

Nothing more than a vehicle for the interchange among themselves of the views of the Correspondents

Ex. Comp. Charles Albert Adams, of Sacramento, is the successor of the lamented veteran Davies in the Reviewer's chair. His report or review is a departure. He does indeed note some of the features of the proceedings of some of the Grand Chapters, but he does not follow the orthodox plan of taking up each Grand body separately. And this he justifies by some startling statements. We quote a few of them, and regret that we cannot give more, for we feel that it is impossible in a limited space to do justice to Comp. Adams' views, which are expressed with singular ability and fearlessness. Many of the reviewers, we think, will not agree with what he says; but the opinion of the members of the Royal Craft generally, if that can be got at, is of more importance. Here follow the extracts: —

"That these reports are not read by those for whom they are intended, and to whom they are addressed, is practically everywhere conceded."

"These reports made to Grand Chapter are not worth anything like what they cost either in money or effort In addition to the cost of printing, there is an appropriation made to the writer varying in the different jurisdictions from \$50 to \$300 (and perhaps more) . ' ' "

"In considering the advisability of their discontinuance it must be remembered that they are primarily designed for the purpose of advising the Companions, and particularly the members of the Grand Chapter, of the proceedings of other jurisdictions. Now, through a very natural evolution, they have become nothing more than a vehicle for the interchange among themselves of the views of the Correspondents. It could not be otherwise. That the reviewers should review each other's reports rather than the actual proceedings is not only natural, but inevitable. They themselves find little interest in the purely "local, in- consequential details of an annual meeting," except in so far as they may furnish a subject for the expression of an opinion by the reviewer. To this, of course, there can be no valid objection. Indeed, it is from the expression of these opinions that has resulted such benefit as has been conferred by these reports; but the ideas thus developed have been crystallized into enacted laws and regulations; and such discussion as now ensues is generally speaking with reference to questions fairly well-settled.

"The objectionable feature that will certainly survive, unless there can be devised some method whereby the correspondents will be assured that their reports are read by others than the brethren of the Guild, is found in the fact that it is obtrusively apparent that in too many instances these reports are written primarily for the other reviewers, and not for the Grand Chapters to which they are addressed."

"My review is of Capitular Masonry in general rather than of the individual jurisdictions. The few subjects to which I direct attention are those I conceive most likely to be of interest to you among those discussed in the Correspondence Reports of the several jurisdictions."

The departure is at least interesting, and the protest even more so.

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1918 Report on Foreign Correspondence - CALIFORNIA