

### Affiliation Fees.

There are a great many wise sayings going around the world in books and in the mouths of the people which would effect considerable good if only people would mind them, but the trouble is that too many of us are satisfied with commending them to our neighbors and paying little or no attention to them ourselves. Masons will recognize the following from the charges of 1721:

"A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence that assembly or duly organized society of Masons is called a Lodge, and every Brother ought to belong to one and to be subject to its by-laws and the general regulations," as containing a principal so entirely sound that no one ever has or probably ever will dispute it, for if such were not the clear duty of Masons, then our organization is not worth a rush, and it being a mere matter of taste whether a Brother belong to a Lodge or not, our organizations would disintegrate, and the whole system built up with such infinite labor and through so many years, in spite of so many chances and changes, would be scattered to the winds.

Nevertheless there are many thousands who have been regularly made Masons and who have subsequently dropped out of the circle of active laborers, notwithstanding their admitted duty and pledges to the contrary. This well known disposition has long been a subject of anxiety to Grand Lodges, and well disposed Craftsmen, and has led to a series of legislative experiments, none of which have proved satisfactory in abating the trouble, much less leading to its abrogation. The experiment now being tried in New York is based on an extreme view of the case, but so far as we have been able to judge, its principal effect has been rather to embitter and render more obstinate, than to conciliate and win back the class against which it is directed. This however, we may remark in passing, is the ordinary result of such enactments, tending as they all do, to stimulate the pugnacity of those opposed to them, and hence evoking an opposition based not so much on principle—for the principle is the other way—as upon sheer opposition, right or wrong.

Admitted, then, that every Mason ought to belong to some Lodge; admitting the equally indisputable fact that a great many entirely neglect this duty who could attend to it better than some who are always at their posts, the result seems to take the form of a disease, for which, in all reason, there ought to be some possible remedy. Considering all that has been done up to this time, our own reflections have led us to believe that we stopped throwing tufts of grass to soon, and resorted to stones without sufficient deliberation, and that there is yet time for mitigating coercion with some milder suggestion in the way of persuasion.

The policy of the Grand Lodge is that which, upon careful examination, will tend to the best interest of the Lodges under its direction, and the policy of the Lodges is to strengthen themselves by the adhesion and labor of the Brethren within the circle of their influence. That this may be accomplished, affiliation ought to be made as easy as possible, and in no case ought the disposition of an unaffiliated to resume labor be hindered or impeded by merely money considerations. No Brother in this jurisdiction becomes a non-affiliate until after he has paid the initiatory fees and one year's dues, which amount may range anywhere from thirty to one hundred and ten dollars. This payment admits him not alone to membership in a particular Lodge, but makes him also a member of the great Masonic

family, and yet, according to the practice of a large majority of our Lodges, if one of these Brethren, by reason of a change of dwelling, or other reason sufficient to himself, wishes to remove his membership from one Lodge to another, he must pay an additional fee, ranging from five to twenty-five dollars. It is respectfully submitted that this is not equitable, and that the only fee charged should be the nominal one required by the Grand Lodge for the necessary change of entries in its books. Greater still is the need of reform in this particular when we desire to win back those who have fallen out of the ranks, but who hesitate to pay an affiliation fee equal to that paid for their initiation for the privilege of coming back. Every non-affiliate who returns to active duty is one more to help bear the heat and burden of the day, one more whose annual dues will help to meet the annual expenses, and therefore every encouragement ought to be offered to such to return, while in a still stronger light is the requirement that every active Brother should have the facility of selecting and joining with the Lodge in which he feels he can work and best agree. For these reasons we are fully and clearly of opinion that our Lodges will all have done a good thing for themselves when they abolish affiliation fees.—*N. Y. Dispatch*

### The Fraternity in Europe.

A session of the Grand Lodge League of Germany was held at Berlin on the 14th of May.

The Grand Lodge of "Three Globes," Germany, held a session, March 22, at Berlin, for the purpose of celebrating the birth-day of Emperor William, protector of Freemasonry in Germany.

The annual session of the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands was held on the 31st of May last at The Hague. The Grand Master, Prince Frederick, presided, and there were present representatives from forty six subordinate Lodges. Freemasonry in the Grand Orient is in a flourishing condition.

The annual session of the Grand Lodge of Saxony was held on November 1, 1874. The Grand Master, Brother Eckstein, presided, and there were present representatives from all the subordinates, and of foreign Grand Bodies, and of New York, so worthily represented by R. W. Bro. F. A. Von Mensch.

The Grand Lodge of Italy held its annual session at Rome on May 23, 1874. At the election the following Grand Officers were chosen: Gr. Master, Guiseppe Mazzori; D. Gr. Master, Giorgi Tamajo; Gr. Sec.; Luigi Castellozzo. The Grand Lodge decided that "the base of Freemasonry is the symbolic Lodge." We reported the dedication of their Temple some time ago.—*N. Y. Square*.

M. W. Bro. B. B. French, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, presented to B. B. French, Lodge No. 15, on the 3d of January, 5,859, a gavel made by himself. The wood of the gavel is of hickory from Mount Vernon, and the handle of wood cut by himself from Ashland, thus uniting in that way the names of two men dear to every American patriot, and very dear to the Masonic fraternity—Washington and Clay.—*Square*.

In the spring of 1658, Mordecai Camp-anwall, Moses Peckekece, Levi, and others, in all fifteen families, arrived at Newport from Holland. They brought with them the first three degrees of Masonry, and worded them in the house of Camp-anwall, and continued to do so, they and their successors, to the year 1742.—*Square*.

The benign principles of Masonry, like those of Christianity, are too often perverted; and now that the new officers throughout this State are elected and installed, let them, and particularly the Junior Warden, fearlessly and impartially perform their duties during the ensuing year. If this is done it will do much towards carrying out the beautiful precepts of our institution. Look well to the South, the West and East.—*Dalton Enterprise*

### A Wives Duty.

It is painful to read the accounts of the way in which the wife of one of the St. Louis crooked whiskey swindlers was affected when, on visiting her husband in the penitentiary, she saw him in the striped garb of a convict. The case furnishes a peculiarly penetrating warning to respectable rascals who indulge in guilty practices under the notion that they will never be found out. Their punishment may bring the sharpest pangs of suffering to their innocent wives. They may destroy the lives and hopes and good name of those who are the centre of their domestic affection, and may thus bring on themselves a penalty greater even than that of the law. If a man's wife is aware that he is pursuing a wrongful course, perilous to his family, it is her duty to try to bring about a change in his ways. If he should make her a confidant in the prosecution of his misdeeds, and she should enter into them or sustain him in them, she cannot complain when she also becomes a sufferer in his punishment. There are women who know that their husbands are surreptitiously getting money by dishonest means, and who are yet so fond of the pleasures that accrue from wealth, that they encourage rather than discourage the practices whose fruits they enjoy. These are foolish women, liable at any time to become the victims of their own folly.—*N. Y. Sun*.

Fifty-five years ago, Bro. Henry Clay was Grand Master of Masons of Kentucky, and that Grand Body, with those of Ohio and Tennessee, were the only Grand Lodges of any note in the Mississippi Valley. If the Grand Lodge of Kentucky was then a stalwart Body, among similar ones upon this continent, what may be said of her now, with her six hundred Lodges and benevolent enterprises, her material strength, and the numerous and mighty Grand Lodges which skirt the shore and lie along the tributaries of her great river? The Grand Lodge of Kentucky since that time has sent one of her Grand Masters to be the first Grand Master of the present Grand Lodge of Illinois; and seventeen other Grand Lodges, strong and imposing, grace the valley of the Mississippi, with more than five thousand Lodges and three hundred thousand members. Contrasting the present with the past, the future is to us a sealed book. It seems like assuming the attributes of Deity to even foreshadow our coming destiny.—*Keystone*.

A lodge is engaged in the trial of one of its members. The Tyler is in the ante room, but the door of the lodge is partly open, so that he can hear all that is going on. The trial having been concluded, has the Tyler a right to come in and vote on the guilt or the innocence of the accused?

We answer that to say nothing of the door being "partly open," a condition of things that might possibly exist, but could never exist legally, the Tyler must be supposed to be at times so engaged in the business of the office as to be unable to hear uninterruptedly the whole of the evidence and the arguments in the case. He is, therefore, incompetent to pass an opinion upon the case. The Tyler is not and cannot be present in the lodge and it is an indisputable principle of law and justice that no one can vote on the question of guilt or innocence who has not heard all the evidences on both sides.—*Voice of Masonry*. A. G. M.

PHILADELPHIA.—By an accident at the Centennial buildings two workmen,

Letrul and Wells, were killed outright. Another, George Smith, died at the hospital from injuries received.

Christmas has had its shadows in the Old World as well as the New. A school-houseful of villagers in Switzerland enjoying the great festive occasion suddenly fell through the flooring of the building, and eighty were killed, and fifty more or less injured.

Disguised robbers, on a railroad train near St. Louis, put the express messenger in one of his own strong boxes, locked him up, broke open the safe on the express car and took from ten to twenty thousand dollars in money and bonds, and made their escape. The messenger was nearly smothered when released upon the arrival of the train in St. Louis.

The Emperor of Brazil, during his visit to this country to attend the Centennial exhibition will be entertained by the Brazilian minister. The Marquis of Lorne and his wife, the Princess Louise, who is a daughter of Queen Victoria, will also visit the Centennial exhibition and it is intimated that they will be the guests of Sir Edward Thornton, resident British minister, during their stay in the United States.

The only residence of Milton now left standing is a wretched hovel at 19 York street, Westminster, where he lived when he was Latin Secretary and began "Paradise Lost." Afterwards Benbow owned it and leased it to Hazlitt. It was nearly burned in a recent fire.

Mr. Moody's new church in Chicago, which was expected to be ready for dedication during the holidays, is still unfinished. It will be some time yet before it can be opened.

AN OBSTINATE GOVERNOR.—Gov. Kemper refuses to pardon Col. W. D. Coleman from the Virginia penitentiary and concludes his reasons as follows:

With very great deterence and respect for the five jurors and for the many legislators and citizens who ask the prisoner's discharge, I refuse it in the spirit of that high-handed justice which treats alike the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the great and the small, and which tempering the law with mercy, enforces it with impartiality towards all.

A man died in the San Antonio hospital a few days ago with a disease resembling the great London plague. He was covered with large spots, and the flesh became putrid all the symptoms corresponding with those of the olden time plague.—*Houston Telegraph*.

A careful housewife in Altoona Pa. put an \$18 order and \$10 greenback in the drawer of the coffee mill for safe keeping the other day. The next morning the family enjoyed a cup of \$28 coffee, but it wasn't half so strong as the husband's language when he found out what had been done.

"Dr. Haerst's 'Outline History of the Church gives the following population to the creeds of the world; Christianity, 407,000,000; Buddhism, 340,000,000; Mohammedanism, 200,000,000; Brahminism, 175,000,000; Confucianism, 80,000,000; Judaism, 5,000,000; all other forms of religious belief, 174,000,000. Of the Christian population of the world, 131,007,449 are assigned to Protestantism, 200,339,390 to Roman Catholicism, and 76,390,940 to the Oriental churches. In the New World, comprising North and South America, the Roman Catholics are in the majority, having 50,931,983 of population to 36,936,800 of Protestants."