

SIR CHARLES NAPIER ON MASONRY.

The following interesting remarks by this distinguished brother, were made at a banquet, given to him on October 1, 1849, by the brethren at Simla, in India:—

“Worshipful Master and Gentlemen,
—I return my cordial thanks for the honor you have done me. I should not myself have inclined to admit that I merit the compliments paid me, but introduced as they have been by Colonel Curtis, and acknowledged in the manner you have been pleased to receive them, I suppose I must believe I am, in some measure, deserving of them. Few Masons can say that they owe as much to Masonry as I do; I am an old, and, I fear, a good-for-nothing Mason. I have been for forty years a Royal Arch Mason, and yet I fear I could not work myself into a chapter of that high degree; but, with the aid of my friend, Col. Curtis, I hope to rub off the rust and be able to do so. As I said before, probably no man present can say that he is under the same obligations to Masonry that I am; and I am always glad of an opportunity of acknowledging the same to the craft. I was once a prisoner without the hope of being even exchanged, and expected to be sent to Verdun, to which place in France all prisoners were consigned; for, at this time, the two governments of France and England were so exasperated against each other, that their anger fell on individuals, and there was no exchange of prisoners; a man who was taken lost all chance of promotion; or of ever seeing his friends again. In this state of despair and misery, knowing that my family must have believed me to have been killed, I was casting about in my own thoughts for some way in which I could communicate with my family; it came into my head that I was a Mason, and I contrived to poke out a brother. He

was a French officer of the name of Bontemps, I think, and a very good name it was, for, like a good and honorable brother, he managed to send a letter for me to England—by no means an easy matter in those days, for there were no railroads, or steam-vessels, or steam-engines then to carry letters like lightning everywhere. Besides, it was at this time, an extremely dangerous and hazardous undertaking for a French officer. But my honest and good brother did it for me, and within three months my family knew I was alive. I have acknowledged to being but a bad Mason, but I will not add to this by being a bad companion, and inflicting a long speech on you. I shall, therefore, only again thank you, and wish you all health.”

FREEMASONRY A MANLY INSTITUTION.

This great institution of ours is pre-eminently a manly organization. We never receive young women or old women, of either sex, into this society, knowing them to be such. We want only men of individuality, of character, men who are willing to learn the lesson of obedience to lawful authority, and it is that which gives us power in this country of ours, and throughout this broad world; for no human organization ever did exercise the influence among men that this institution of ours to-day is exercising, silently, unobtrusively, but none the less powerfully, influencing the mind of this great nation. In the future, when socialism and communism, and all the various isms which are struggling to the forefront, and seething and boiling under the current of our society to-day, come bursting upon us with their waves, seeking to break all bounds and overwhelm our national life, I believe that Freemasonry will stand forth; and if this country is to be saved from anarchy and confusion, Freemasonry will do more to save it and perpetuate