodge, of the rough minutes of the work of the lodge during the meeting.

This is a serious error and a dangerous omission for very many reasons which need not here be enumerated. It should never be allowed to occur.

Moreover, I have not infrequently observed that such minutes when read, do not contain a report of the fees and dues received by the Secretary, nor a statement to the effect that he has paid the same to the Treasurer and has taken his receipt therefor, and the lodge is often closed without any financial report or statement by the Treasurer.

No wonder therefore that errors and omissions are not infrequently found in the minutes when they are read for confirmation, and that serious financial difficulties sometimes arise for want of attention to the invariable performance of the important duties to which attention is hereinabove called.

The cities of Baltimore, in Maryland, and of Providence, Rhode Island, Masonically stand on "holy" ground. On the site of the former under the charter of Lord Baltimore, and on the site of the latter, under Roger Williams (1634-35), was the truly Masonic principle of religious toleration, historically first proclaimed as an inherent right of man and embodied in the laws of their respective colonies, and this too, only about two hundred and fifty years ago! So long an evolutionary period had it taken for man to learn the first letter in the alphabet of human freedom. In not a few countries to-day, Freemasonry alone, is teaching this great lesson! No wonder then that the Absolutist on the banks of the Tiber, trembles at the world-wide advancement of genuine Freemasonry.

THE TROWEL.

It is one of those things which "no fellow can understand," why the symbolic use of "the trowel" has almost disappeared from Canadian Masonry.

The idea that a Master Mason has not a trowel amongst his working tools passes comprehension and the fact that the initiate has not had communicated to him the all important lessons thereof, is a still greater mystery, so that unless he should happen to note its use by the Grand Master or his representative in laying a "corner stone," he would be very apt to forget that there is such an important and significant implement either in operative or speculative Masonry.

Officers and Brethren, such serious neglect should not longer continue. W. Sir,—at your next meeting call the attention of your lodge to the fact that there is not a "trowel" amongst the working tools. Obtain one and hereafter see to it that every novice is "presented" therewith and fully instructed in its vitally important and beautifully impressive symbolic uses. So mote it be.

MASONIC LODGE IN JERUSALEM.—

Among the more recent developments in Jerusalem is a Masonic Lodge, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Canada, the Royal Solomon, which had been dormant for some years, and has been lately revived. No place could be more appropriate for a lodge of a cosmopolitan character than Jerusalem, abounding with traces and traditions of Hiram and the Phœnician builders of the Temple. It will, no doubt, be a rallying-point for those enthusiastic Masons who may visit Jerusalem in order to explore the site of King Solomon's gorgeous edifice and the intricacies of the vast quarries beneath, where the stones were prepared by the skillful Craftsmen.