

the brethren in the United States, and gives good satisfaction there.

Now let us calmly enquire into those arguments.

*First.* "That it would be of great advantage, etc., etc." This is only an opinion without evidence to support it. The balloting being secret, the fact that E. A. members did vote against a party whom all M. M.'s desired to become a member, could only be ascertained by taking two votes, one including E. A. and F. C. members, the other excluding them; and that even would not prove which of the two votes would bring advantage or disadvantage to the Craft. All that can result from an individual's ballot is rejection, never admission unless all individuals cast white balls; and it should be borne in mind that the Craft is exceedingly rarely, if ever, injured by a rejected candidate, but that nearly all the injury to the Craft is caused by Master Masons. Look at all the complaints, charges or unmasonic conduct, suspensions and expulsions, and what do we find? It is the Master Masons, almost exclusively, that are charged with, and convicted of unmasonic conduct. If the M. M.'s were all purists, of whom none would ever cast a black ball, except upon purely Masonic grounds, and not from personal and sinister motives, we would not, after an adverse ballot has been declared, hear so many confidential complaints (notwithstanding the secrecy of the ballot) that this one or that one did cast a black ball out of malice or personal feeling towards the applicant; about E. A. or F. C. such complaints are never heard; they are yet too innocent and conscientious; the charges

and lessons which they received at their initiation are yet too strongly impressed upon their minds. That in some Lodges the brethren are divided into two factions, the one being at enmity with the other, is an unfortunate fact, yet it cannot be denied; both factions acting in violation of their O.B.; almost constant blackballing is the general result from this unhappy position of affairs. The proposed change would not remove, or even mitigate, that evil. E. A. members do not bring any such evil dispositions into the Lodge, and if afterwards they join such a faction it is because they have been seduced in their morals by older members. These statements may not be palatable to read, but when an innocent, conscientious number of brethren are charged though indirectly, yet nevertheless sharply, with being the cause of creating disadvantage to the Craft, with blackballing unjustly, voting incorrectly and injuring the Lodge, then justice and fair play demands, on behalf of the Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts in our Lodges, the refutation of the insinuation and charge.

*Second.* "That Apprentice members cannot yet give an intelligent vote, etc., etc." Now the very great majority of members are made Master Masons about two or three months after their initiation; they generally have not been oftener than twice in the Lodge before they are "raised." Will any person seriously assert that these two evenings make such a material change in a man's intellect as to transform his brain from a voidness of intellect to one stored with that gift? That while he was incompetent to vote from want of intellect on the one evening he re-