

THE MASONIC JOURNAL

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MASTERS

Elsewhere we print a letter from Brother Henry C. Simonds on The Masters Club International. In it Brother Simonds commits the common error of supposing that The Masters Club seeks to set up a new or different Masonry as a substitute for Masonic Lodges. This is not the case. The Masters Club seeks only to afford the machinery necessary to putting a practical Masonry into use.

Officers of Lodges will rather resent the implication that the Masonic System fails of fulfilling its purposes because of their shortcomings. These defects are of necessity implied in the statement that Masonry lacks leadership. Surely some defense of these officers of Lodges can be made and they are entitled to have their side of the argument fairly presented.

In an article on Lodge Finances, also in this issue of the Journal, we call attention to the fact that the average Lodge depends in large part upon receipts from fees of candidates to pay its operating expenses. As long as such a condition prevails Lodges will have a rapid growth, candidates will receive a minimum of instruction and Lodge officers will have all their energies consumed in the routine conferring of Degrees.

Surely the proper leaders of the Craft are the duly elected and appointed officers of Lodges. But if the entire time and efforts of these officers are necessarily taken up by routine work, how can we expect them to lead us as devotees of Masonry? Let us be fair to our officers. It is rare indeed to find a single one who does not give the best that he has to Masonry.

A more active interest in Masonry is admittedly desirable. Why, then, be too critical of the kind of organization chosen to awaken and preserve

such an interest? Possibly The Master's Club cannot continue to function as successfully as it does now. But if it meets with even a small measure of success at present, does it not hold a promise of great accomplishment in the future? There seems to us little analogy between the organization of The Masters Club and the legend of the fifteen Fellowcrafts. They wanted something they were not qualified to receive. The Masters Club selects only members who are qualified to practice Masonry.

The Masters Club International may not endure forever. We think, however, that it will serve two great purposes. First, it will enable Masons to put Masonry into immediate operation. Second, it will set an example that will encourage Lodges to extend the benefits of Masonry to all their members. This seems to us immensely worth while; one of the great steps in advance in present-day Masonry.

INTOLERANCE

The newspapers recently carried a story to the effect that religious people would attempt to prevent the return to America of a Seattle girl who married a Hindoo. The reason given is that Christianity might be injured by the influence of Hindu religious ideas.

Are we, after all, very much advanced beyond the age of witchcraft, the inquisition and the massacres of non-conformists? Is religious belief such an important qualification, even at the present day, that people should be denied their rights to freedom rather than endanger their faith? Surely a faith so poorly founded is not worth all this effort to preserve it.

EASTER

We quote the following from "The American Tyler Keystone," Battle Creek, Michigan:

"When Easter comes it is a time of rejoicing for Masonry.

"The resurrection of our Savior means much for mankind and it has a fuller meaning for those who have kneeled at the altar of Masonry.

"Not only at this time of year was the Savior resurrected, but all nature responds to the call and comes to life in robes of beauteous hues.

"All life seems to thrill with newness.

"As Christ overcame the tomb so Nature overcomes the lifelessness of winter.

"So at this glorious season of the year let us try to give a minute or two to thinking over the lessons that were taught us at the altar of Masonry, because Christ did come forth from the tomb and brought light to the world."

There we have it. A direct connection, made by a devout Christian, between the spring festival as celebrated in ancient and modern religions and the natural rebirth of vegetation. For further enlightenment on this question read "This Believing