

"MORE LIGHT."**Non-Payment of Dues.**

The following from the Memphis, (Tenn.) *Masonic Jewel*, is submitted to the Craft, and especially to Grand Lodges, for their careful consideration. That this question of non-payment of dues is a festering sore to many Lodges, is evident, and it is well to elaborately consider the best means of "curing the disease." Let the subject be canvassed.

The following Edict will be submitted to the Grand Lodge (D. V.) at her Annual Communication next November.

"Arrears for one year's dues shall subject a member to be stricken from the roll of his Lodge; and the member shall thereupon become non-affiliated."

In view of the importance of this edict, it is prudent that timely notice be given of it through our official organ, the *JEWEL*. For this reason, and also to secure the opinions of experienced brethren this article is now printed.

The non-payment of dues is becoming very annoying to our Lodges, and something must be done to remedy this real evil. It is usual to suspend the delinquent, and this suspension ceases when arrears are paid. This does not remove the trouble. A brother allows himself to fall into arrears, suffers temporary suspension, during which time his dues cease, and then, at his leisure, buys himself back to his former rights in a Lodge. It is true that for the time of suspension he is severed from the fraternity and has no claims on his brethren but a non-affiliate is in nearly the same condition, and a non-affiliate can only become a member of a Lodge by a unanimous vote.

Now if the edict suggested above be adopted, brethren will become exceedingly careful of being stricken from their Lodge roll, lest by that act, they lose their membership therein forever. It is often the case that good brethren become delinquents from *actual necessity*, but as no brother can be dropped from the roll except after due trial and conviction, his necessities would always be considered on such trials, and if real, would be respected by the Lodge. If not respected, the brother would have a proper cause for appeal to the Grand Lodge.

I cannot but feel that whilst this edict would work no hardship to any brother, it would successfully break up this carelessness that so depletes the treasuries of our Lodges and demoralizes its membership. A Lodge with a long list of delinquents on its dues list, is never prosperous or harmonious. And the plan proposed in this edict is better calculated to prevent delinquency than either definite or indefinite suspension; because a majority vote removes definite and a two-thirds vote removes indefinite suspension; but if declared a non-affiliate, the delinquent can only return to his Lodge on petition and a unanimous vote.

And now the question arises, how will this non-affiliated brother secure membership in any other Lodge? I answer: he is entitled to a certificate from his Lodge, under seal, stating how he became a non-affiliate. The Lodge to which he applies for membership can act as it pleases on that certificate.

Another question: Does the Lodge lose the amount due by the brother, when he is dropped, or can it be collected afterward? I answer: His Lodge may determine that upon payment of arrears and a unanimous vote, he will be restored to his former rights and privileges. But the Lodge could not hold the other Lodge to which he would afterward join himself for the amount.

One more question; Would the broth-

er declared a non-affiliate, be entitled to a dimit? I answer: He would not. By a dimit, a Lodge dismisses a member in good standing, who has paid all his dues. When a brother is dropped and declared a non-affiliate, as a matter of course, he ceases to be a member of the Lodge. But as I said before, the brother would be entitled to a certificate.

And now what say my brethren to these views? I have only one earnest desire in this matter, and that is, to remove this crying evil, and yet do no wrong to any brother. I respect the rights of each brother, as I do those of the Lodge. I would devise a plan to maintain the rights of all.

It may not be improper to state that the language proposed by this edict, is copied from the constitution of New York. That jurisdiction, however, goes further and says: "But no act of censure, suspension or expulsion shall be pronounced thereon, for non-payment of dues only." This I consider an unbridgement of the rights of the Lodge, and with my present views, I could not support such a clause. Minnesota has the same language as we propose, but has not the last clause quoted from New York.

Louisiana allows six months, after being dropped, for the brother to pay up and renew his membership. But if more than six months elapse, he can renew his membership only by petition and a unanimous vote. South Carolina, in its standard by-laws, deprives of membership for twelve months dues. Maryland also dismisses from membership.

The following jurisdictions decided that suspension or expulsion is not the proper punishment for non-payment of dues: Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Wisconsin, Oregon, California and Maryland.

The following jurisdictions approve suspension, but disapprove expulsion for non-payment of dues: Virginia, Iowa, Georgia, Alabama and District of Columbia.

The following States authorize suspension or expulsion: Tennessee, New Jersey, Indiana and Nebraska.

I have made this list of jurisdictions from the data before me. If I have fallen into any errors, I will take it as a favor to be corrected.

Again I call upon my brethren for their views. We have another number of the *Jewel* before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, and I think a page or two could be filled with interesting opinions on this very interesting subject.

G. C. C.

Chattanooga, August 28, 1875.

A Willful Omission.

Edward Everett was not a Mason. On the contrary, he was uncompromising in his hostility to the Order. He was identified with the anti Masonic party, while the party lasted, and did all he could in opposition to Freemasonry.

The Old Chair well remembers how indignant it felt, after listening to Mr. Everett's magnificent lecture on Washington, that no notice was taken of Washington's connection with Masonry. And this effort to totally ignore the institution was not confined to that lecture.

When the statue of Warren, erected on Bunker Hill, was dedicated, Mr. Everett delivered the oration, but took special care not to mention the fact that Warren was a Freemason. He knew that Warren was Grand Master of Masons at the time of his death; he knew that Masons buried him; that they gave the ground on Bunker Hill on which the monument stands; that the Masons laid the foundation of

the first monument, and dedicated that as well as the second; he knew that the Masons, in their official and organized charter, have been present on Bunker Hill, on every public occasion since their Grand Master died on it in defence of his country, and were then present when Mr. Everett delivered his oration—but the great orator ignored them and the Order entirely.

This was the spirit of anti-Masonry, as exemplified by one of the foremost men of his day. Mr. Everett was a great man, a great orator, a ripe scholar, an able statesman: but he drank at the foul pool of anti-Masonry, and his whole life was tainted with the poison. The Old Chair regrets that such a man should be influenced by such an *ism*, but the truth must be told.—*Masonic Review*.

Prompt Attendance.

No one thing should be more firmly fixed on the mind of a master of a Lodge, than that Lodge work should begin promptly at the hour designated for it to begin. A half hour delay many times prevents Brethren from sitting through the whole work of a Lodge, whereas if the Master had set the Craft at work promptly all could have been finished and the Lodge closed at seasonable hours. We are opposed to long sessions, for if practiced frequently, it begets a desire among the Brethren to be away from their hearthstones at hours when their own and their families good demands that they should be at home. Let all Masters of Lodges bear it in mind that a good Master is one who promptly sets the Craft at work at the hour named, do it with dispatch—we do not mean haste—then close the Lodge in season, so that our wives, mothers and sisters can welcome us home with a smile and greeting that will repay us. Do this and our homes will be happy, and the statement that one has been to Lodge, will not be received in disgust, or accepted as an apology for an absence of doubtful necessity.—*Loomis Musical and Masonic Journal*.

ODD FELLOWS' LAWS.—At the late session of the Odd Fellows in Indianapolis, the following rules and regulations of the order were adopted.—They will be of interest to the Odd Fellows generally:

First. A member in good standing in his lodge is entitled to pecuniary benefits while sick and unable to attend to his ordinary avocation, although he may have an income sufficient for his support.

Second. It is lawful for a subordinate lodge to donate its funds for any purpose within the object and scope of the order.

Third. The general management and conduct of degree lodges are subjects of local legislation.

Fourth. That a grand lodge of a State must grant an appeal from its decision to the Grand Lodge of the United States; and that in vacation the Grand Master cannot grant said appeal.

Fifth. That a subordinate encampment should not use its funds to procure street uniform.

Sixth. That a member of a subordinate lodge desiring to join an encampment should join the nearest encampment to his residence in the same jurisdiction.

Seventh. That a brother in good standing cannot be kept out of his grand or subordinate lodge while the minutes of the preceding meetings are being read, if he desires to enter and can work his way into the lodge.

Eighth. That the Grand Encampment of Ohio has no right to assign as a representative of a district a patriarch who is not a member of an encampment in the district he is assigned to represent.

Ninth. That the law authorizing the

N. G. of a lodge to communicate the semi-annual pass word to a brother of another lodge, at the request of the N. G. of the lodge to which he may belong, under the seal of the lodge, applies to the N. G.'s in the same jurisdiction, and not in different jurisdictions.

The *Masonic Tidings* has been consolidated with the *Suspension Bridge Journal*, which paper now appears with a "Masonic department" in which brother Wilson makes his new bow, thusly:

Our thanks are due to Bro. Simons of the N. Y. *Dispatch*, Bro. Wheeler of the *Memphis Jewel*, and other of our editorial friends, for their handsome notices of our demise as a masonic journalist. It is not every man who has the chance to read his own epitaph; it is good for the pride of the flesh though, to mortify it in this way. Our friends will be a little astonished, no doubt at our so soon coming from a dead level to a living perpendicular—but then, as we have before intimated, this is the age for remarkable things. The *Tidings* still lives—its spirit is in these columns—it has only verified the old Platonian theory of the transmigration of souls.

The great characteristic of Masonry which has so much excited suspicion as to its innocence, is the impenetrable secrecy. Taciturnity is a direct proof of wisdom, and has always been regarded by intelligent men as an art of inestimable virtue. In secrecy nature performs her greatest work; and everything fashioned by the hand of the Creator comes forth silently and without noisy demonstration.

The postal card factory at Springfield is now making cards of the new pattern at the rate of about six hundred thousand a day, but as there are still 1,700,000 in the vault, the public will not do any corresponding on the new cards until next month. The new card has a finer surface than the old, and can be used for copying with a press. It is heavier than the old card, but is dalendered so thoroughly that it is somewhat thinner.

New Advertisements.

EUGENE ECKEL,
Druggist and Pharmacist,
GREENSBORO, N. C.

Personal attention to compounding Prescriptions at all hours—day or night. 2-2

CHARLES D. YATES,
Bookseller & Stationer,
and dealer in
MUSIC and FANCY ARTICLES.
GREENSBORO, N. C. 2-27

STEELE & DENNY,
Manufacturers of

Doors, Blinds, Sash, Mouldings

and Dealers in

ALL KINDS OF LUMBER.

Office S. STEELE, corner East Market st.
GREENSBORO, N. C.

TERMS—CASH. 2-23

JAS. SLOAN'S SONS,
GREENSBORO, N. C.,
GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

Lime, Cement and Plaster, Phosphates and
Agricultural Implements a Specialty.
1-