

THE MASONIC STAR

A Weekly Journal and
At Home



Record of Freemasonry
and Abroad.

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Our Second Volume.

WITH this number we complete the Second Volume of THE MASONIC STAR. It affords us the opportunity for thanking those members of the Craft who have given us encouragement during the past year; and especially those connected with our District Lodges, whose larger proportionate assistance is somewhat remarkable when comparing the respective home and foreign sections of our subscribers' lists. That we have supplied to a considerable extent the expressed want of our Colonial brethren for masonic home news, at a minimum of cost, is a source of much gratification to ourselves; and we shall hope to be enabled to continue to merit further and increased support from them. It would not be altogether truthful in us to say that our fullest expectations have been realised, in respect of the furtherance of our work, by the more general patronage of the Lodges and their members in this country. There is much wanting in this respect. Nevertheless we have reason to be satisfied that so much has been done in our behalf, and in that of extending the literature of Freemasonry amongst all classes of our brethren. At the moment we have before us an attempt to increase the sphere of our usefulness, and much will depend on the response which may be given to the proposals made in connection with this journal as to our immediate and future course of action. We have it in contemplation rather to enlarge than diminish our pages, and the present issue must not be considered as by any means a sample of past or future numbers. In view of preparations for intended extension, the lessened interest in all masonic work during the vacation, the dearth of any masonic news of importance, and other cognate reasons, amongst which may be fairly taken into account relaxation for ourselves, we have ventured to close our second volume in a somewhat contracted form, reserving sundry communications, correspondence and essays for the opening of Volume Three.

Masonic Halls.



WE have noted with much satisfaction, during the past twelve months, an evident and very laudable desire, on the part of individual lodges in some instances, and by the aggregation of several lodges in the same town or district in others, to secure for the especial purposes of the esoteric work of Freemasonry, accommodation distinct from that afforded by buildings erected or utilized for other objects. It has long been a growing evil, if not a scandal to the Craft, that association with premises of a public character has been more or less encouraged. Whether or not these are connected with businesses subject to supervision under the licensing laws of the country, or applied to other objects which adversely affect the absolutely necessary privacy of lodge working,—in other words, if the place of meeting be one of general public resort,—it is injurious to Freemasonry, the inviolable secrecy connected with which should ever be considered as paramount and essential to its vital interests.

Amongst other projects for the erection of masonic halls, some of which have been carried to a successful issue, and others are now in course of development, we have had occasion to record since the first day of October, 1888, the following. On that date the foundation stone of a new masonic hall was laid at Howden, Yorks. (East Riding), in connection with the St. Cuthbert's Lodge, No. 630, by the R.W. Bro. Lieut.-Col. the Hon. W. T. Orde-Powlett, P.G.W. and Deputy Grand Master of that Province; on the 3rd of the same month the same distinguished brother opened and dedicated a similar building at Hull, Yorks. (E. and N.) for the accommodation of the Kingston and De la Pole Lodges; on the 22nd of October a new Freemasons' Hall, formerly Club premises, in Castlegate, York, was dedicated by the R.W. Bro. the Earl of Zetland, P.G.M. of North and East Yorkshire, the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting there for that purpose; on the 25th of the same month the R.W. Bro. T. W. Tew, Prov. G. Master of West Yorkshire and P.G.D. (England), opened a new Masonic Hall at Rotherham under the banner of the Phoenix Lodge, No. 904, and "for the use of the local Freemasons"; on the 2nd of January, 1889, a new Freemasons' Hall and Club was opened in Plymouth, and the Hall dedicated in Provincial Grand Lodge by Viscount Ebrington, M.P., Prov. G. Master of Devon; in the early part of May last an influential committee were promoting under favourable auspices the erection of a Masonic Hall at Blyth, Northumberland, for the use of the members of the Blagdon Lodge,

No. 659, then meeting at a Mechanics' Institute in that town; on the 7th of July a handsome building in Church Street, Crook, Durham, was solemnly consecrated and dedicated to the services of Freemasonry; just previously (June 25th) a company was registered for the purpose of erecting a new Masonic Hall at Dawlish, in Devon, and we believe it is satisfactorily progressing; recently, a similar building has been opened at Sittingbourne, Kent, by the Rt. Hon. the Earl Amherst, Prov. G. Master; contractors have commenced the erection of a Hall for the Tregenna Lodge, No. 1272, at St. Ives, Cornwall, and though last not least, the Freemasons of the South Eastern District of London have now before them a proposal for the formation of a company to erect a spacious Masonic Hall at Deptford, an announcement in respect of which will be found in another column.

The foregoing have come under our direct notice and there may be many others of which we have no cognizance. These are sufficient in number and importance, however, to encourage efforts in other localities towards the same good end. The latest project above referred to appears to be surrounded by fortuitous circumstances which should attract attention from the South Metropolitan brethren. An admirable site has been secured near the Broadway, at Deptford, and the erection thereon of a handsome building would be of inestimable public advantage in many respects, though in none more, from our point of view, than in providing ample accommodation for the numerous Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, and Lodges of Instruction which abound in that largely populated locality.

It has been said that "Masonic Halls do not pay," and probably in some instances, in years gone by, there may have been reason for the statement. But we believe that in most of those it could be ascertained that mis-management has been the cause of disappointment. In the present day, however, the anticipations of those who have united in the design of securing for themselves special places of meeting, and solemnly consecrated Temples fitted in every respect for the proper performance of Masonic Rites, kept distinct from any profane use, and dedicated, as all such places should be, to the glory of T.G.A.O.T.U. and the welfare of our fellow creatures, have been but seldom, if at all, mis-calculated. We hear of several such buildings which have been most successful as commercial ventures, irrespective of which there must be to each and all who participate in them a gratifying consciousness that they have not withheld their assistance from the good work of promoting the welfare of the Order.

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The regular meeting of the General Committee of this Institution met on Saturday, the 3rd inst., at Freemasons' Hall, when there were present Bro. Geo. Plucknett, P.G.D. Treas. of the Institution, in the Chair, and Bros. James Brett, P.G.P., C. H. Webb, John Jones, H. Dickey, Gordon Smith, W. W. Morgan, A. E. Gladwell, H. Massey and Fredk. Binckes, Sect.

As it was arranged at the July Meeting that, on account of the Naval Review on Saturday and the August Bank Holiday on the following Monday, very few brethren being likely to attend this meeting, the business to be transacted should be postponed till Saturday, the 10th inst., the only work done was to read and confirm the minutes of the July meeting.

Bro. John Jones suggested that the adjournment should be advertised in the newspapers. He did not think the brethren generally understood that there was to be an adjournment. The business to be transacted was very important. The Provisional Committee was to bring up its further report, and he desired that the action to be taken upon that report should not be adopted at a small meeting. He hoped that no one would be able to say that it was done at a hole-and-corner meeting. He therefore trusted the meeting would be advertised in the usual way.

Bro. Binckes said it could not be in the usual way, because the meetings of the General Committees were not advertised. He thought the brethren knew of the adjourned meeting, and, although it had not been advertised, he had seen it noticed in some newspapers. However, there would be no difficulty about advertising. All that Bro. Jones had to do was to make a motion that the adjourned meeting for the 10th inst., at 4 p.m., be advertised, and if it was seconded and carried, he (Bro. Binckes) would send the advertisement out at once.

Bro. Jones then moved, and Bro. James Brett seconded, that the adjourned meeting be advertised.

The motion was carried, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

The adjourned meeting was held at the same place on the 10th inst., when the Earl of Euston, Prov. G. Master Norths and Hants, presided, and there was a large attendance. His lordship reported that the provisional committee had asked Mr. Frederick Binckes,

the secretary, to resign, and having regard to his long and valuable services, recommended that he should be granted a pension of £350 per annum. They further suggested that the salary of the gentleman to be appointed to fill the secretaryship should not exceed £300 a year. Bro. J. S. Cumberland moved the adoption of the report. He testified to the valuable services which Bro. Binckes had rendered, not only to the school, but to the order, and described him as a pioneer in the interests of masonic institutions. Bro. Dr. Morris seconded the motion. Bro. John Jones moved as an amendment, that the amount of the pension be £200 a year. This did not find a seconder. Bro. James Stevens said he should be glad to support the resolution of Bro. Cumberland if he could be satisfied that money subscribed towards a charitable purpose could be legally employed in providing a pension. Bro. Scurrah said he was connected with one of the largest hospitals in London—which was, of course, a charitable institution—and some years ago an executive officer belonging to that institution, after counsel's opinion had been obtained, was granted by the committee a pension of £300 for the remainder of his life. The resolution to adopt the report of the provisional committee was then put and carried. The usual routine business of the committee was then proceeded with, and applications from candidates were received and granted. Sixteen vacancies were declared for the October election. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting. We may state here that there will be no meeting of the General Court in September.

We Notify that:—

—The Lebanon Lodge, No. 1326, Bro. Charles William Baker W.M., will meet on Saturday next, at 3 p.m., at the Railway Hotel, Feltham, Middlesex. There are four raisings on the agenda, and a candidate for initiation is also proposed.

—The Macdonald Lodge, No. 1216, which meets at the Head Quarters of the First Surrey Rifle Volunteer Corps, is greatly interested in the candidature for election in October to the privileges of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys of John Francis Besly, aged 8 years, the orphan son of the late Bro. G. H. Besly, a much-respected member of the Lodge. Bro. Besly was a Life Governor of the Girls' School, and a Life Subscriber to that of the Boys'. The lad's case is supported by several well-known Freemasons.

PROPOSED MASONIC HALL AT DEPTFORD.

A meeting of Freemasons resident in the neighbourhood of Deptford, S.E., and interested in the several lodges, R.A. Chapters, and Lodges of Instruction in the district, was held on Friday evening last, at New Cross Public Hall, Bro. J. G. Thomas presiding. Considering the time of year, and the many "out of town" engagements of numerous brethren, the attendance was reasonably good. Amongst those present were:—Bros. J. J. Pitt, Vinberger, Roberts, Geo. Skudder, Wall, Geo. Bolton, Walter Martin, J. Stevens, Dawkins, Kipps, Dennant, Bax, Pakes, N. Brokenshire, &c., &c. The meeting was of a purely preliminary character, and chiefly for the inspection of designs and plans submitted respectively by Bros. Roberts and Wall, who conjointly received the thanks of the brethren for their gratuitous services in the preparation of perfect details, which afforded much satisfaction. It was also to learn from sundry others important information as to existing Masonic Halls, the particulars of their arrangement, cost, management, and productiveness, and some very useful and interesting discussion resulted thereupon. In the end, it was resolved that sufficient data had been obtained to justify the calling of a general meeting of the Craft in the locality, and consequently the 6th of September (Friday), at 8 p.m., at the New Cross Public Hall, was fixed upon as the date and place for further consideration of the project. We will not anticipate what will then be set before the Freemasons of the south-eastern district. There should be a large attendance, and we feel certain none who attend will be disappointed in respect of the certain interest which will attend the proceedings.

UNION WATERLOO LODGE OF INSTRUCTION—No. 13.—On Thursday, 8th inst., at the Earl of Chatham, Thomas Street, Woolwich. Among those present were Bros. Chasteaneuf, W.M.; Barnes, S.W.; Willingshall, J.W.; Cox, S.D.; Lackland, J.D.; Maisey, I.G.; Davis, P.M., Preceptor; Carter, P.M.; Woods and Pirie. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed with Bro. Pirie as candidate. Two sections were worked by Bro. Carter, P.M., assisted by the brethren.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS.—We believe it sound policy to retain a thoroughly good officer until his equal can be found and elected. However gifted and learned a new officer may be, every companion, even slightly observing, knows that it requires not a little time for him to get used to his new place, and acquire the skill necessary to discharge his duties without balk or halt. This being the fact, what should be expected of one whose gifts are not great, whose learning is faulty, whose business so overwhelms him that he cannot possibly discharge official duties; or what can be expected of one whose sole recommendation is "He is a right good fellow?" The truth is that he only is fit to govern and direct the work of a Masonic body, Grand or constituent, who has a genius for government supplemented by sound available knowledge, and is so far master of himself that every obstacle will yield to his sway, and genuine harmony prevail. If such a companion is found and elected to office, let him be retained until one like, or nearly like him, is prepared to fill the station; then if the first will retire, the body may be reasonably sure that the good work done will not be marred by one whose mark is a zero."—*Masonic Record of Western India.*

The Masonic Star.



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W. BRO. JAMES STEVENS, P.M., P.Z., &c., &c.

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VOLUME I.

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"For the Master to lay lines and draw designs upon."

"The united circulation of the three Masonic papers published in this country proves that less than one per cent. of the Brethren of the United Kingdom purchase them." This statement is made by a fourth Masonic paper "published in this country." On what data the information is obtained we are at a loss to conceive, and we certainly have reason to doubt its correctness. Nevertheless there may be, in fact there is, much assurance that the circulation of the Masonic press, not only in this country but elsewhere is not what it should be in connection with the honourable Fraternity of Freemasons. A body of men who have pledged themselves individually to make a daily progress in scientific attainments, and which body may be fairly calculated to consist of over one hundred thousand intellectual men in England alone, should be strong and sufficient supporters of as many journals devoted to the interests of their Craft as are now set before them. It is somewhat of a scandal, if the statement could be true, that but one per cent. of all their number have any care for acquaintance with the every-day proceedings connected with the working of the Order, and that the remaining 99 per cent. have yet to be encouraged, whether by quality of literary merit or by any kind of bribe outside the general practice of the most respectable journals, to do that which it should be equally their pride and duty to perform in pursuance of the pledges they have given on their entrance into Masonry.

Mr. R. F. Tomlin, *M.R.C.S. Eng.*, presents himself, with testimonials of a high character, for the vacant post of Medical Officer to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, at Wood Green.

The foundation stone of the new premises to be erected in connection with the ancient grammar school at Newchurch, East Lancashire, was laid last week with full Masonic ceremonial, by the R.W. Bro. Colonel Le Gendre N. Starkie, Prov. Grand Master of East Lancashire.

At the last examination for the degree of Doctor of Science at the University of London only one candidate passed in MIXED MATHEMATICS, namely, R. Bryant, an old pupil of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and he is the only man in England who has taken the D.Sc. in this branch of the Doctorate. On leaving the Institution Mr. Bryant was placed by Dr. Morris under a "wrangler" for two years. At the end of this time Mr. Bryant gained an exhibition at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. But the funds at Dr. Morris's disposal were exhausted, and the youthful aspirant for mathematical honours at Cambridge had to give up the idea of a University career and take to private teaching. Mr. Bryant did not give up the idea of taking a degree, and in 1881

he matriculated at the London University, and in two or three years afterwards graduated as B.A., B.Sc. In June, 1889, he took the degree of D.Sc., and sent in as his thesis a work on the "ORBIT OF THE COMET SAPPHO." Dr. Bryant is a Fellow of the Astronomical Society, and has read several valuable papers at its customary meetings.

"The Masonic Poet's Corner."

(Original and Selected.)

OUR EMBLEMS.

THE *Lambskin* reminds us to lead a pure life,
The *Gauge* to divide well our time;
The *Gavel* divests us of envy and strife,
And prepares us for joys more sublime.
The *Plumb* to walk upright before God and man,
The *Square* is morality's guide;
The *Level* directs us through life's fleeting span
To the Land over Death's darkling tide.
The *Compasses* circumscribes all vain desires,
Restraining each passion in bond;
The *Trowel* speaks kindness—affection inspires
Wherever a sufferer is found.
These, these were our emblems in days now grown old,
All others are Shadow and Show,
Whether Emerald, or Agate, or Topaz, or Gold;
The Amethyst, or Cameo.
Then, Brethren, don't wear them—your emblems should be
Most deeply engraved on the heart;
Truth, Temperance and Virtue, and sweet Charity
The true emblems of our Ancient Art.

Sydney Freemasons' Chronicle.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

The *Newcastle Chronicle* says:—It is probably because he has false notions about the character of the Craft, that the Shah of Persia has forbidden three distinguished men of his suite from being made Freemasons in Paris. And yet one would say there must be another reason, inasmuch as he has allowed Mirza Mattaleb, his Postmaster-General, to be initiated. The interesting ceremony took place, two evenings ago, at the lodge, "La Clemente Amicitie."

Bro. John Edwards was installed W.M. of the Duke of Edinburgh Lodge, No. 1182, on Thursday last, in the presence of a large assembly of brethren in the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool. The newly-installed Worshipful Master invested his officers as follows:—W. Rawsthorne, S.W.; A. Morris, J.W.; A. D. Hesketh, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., treasurer; W. F. Ferguson, sec.; W. R. Parkinson, S.D.; R. Tunnicliffe, J.D.; D. Lowthian, I.G.; J. T. Shutt, S.; J. H. Mills, S.; H. B. Wright, Org.; and A. Barclay, P.M., D.C. The brethren subsequently sat down to a banquet served in Bro. Casey's best style. A capital musical programme was contributed to by Bros. H. J. Nicholls, W. Sweetman, W. Lewis, and others.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall is to be held at Liskeard, on Tuesday, the 27th inst., under the banner of the St. Martin's Lodge, No. 510, in that town. It is eight years since a meeting was held at Liskeard. The Province is, however, favoured with the same Provincial Grand Master, who has acted in that capacity from 1873, and also the same Deputy Prov. G.M., Bro. Sir Charles B. Graves Sawle, Bart, who has been appointed from the year 1880 by the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe. The W.M. of the St. Martin's Lodge is Bro. George Hallet, of Liskeard. "St. Martin's" was formed in 1845, and has its own Masonic Hall and appointments.

Press Exchanges and Books Received.

Ars Quatuor Coronatorum, Vol. ii., part 2; *Sydney Freemasons' Chronicle*; *South Australian Freemason*, Adelaide; *Masonic Review*, Cincinnati; *Masonic Review*, London; *London Freemason*; *Freemasons' Chronicle*; *Masonic Orations*, by Bro. L. P. Metham, P.G.D. (England), edited by Bro. John Chapman, P.P.G.D. Devon; *Voice of Masonry*, August; *Australian Keystone*, Melbourne; *Masonic Advocate*, Indianapolis.

"WHITE FOR—BLACK AGAINST."

From "A Paper on Voting," read by Bro. E. V. Greatbatch, P.M. 418, P.P.G. Supt. Wks., Staffordshire, before the brethren of the Menturia Lodge, No. 418, at the Freemasons' Hall, Hanley, May 14th, 1889.

(Concluded from page 322.)

Let us now consider the effect of
VOTING UPON THE LODGE IN GENERAL.

Upon every Lodge collectively rests the onus and responsibility of maintaining its own purity and prestige. Grand Lodge has laid down certain broad constitutions outside which we may not travel, but it has left each Lodge to define its own laws (subject to the approval of the G.M.) suitable to its peculiar circumstances, and in addition, there exists honourable traditions of the Craft and unwritten laws of a Lodge which often wield sound influence. Up to now our Lodge has permitted two black balls to bar the entrance of a candidate which, in a numerically strong Lodge like the "Menturia" where we have an average attendance of 30, or nearly 30 brethren, is placing a mighty power in the hands of two, though I do not at the moment take upon myself to say that such a power is misplaced or too great. Still the fact remains that the power of the black ball is relatively far greater than that of the white; and with increased power comes increased responsibility, so

that before a man uses his black ball he should be justified to his own conscience and his Masonic obligations before he wields his power. Though the right to use a black ball at his discretion is accorded to every Master Mason, there still exists his pledge to adhere to the principles of the square and compasses, viz., the practice of every moral and social virtue, and of rendering to his neighbour every kind office which justice (and I here emphasize the word justice) and mercy may require. This power of two silent votes to nullify the effect of say 26 or 28 others, ought in itself to compel every right thinking man to wield that power with very great care and thought, and not to let caprice or whim be the impelling motive. As a general rule we Englishmen cheerfully recognise the right of the *majority* to decide a question, but in this Masonic matter we permit a *minority* of very small proportions to govern—that minority knowing the immensely disproportionate strength of their position ought to be satisfied to the silent judgment of their own rectitude that they are not prostituting their power to unworthy motives. The responsibility is a great one. Of course, there is a vast difference between two brethren being *agreed* to black ball, and two deciding to do so unknown to each other; in the former case it is probable that one will, in some degree, consciously or unconsciously have yielded to influence, or at least have looked at the Candidate from a standpoint not absolutely his own; but where two brethren, unknown to each other, arrive at the conclusion for reasons known to themselves individually, their conclusions are the result of two separate minds and consequently more unbiassed. And now, brethren, to come close home, what has been the result to the Lodge generally of black balling. Those of us who have been present on such occasions have observed that immediately the result is made known the thrill of an unexpected event rushes through the place, you may see consternation, anger, regret, and disappointment portrayed on the brethren present, but *nowhere* can you see any indications of pleasure. For the time the even tenor of our way seems disturbed, the feeling of "Hand to hand I greet you as a brother" seems to tremble in the balance, wonderings and questionings arise, sympathy for the friends of the Candidate shows forth here and there, a general perturbation disturbs the solemnity of our ceremonies, and an under current of distrust acts unpleasantly upon all of us. Afterwards, as days roll on and brother meets brother, the how, and the why, and the wherefore of the black balling is discussed—the origin of the black balls is apparently the one point at which each and everyone seems desirous of arriving. Speculative analysis is made of the brethren present, and sometimes even of the absent ones, as to their reason for being absent—brethren are classed amongst the likely and the unlikely at the option of the thinker, with the result that the blindest injustice is done. Men who are all that is straightforward and honourable are unfairly suspected of having played falsely. On one occasion I know some eight or ten names were canvassed, not one of whom had any part or lot in the matter; and on another occasion I know that a great injustice through incorrect suspicion was done to a brother of repute and high esteem amongst us. All this, brethren, is bound to work ill in a Lodge, brother looks askance at brother, coteries and circles are formed (fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind), sympathy with the injured and distrust of the suspects form knots and groups where all ought to be one undivided whole, and if pushed to an extreme the gravest results, Masonically, will follow. Of one thing we may rest assured, viz., that the black balling of a Candidate never added unity, strength, or prosperity to any Lodge. On the contrary, instances exist around us where the black balling of a Candidate has shaken a Lodge almost to its foundations, and caused it to linger abjectly for years. Our own Lodge has had comparative immunity from this danger, though it has not escaped scot free. As a general rule an all round feeling of "give and take" exists amongst us, respect for the honest convictions of each other marks our association generally, and for a long time there has been a conspicuous absence of contentious matter amongst us—we know we differ, and we agree to do so. Let us cherish and retain this position, giving each other credit for sound motives and refraining from administering an unfair rebuff to any brother who has, to the best of his skill and ability, sought to increase our members, strengthen the Craft, and make himself more extensively serviceable to his fellow men by legitimately increasing the ranks of Freemasonry. Let us waive minor objections whilst holding firmly to our principles, and keep our Lodge a thoroughly harmonious whole.

Having said so much, Worshipful Master and Brethren, I shall have wasted your time, unless we can get out of all this something of practical service to the "Old Menturia"; but lest I may have been misunderstood let me here say that I do not for one moment, nor can any one, deny, the absolute unfettered right of every brother to use the black ball. I claim it for myself, and should not hesitate to avail myself of it when other efforts to keep out an objectionable Candidate failed, but I hold it as the last resort. If milder methods fail we must maintain our principles at all hazards, but I hope I may never be driven to that extremity, because I am conscious that the black ball is not the pioneer of peace and prosperity in the Lodge, but the reverse. My object to-night has been to draw the attention of the brethren, and more especially those who have more recently joined us, to a full consideration of this subject of voting, and in the interest of the Lodge to reduce to a minimum—if not entirely do away with—black balling in the future, but without asking any brother to sacrifice aught of his privileges or independence, these are the inherent right of each and every one of us and must be held sacred. What then have we to submit as a step whereby an objectionable Candidate may be prevented gaining admission without the use of the black ball. Simply this—there has for years past existed an honourable understanding amongst us that any brethren having objections to a Candidate who has been, or is about to be proposed, shall tell the W.M. that such objections exist; it is optional whether or not the grounds of the objections are stated, though

personally I should specify them myself. The W.M. then informs the Proposer that an objection or objections exist, and that consequently his nominee may not be accepted; after that it is for the friends of the Candidate to decide whether or not they will force him to the ballot. If they do so it is done with their eyes wide open—they know the indisputable right of every brother to emphasize his objection in a way not to be resisted, so that if the Candidate is then taken to the ballot by his friends they must accept the result, and the blame, if any, afterwards rests upon their shoulders. It is also far better when a brother has a Candidate in view to mention it beforehand to the W.M. and Officers, whereby the feeling generally of the Lodge is somewhat tested. I have always found that the Lodge, as a rule, has an objection to a Candidate being *sprung* upon it unexpectedly whilst the Lodge is sitting; this is a small matter, but it reaches farther than is apparent. I know, brethren, that it is alleged that these objections have not been held sacred by a W.M. or W.M.'s, but I think that must be due to a misapprehension of facts. I cannot conceive any brother whom I have seen in the chair of this Lodge so far forgetting his own self-respect, not to mention his Masonic obligations, as to disclose a confidential communication made to him *as W.M.* Every brother on his Installation solemnly pledges himself faithfully and impartially to administer the Office of W.M. to the best of his skill and ability—as you know, he has previously, as a M.M., obligated himself that his breast shall be the safe and sacred repository of a brother's secrets; bearing all this in mind it is impossible to imagine a W.M. betraying a matter of Lodge interest and moment, which had been confidentially entrusted to him. My own experience is that the existence of these objections is generally made known wide-spread by the objector himself. He talks of it, he airs his objections here and there to this man and to that, he consults his friends, and thus the matter becomes common property. Now, if brethren wish to raise objections to a Candidate, let them do so to the W.M. *as W.M.*, and *as a confidential communication*; but let them, at the same time, set a guard upon their own lips, and speak to no one else about it; then, brethren, you may rely upon it being silent as the tomb, of that I am quite sure. If the objectors wish to discuss the objection so as to have another idea of it besides their own, let them do so with the W.M.; for the time being he is on a raised platform, from which he will endeavour, as far as in him lies, to consider every point of Masonic matters calmly, dispassionately and equitably. As you know, I have been permitted to occupy the chair of this Lodge, and I can assure you I never occupied a position which inspired such a strong desire and determination to act with the utmost judicial exactitude and right.

The primary object which I have had in view, brethren, in standing before you to-night, has been the peace and prosperity of the Menturia Lodge. I desired to make each and all of us weigh well our all-round responsibility in the matter of Masonic voting—to see and feel what was due from us to the Candidate, to ourselves, to the Craft and to our Lodge. To enable us, as far as may be, to maintain the prestige and principles of the Craft, the peace and harmony of the Lodge, to extend our borders upon safe and sound lines, but whilst doing this not to injure the good name or self-respect of any man. By so doing, brethren, we shall make Masonry respected by those who can only judge it by results. Do not let us object to or reject Candidates except upon good and sufficient reasons, but if we have sound Masonic objections let us maintain them through thick and thin. We must not admit unworthy men to our ranks, but let us act straightforwardly, generously and justly. It is the duty of each and all of us to keep our Lodge pure as far as we can, but it is equally our duty to keep our Lodge united, harmonious and prosperous.

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