

Rapid advance of the Master Mason

With Companion Swain's arguments against the too rapid advance of the Master Mason he is in hearty agreement as must be all who observe how many of the inexperienced lose interest simply because they have not been allowed the time to think over and absorb what has already been given to them. One degree is crowded on to another until all connection is lost and ideas are in a hopeless condition of chaos. They are surfeited and the overloading results in nausea and subsequent apathy.

"Too often it is the case that the Brother, of his own free will and accord, is not prepared for the step he is urged to make. He may be induced to seek advancement with some friendly acquaintance, or some other no more justifiable cause. In any event of this sort, the chances are that the candidate who is led along from one body to another by rapid steps of advancement, is able only to see what to him will be the display part of the work, losing sight of the essential and underlying principles of Masonry only to become a member of the branch of the Institution which might be termed the 'knife and fork,' or the 'watch charm,' division. The Mason who boasts what he has done for Masonry, and backs his statement by the number of candidates he has proposed, is not always the one who has labored to elevate the Institution by the personnel of its membership."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1906, report on Foreign Correspondence - MASSACHUSETTS