

Result, expulsion ; by a vote declared unanimous through the minority, not daring to brave the fierce spirit which reigned ; and comforting themselves with the assurance that it would be useless, beside stirring up strife in the church ; did not vote at all.

But one point was gained, notwithstanding Freemasonry received the best vindication the promising talent of the young man could give it ; for it would be carrying the matter a little too far, to deny him the right of self defence, when there was no other to speak for him. To the wholesale and sweeping charge made by Mr. Allwise, that the Masons were a set of thieves and robbers, clanned together for mutual protection in their nefarious business, Charley replied, that the archives of Masonry showed John the Baptist, and John the Evangelist, to have been Master Masons. But as that would not be believed by the profane, or uninitiated, it was known to all, who were not too full of prejudice and spite to inquire, that Geo. Washington, the Father of his Country ; La Fayette, the distinguished French patriot ; and many of the best men among statesmen, moralists, philanthropists ; and even many of the most celebrated ministers of the Gospel, were also Masons. " And," continued the accused, " take the men of your own acquaintance who make no secret of the fact that they belong to the Order ; with many of whom you are well acquainted ; and what better class of citizens have we among us ? What better Christians than many of them ? " And when he triumphantly asked, " Are all these men, with the immortal Washington at their head, ' thieves and robbers ? ' are they banded together merely to carry on their ' nefarious business ? ' " there was a marifest sensation, and many turned uneasily in their seats.

But what power has logic, in the presence of such willful predetermination : when, the assembly was convened not to determine what was to be done, but to do a certain thing, already decided upon. And so he was expelled.

Impelled by a feeling of sheer desperation, he now determined to know the end. And he did ; in due time he was " passed " to the degree of Fellow Craft ; and then " raised " to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. And to him it was a *sublime* degree : before he had admired Masonry, now he extolled it ; before he was its apologist, now its brave defender. And when, having been forbidden his father's house, he wrote him, to say, that he found in Masonry only that which commanded his admiration and love ; that he had been unwarrantably and cruelly persecuted ; and by those who should have been his best friends ; and that he could renounce so excellent an institution simply because of the blind misconception of even his own relatives ; the old gentleman read it, mainly because he hoped to find in it the coveted renunciation which would afford him the opportunity for which he longed, of folding his son to his heart again ; and it cost him a severe struggle than he had anticipated, to decide that his own, formerly truthful son, was willfully lying to him. But a consideration of what it would cost him to take sides with his boy, decided him ; and he went on in the tenor of his very sad and uneven way, as before.

Consoling himself for the loss of his old friends, so dear to him, by the acquisition of his new ones among the Masonic brethren, some two years passed away in the life of the young man ; when a new chapter of events began to open up.

Sarah Brownell had rapidly sank into decline ; and being the idol of