

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND
MASONIC RECORD.

J. B. TRAYES, P.D.D.G.M.,
Editor & Proprietor.

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.50 per annum
in advance.

VOL. XIV.

PORT HOPE, ONT., MARCH 15, 1880.

No. 3:

THE TEMPLAR'S WIFE.

'I wish you could go with me, my husband. It is a long, long distance for me to travel alone.'

'So it is, Izzie; and do you know I haven't been fit for business through the day with thinking of it. If it were only one of our New England jaunts, even from Quaddy Head to White Plains, I wouldn't mind it; but from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, alone, and among strangers, it is an undertaking not to be winked at.'

'I have felt it so, Frank, and if by waiting a week, or a fortnight, I might hope that you—'

'No, no, Izzie, that were impossible. I cannot, as you know, leave the schools at this season; and, when I do leave, it can only be for two or three weeks, while you must have as many months. No, you must go on alone, and I will follow as soon as I can, and give you company on your way home.'

A little time of silence, and then, suddenly, and with a new light in her eyes,—

'Frank, you cannot go with me; then do the next best thing: Let me have that charm from your watch-chain. I will wear it, and, perhaps, test its virtue.'

'Upon my life, Izzie, the thought is a happy one. Any man who looks upon that, and then looks into your face, will know, if he have ordinary perception, that you wear it right-

fully. Bless the thought! and bless the jewel! Take it and put it upon your own chain. There, I shall feel better for this.'

They were Frank and Isadore Whitman, who, a few years previously, had removed from their home in the State of Maine, and gone to that far-away town, in Minnesota, on the margin of the Mississippi, where the husband had come to be Supervisor of schools, while the wife assisted as teacher in one of the higher departments. And now the wife was on the eve of a visit to her friends in New England. Her husband could not go with her, nor was any one known to her likely to bear her company.

No wonder the young wife felt anxious as the hour of departure drew near; nor shall we wonder that the anxiety was shared by her husband. But a happy thought came, as we have seen.

Before leaving Maine, Frank had taken the Symbolic degrees in Freemasonry, and in his Western home, or near at hand; he had received the honors of the Royal Arch, and the Orders of Knighthood; and, it was his Templar's jewel of the Red Cross which his wife had thought to adopt as a talisman on her long and lonesome journey! It was, in fact, a double charm, being a small key-stone, of gold, bearing the mark, with the