

questions touching the case, unless by the consent of the accused and the Lodge. Conviction by the Civil Courts does not, of course, carry conviction by the Lodge. The Mason under charges must be tried according to Masonic usage.

15. That a petition for the degrees must be presented at a regular meeting and lie over one month, under reference to the usual committee of inquiry into character. Being about to travel to be absent several months is not such an emergency as would justify the suspension of the law by dispensation, except, perhaps, in the case of a young man who had just attained majority. The sudden discovery of "a favorable opinion" of the Ancient Institution" on the eve of a journey, smacks rather much of a desire for the secrets of Masonry for other purposes than a desire for knowledge. Masonry is designed for the education and enlightenment of its votaries and not for convenience solely.

16. That a unanimous ballot was necessary to restore an expelled or suspended Mason. He should not expect higher privilege than that of holding in his hand a certificate of his being in good standing in his former Lodge.

17. That the marriage of a Mason's widow annuls her claims as such to a Masonic Charity, but does not affect the rights of the children.

18. That no one has a right to question a brother's vote on petition for degrees or membership, no one has any right to know how another voted. It is unmasonic to disclose how any one voted or to exhibit his ballot that it may be known.

19. Non age of applicant is good ground for adverse report of committee of inquiry. Petition filed and referred must take the regular course, it cannot be withdrawn.

20. A levy of a tax by way of contribution for a benevolent object is not unconstitutional.

21. The resolution forbidding Mock Masonic burial has been repealed. It should not be favored except under peculiar circumstances.

22. A charge once preferred and filed by the Lodge over the signature of a M. M. must take the regular course of trial prescribed; the subsequent preferring of charges against the M. M. Signing the first does not hinder the prosecution.

WORK.

I felt justified by the action of the last Grand Lodge (see page 41, Proceedings of 1874,) in discarding the interpolations and addenda to the work and lectures, and in declaring that taught by Stevenson as the Ancient Work of Masonry, and that intended by the Grand Lodge to be taught and practiced. In the Convention of Grand Lecturers it was agreed that all who desired to teach would first qualify themselves by immediately learning the work. Upon examination it was found that Brethren Samuel H. Rountree and Bernice Walker, of those present, had the work in its original purity as taught by Stevenson. They were then appointed Custodians upon whose Certificate Commissions would be issued. Upon their recommendations Commissions were issued to Brethren W. F. Davis, Thomas Palmer and T. M. Gardner. Upon proper recommendation I afterwards Commissioned Bro. C. D. Rice. The action taken has received the approbation of the large mass of old Masons, from many of whom I have received letters commendatory of the action looking to the re-establishment of the Ancient Work.

Uniformity in work throughout the jurisdiction is what we sincerely desire, but will be hard of attainment unless the

Ancient Work is insisted upon and its practice by the Lodges enforced by proper legislation.—The work of Masonry, its language and Symbolism, is intended to teach and impress upon the mind of the student the holy principles of our order. The hand of the innovator destroys the beauty of our order, and the hallowed Sanctity with which its antiquity of style impresses the mind.

The ancient work, as taught by Stevenson, is simple, plain and grammatical; unencumbered by useless ceremony, and teaching the doctrines and pure principles of Masonry in unmistakable language, while its traditional and historical narratives are presented in no doubtful form, and the student readily reads not only the event, but the grand principle intended to be illustrated by the symbols and ceremonies used.

Let us revive the office of Grand Lecturer for the State at large, giving to him plenary powers as to instructing and appointing District Lecturers. Let him be one who knows the ancient work, not only in the Letter of the esoteric, but who apprehends and can teach its cryptic import.

Let him be the Custodian of the work, entrusted with its dissemination through District Lecturers to be appointed on his recommendation,—this to perpetuate the work, the ancient work,—not to change or amend. Unless there be some head centre especially entrusted with this department and duly and efficiently armed by proper legislation for enforcing conformity, we may as well despair of ever attaining uniformity. He might be charged with another duty, one which is very important and should be in competent hands, that of recommendation for dispensation for new Lodges. As now existing, that duty falls upon the nearest Lodge, which under the solemn sanction of its seal, declares to the Grand Master that the applicants, "or at least the Master," of the proposed new Lodge have been found "to be well skilled in the ritual and Laws of Masonry." Upon this, every thing else being regular, the Grand Master causes dispensation to issue empowering the dispensing of the true light of Masonry in a new Lodge, declaring that, reposing special trust and confidence in their zeal and Masonic knowledge, he does so. Now, I am persuaded that he does so on trust, for he cannot have occupied the grand Master's chair very long before he finds that very few of the chartered Lodges are competent judges of what is a proper knowledge of the ritual and laws of Masonry.

Our Lodges are becoming too much enlightened to be satisfied with poll parrot teaching, and will not brook instruction from persons who cannot do more than give the mere verbiage of the ceremony. If we cannot have instruction of the right kind, if our intelligent young men, who are daily coming into our ranks, cannot be made to see something more in our rights than mere ceremony, if they are not so instructed as that the beautiful and holy principles of Masonry will be unfolded and made to shine through every symbol, the whole becomes to him unmeaning jargon, and he votes the Lodge room a bore and Masonry a cheat. Then follows complaints of lukewarmness in all the activities which engage the Masonic heart and hand, inattention to the plainest requirements of duty—then defection and Masonic crime.

We should have more frequent meetings of the Lodges, this the membership would desire if they were instructed in the work, and apprehended its import. Members would be glad when the day and hour of meeting arrived, if they knew that on the opening of the Lodge

they were to receive instruction. Lectures on the cardinal virtues, the five human senses, the seven liberal arts and sciences, might be made to interest as well as instruct. The monitorial part of the second degree furnishes food for a wide range of study. Yet how few ever read it even to the candidate while taking the degree. Let us have such meetings as these remarks indicate and suggest, and we would soon have Lodges full of active, useful, energetic members; the unworthy and useless would find no congeniality within such walls and they would soon be made to sever their connection, and thus make pure our rolls. Our works of benevolence—the true work of Masonry—would be fostered and maintained, our light made to shine and the world to see that Masons are what they profess to be. Our reference committees would be courts of Equity to whom every grievance might be referred and settled with satisfaction. Masons might thus shun the Court House, and much ill and hardship be avoided. Then, indeed, we would be a band bound together by the "indissoluble chain of sincere affection" among whom there would be no contention, save that justifiable emulation as to who can best work and agree and united by a sincere attachment and pleasure reciprocally communicated. Then virtue, luminous as the Sun at Meridian would shine a fervent on the mind, enter the heart and elevate and mature us in knowledge.

I very much favor the call made by the M. W. Grand Master of Masons in Florida for a Convention of Grand Masters, looking to the adoption of uniformity of work while the end may not be practical, yet, in such a convention much might be done to protect Masonry against imposture. Such is our connection, every section with the other, that a common bond ought to be established whereby we may more perfectly know each other. The Grand Master of Florida has issued a circular letter calling for such a Convention to meet in Jacksonville on the 15th inst. Should there be evidence of a pretty general acquiescence, we should not fail of representation there. Mutual fraternal interchange of sentiments in such a friendly, social meeting could not fail of good results, in promoting harmony and the cultivation of the brotherly element so peculiarly ours.

DISCIPLINE.

In conformity to the recommendation of the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, adopted by the Grand Lodge at its last session, (see pages 47-848) I gave notice to the W. M. of Blue Lodge, No. 287, to show cause why the charter of said Lodge should not be forfeited. He answered fully, frankly, and explicitly, fully exonerating his Lodge from any criminality in the proceedings which were subject of complaint. His answer showed that his Lodge was not perfectly familiar with the rates of procedure in the conduct of Masonic trial, and there were some irregularities. Were we to withdraw charters for such cause, I regret to say we would have a much more scattering roll than we now have.

I find that in matters of discipline Lodges are alarming loose, there is too much disposition to wink at the shortcomings of their members. It must be remedied. Our halls must be purified,—purged of that which gives offense to the pure Masonic principles. One Lodge with twenty good men, exemplifying in their walk the doctrines we profess, is worth more than fifty with hundreds on their rolls, immoral, dissolute, inattentive to Masonic duty, contemning Masonic requirement. With proper enforcement of

discipline by the Lodges we would hear less complaint about lukewarmness of the membership. Our Halls would become attractive retreats and the great objects we profess to foster would flourish, and good men who are now kept out of our councils would flock to us. Want of familiarity with procedure, I am satisfied, has been the reason for much neglect of discipline. That reason should now vanish, for their is now furnished the desideratum.

THE MASONIC CODE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The final result of a resolution introduced several years ago looking to the compilation of a hand book for the guide of Lodges in Masonic law. I cannot better say than has Bro. Bain what the volume contains. He says in the preface: "It embraces the constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge, the Ancient Constitution and Charges, all public ceremonies, and necessary blank forms asked by Lodges."

It will be seen at a glance that it was a work involving great labor, research, and knowledge of Masonic law. He has from the past legislation of the Grand Lodge, from its by-laws and resolutions, eliminated the law as now existing, arranged the various subjects under appropriate sections, and perfectly digested the crude mass into intelligible, and legal phraseology and with the index we may with readiness turn to any subject. Too high praise cannot be awarded for the faithfulness with which the work has been done, and, I might almost say, the exquisite taste in its arrangement and order.

It will relieve Masters and other officers and Lodges of much work, the performance of their duties, and save the trouble of correspondence with the Grand Master; and to a very great extent aid the Grand Master. Let it be adopted by the Grand Lodge as the law, and then let every Lodge, Master, and intelligent Mason obtain copies, and make the work a hand book indeed. Let the Grand Secretary be rewarded for his labor, by seeing the result appreciated by the fraternity, and by proper compensation by order of the Grand Lodge. He makes no change, he is entitled to wages.

OUR PERIODICALS.

The *Masonic Journal* published at Greensboro, and the *Orphans' Friend*, at Oxford, should receive the patronage of every Mason. The one to discuss and promulgate questions which pertain to Masonry in general, to chronicle the movements of the Order, to serve as a means for the more general diffusion of Masonic intelligence, and as a vehicle for communication among the brotherhood,—that it may be such in every sense it should be the weekly Masonic visitor to every one desiring such intelligence and communication. The other, established and published by the Orphan Asylum, is the medium through which we are informed of the progress of the work, its nature, needs, and necessities. No Mason having the interest of the Craft at heart, and wishing to keep abreast with all the events of the day in the Masonic sphere can afford to be deprived of either. Besides being means of communication these papers contain most wholesome reading matter for the family—particularly for children; and now, when there is such a flood of pernicious publications insinuating their way into notice, it is particularly incumbent upon all desiring the preservation of purity of thought and the inculcation of right sentiment, to choose well what may tend to encourage and develop a pure, healthy, moral literature.

I am glad to know that both papers are meeting with merited success. Let us give them such an impetus at this meeting as that abundant prosperity may crown their efforts.

DISPENSATION.

I have caused to issue dispensations for the establishment of new Lodges, which will be particularly defined to by the Grand Secretary.

(Concluded on 5th page)