

"It is true," said he. "Her husband has been dead two years, and wretchedly poor he must have left her; but, thank fortune, I have enough for both."

"And mean to share it with her, one would infer," I said, mischievously. "But I forgot, the romance of life is over with you, uncle. The fires of passion are extinguished,—not a smouldering ember exists. So it is not probable you will marry her."

"It is probable," said my uncle in his straightforward way, "probable and certain. The romance of life may be over, but I have a feeling of love for this woman, nevertheless,—a feeling that can be smothered, but never extinguished."

And so, kind reader, it proved in the end. My uncle married her, and a sweeter, kinder woman never gladdened a domestic scene.

All things to her had shown their dark side, but at last there came through Masonry "light."—*Masonic Monthly*.

WORDS WORTH CONSIDERING.

Too many knights, after they pass the intermediate grades, forget that they owe any allegiance to what they are pleased to designate the "lower orders." The Blue Lodge ranks any other Masonic organization, and in the lessons there received is the germ of the whole matter. To be sure more light is gained at each advancing step, but where would be the advanced grades, but for the first? Where would the educational system of this country be without the Common Schools? Another difficulty is in the way: all grades of the Order carry too much steam, and consequently have to meet often to blow off. The consequence is that those who really feel like attending to matters along the whole line, and keep all the posts right, find their hands more than full with a Lodge, a Chapter, and a Commandery meeting every week, and having other matters to attend to, if men of business, or occupying any social relation, or Church membership; thus the consequence is that a man must either give up his family, if he has one, or give up some of his Masonic relations, and in doing that, he gives up the ones having the least attraction for him.

There are a host of difficulties to surmount to remedy all this. Each grade is jealous of its own prerogatives, as against all others. None are willing to yield their privilege of meeting as often as they choose. We, of the advanced stages, are the ones at fault in this; for we are constantly pulling to get recruits from the primal grade; the Chapter from the Lodge, and the Commandery from the Chapter; and frequently a young man is pulled through the whole course so rapidly that he is so confused on arriving at the end of the journey, that he remains bewildered ever after. The best antidote to all these troubles is to take a hint from operative Masonry. If a man wants to build him a fine house, and have it firm and perfect when completed, he lets the timbers season before he commences to build; then he lets the foundation get well settled before he commences the superstructure, and so on through each stage of the process. If we acted on the same principle, and were not in so much haste, we could have much finer men in all our organizations; and all the members would feel their responsibility and know their place better. What littleness of spirit is evinced by any jealousy, strife or contention between any of the grades, save that noble emulation of "who can best work and best agree."

The key note in all is the same. "The Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man;" and it is a shame if all can not sing in harmony on that scale. Now these ideas suggest work; that there is no let up in the push of duty, no halt in the march of endeavor. The worst trouble of all is that so many conclude that the whole scheme was done up in far gone years, and all there is for them to do is to believe implicitly, and chant the service according to ancient regulations, as the ancient ideas about the occupation of the saints were that they had nothing to do but sing psalms and loaf about the throne. Masons are men and integers of that denomination, or else poor Masons. From the candidate at the outer door of the ground floor, to the occupant of the most exalted station, is demanded manliness, and a normal state of progression means a constant development of all the qualities which go to form the stature of perfect manhood. It is demanded that the head of any Masonic body shall be a man of large heart, clear head, and cultured mind. Capable of commanding attention, possessing the genius to inspire enthusiasm, the character to win respect, the disposition to conciliate, and the faculty to impart instruction and give interest to all the exercises, and especially to have ideas of his own sufficient to originate ways and means to make the meetings attractive, so that all will understand and feel that if absent, they will lose something which they cannot afford to forego. Thus managed the Order will grow with attraction for the best of men. Now, sirs, you have a glimpse of the estimate placed upon this Institution, and of the desire to see it not only hold its rank, but advance to the highest position in the estimation of all whose esteem is worth having;