

MOSAICS.

Masonic Elections.

Most of the Lodges in this and other jurisdictions hold their annual elections in December. As it is matter of great importance to every Lodge, a short dissertation on the subject cannot be inappropriate.

Lodges are so often governed by preferences not founded on merit and intelligence, that a cold outsider looks on with astonishment at the selections frequently made for Lodge officers. The Master and Wardens of a Lodge are supposed to be among the most intelligent, worthy and devoted members of it. The Master is the teacher and instructor of every member of his Lodge. Like a teacher in school, he is supposed to study, read and think enough to keep ahead of his class, and be ready to explain the lessons as the candidates and members of his Lodge advance. Good sense, and good Masonic information are essentials with a good Master. Good manners, habits and feelings add materially to his influence. If Masonry is a moral and mental science, as all admit, Masters of Lodges have a very poor appreciation of their position if they do not devote time and study to qualify themselves for the office. Masters are termed bright when they can prattle over the ritual, but members of Lodges, after long attendance get hungry for "more light" if no other food is furnished them. A Master that cannot or dare not utter a thought except as committed to memory from others, is a "poor stick," unless the members are satisfied that eggs can only be eaten when fried, and that playing "ruffian" or "waytare" are the great essentials of Masonry. We do not expect that every Master will become a walking text-book of Masonry, or a *vade mecum* of Masonic knowledge; neither do we expect him to quit every thing else, and devote himself to Masonry. But we do expect him, by the study that he can easily devote at nights, or at leisure hours, to make himself familiar with the ritual, history and teachings of masonry—the rudiments of Masonic jurisprudence—the rules of order and debate that govern Masonic bodies. With the many avenues now open to gather Masonic knowledge, a Master has but little excuse to plead ignorance, and the members no apology for placing a brother in such a position that will not qualify himself. Masters are chosen from the Wardens, and a Lodge can easily determine when a Warden is doing his duty, and if he has, while as Warden, qualified himself for a higher position. Every Warden should consider himself as a Master in embryo, and whether the Lodge permits the "feathers to grow" or not, it matters not, and it is the Warden's duty to qualify himself for the Master's place. Life and energy will never characterize a Lodge with ignorant officers—or those that are cold, indifferent or stupid.

"Vim" is as necessary to run a Masonic Lodge as a camp meeting, and a hearty amen to the efforts of the Masters and Wardens should come up from all parts of a Lodge room to give meetings tone and success. LIFE is what is wanted to make members, and interest old ones. Life is what is wanted to make Masons realize their duties, to keep their feet from going astray, and to create interest, increase intelligence, promote brotherly love, to subdue passions, and improve in Masonry. The lethargy shown by Masons in many localities would drag any other human institution into the dust, and bankrupt everything connected with it. Why Masonry is popular in such places is because the "dust of ages" rests upon it, and they fear to stir, because, if alive, they might knock the dust off. Lethargy, ignorance, and selfishness are three valiant enemies to Freemasonry, and the great trouble is, the Masonic fraternity are disposed to "forgive their enemies" when it causes so little effort and labor. An earthquake or a *parable* might arouse some of our Masonic brotherhood, but a wind or a storm would have little effect with stupid, ignorant, lifeless Lodge officers, and then go to work for a year, and you will be astonished at the life and intelligence of your members, and the good works accomplished.—*Masonic Jewel*.

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