

Apathy

Closing an admirable address, the Grand High Priest deplored the apathy which existed in the ranks of the Craft and the lack of aspiration to seek further knowledge.

"Probably not three out of five of those who are initiated into Free Masonry ever become students of its mysteries. They may go so far as to acquire a parrot-like superficial acquaintance with the ritualistic work and lectures, and consider it an infringement of the Landmarks if they omitted to include all the bad grammar and composition introduced gradually by others as ignorant as themselves; but as regards its deeper symbolic-philosophic teaching, they know nothing. The growth of the numberless friendly secret organizations is undoubtedly responsible in a great measure for this.

"We occasionally have in the past in the exemplification of the work in some Lodges and Chapters seen evidences of the demoralizing influences of some of these societies on Freemasonry, through the introduction into the adjuncts of the ritualistic work innovations undoubtedly borrowed from the superficial rituals of such societies abounding in 'horse-play,' absurd imitations of our sublime Masonic traditions, and appeals generally to a low standard of intellect."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1910 report on Foreign Correspondence - NOVA SCOTIA