

No Mason should want at this sacred season; no bare-footed orphan of a Master Mason, homeless and destitute, should learn to steal and lie in our streets during this festival of joy; no weeping widow of a Hiramite should be forced at Christmas to sell her soul to hell to provide food and rags for her starving little ones. The God of the Mason notes down all these things. He sees the thousands of dollars and tens of thousands spent at this period in feasting and revelry, and He marks down in the Book of Life those who remember and practice the precepts of Him who spoke as never man spoke.

Let us, then, as Masons, arouse ourselves to do more practical good. We have no right to allow a single Hiramite's child to want; a single Mason's orphan to beg; a single Templar's widow to starve, whilst we feast in plenty.

Christmas Day is very bright and very glorious; but to some it is very, very sad. The poor wife sitting in a garret, surrounded by weeping young ones, watching a dying husband, a suffering father,—it is sad and lonely and dreary to such; and then again, how memory-mournful is the day to her, who on the anniversary of the natal day of Christ, lost the idol of young love in all the glory and prime of manhood. To such the Christmas chimes are a mockery, and the laughter of children brings no joy. Her heart is torn and sore, and to such there is no happiness save in the blood of the Crucified One.

. SEND for a copy of "Statistics Book," which will be sent on approval, on application to THE CRAFTSMAN office, Port Hope, Ont.

MERRY XMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

With this number we close Volume XVIII. of the CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN. It has gone through many trials and difficulties, but, as a rule, has come out triumphant in the many controversies into which it has entered for the general benefit of the craft. It has, by years of assiduous labor and undeviating adherence to the great and broad principles of the fraternity, gained for itself the support and respect of a very large proportion of Canadian Masons. It has never failed to expose bigotry and narrow-mindedness, no matter how high the authority advocating it, and has never permitted itself to become the organ of any class of Hiramites; clique, or order. To one and all of our friends, brethren and subscribers, we wish a very Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year. We ask our friends to work for us, and we expect all to assist, by furnishing us with such local items and general articles, as may prove of interest to the craft universal. To our *confreres* of the Masonic press, we extend a warm and cordial greeting, and wish them hearty success and prosperity and support in their endeavors to disseminate "More Light."

ALPHA LODGE, No. 384, G. R. C., of Parkdale, have issued an elegant invitation to a conversazione, to celebrate the opening and consecration of the Masonic Hall, Parkdale, on the eve of St. Valentine, Friday, February 14, 1885. The programme is a very choice one, and doubtless the affair will be a grand success.