

directs the speaker to resume his argument with the necessary caution if the objection has been to the manner or scope of his speech.

In other societies, this decision of the presiding officer, although generally acquiesced in, is sometimes objected to by one or more of the members, when an appeal is taken from the decision to the meeting, who decide without debate whether to sustain or overrule the decision of the officer. But as has already been shown, there is in Masonry no appeal from the decision of the presiding officer on a point of order, and that decision is therefore conclusive.

CHAPTER XX.

OF QUESTIONS FOR READING PAPERS.

No member can be required to vote on any paper the contents of which are unknown to him. Hence, any member has a right to call for the reading of any paper—for instance, a report—which constitutes at the time the subject-matter of a proposition, if it has not yet been read.

But if the paper has already been once read, or if, although referring indirectly to the subject of discussion, it constitutes no actual part of the proceedings, then it can only be read by consent of the meeting, which consent must be obtained on a motion regularly made.

INDIVIDUAL INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITY.

The experience of all business operations in every age has demonstrated most emphatically that, in order to interest people in *anything*, they must be compelled to assume a *monied responsibility*; or, in other words, people never care for nor value anything which costs them nothing. We feel perfectly satisfied that this idea was the foundation of Lodge fees and dues. We use the word "fees" as applying to the fee or price of degrees conferred, and the word "dues" as applicable to annual or monthly taxes or assessments. If every man *had* to pay a certain amount for the *privilege* of voting, whether he voted or not, we feel satisfied that nine-tenths of all citizens would exercise their franchise. If every person claiming to sympathize with a certain church were compelled by law to pay into the church treasury a full assessment, nearly all would attend. If every man who said he was a Democrat or Republican was compelled to pay his full proportion of all party expenses, nearly all would attend the meetings and claim the right to take part in the business of the party. We claim these to be self-evident propositions or rather axioms of human action. If John Smith is made a partner of a house doing a million dollars worth of business a year, without having to pay in a dollar, yet entitled to full division of profits, we will guarantee that Mr. Smith would never bother his head about any of the work to be done, or of the money to be raised in emergencies. This is human nature, and demonstrated by the experience of every day life.

Now let us apply this idea to Masonic Lodges. We have and do claim that the Masonic degrees are worth a great deal (not in a pecuniary sense alone), but in the character of the instruction given. A man who comes into a Masonic Lodge for the mere purpose of mercenary gain, should be put down stairs as soon as possible. He is as bad as one who would try to buy the blessings of God with money. He is