

hours were far ayont the twa," and when wages were due to none, the company separated.

The proceedings were marked with much harmony and good feeling, and was a splendid exemplification of how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

IS THE POPE A FREEMASON?

This is a question which has been asked more than once within the past very few years. Subjoined are the principal items of information which we have been able to gather towards its elucidation.

The *Fra Paolo Sarpi* of Venice, as quoted by the *World* of New York on the 10th February, says:

"Freemasons will be interested to know that Mastai Ferretti, better known as Pope Pius IX, once belonged to their order, having joined it in Philadelphia when he was a Papal Nuncio to this country, and that he continued to be a Mason two years after he became Pope. These assertions are made on the authority of the *Fra Paolo Sarpi* of Venice, a Catholic journal devoted to ecclesiastical reform, and if true, they are certainly very peculiar, especially when taken in connection with the well-known devotional character of the Pope in his earlier years."

In August 1868, *Le Monde Maconnique* of Paris, published an article headed 'Initiation de Pie IX,' containing a letter addressed by the Masons of Messina in 1865, to the Very Rev. M. Aglotti, capitularly Vicar of that diocese. It asserts that *Mastai Ferretti*, while Gregory XVI was Pope, was sent on a mission to America, North and South. After this mission was finished, M. Ferretti went to Philadelphia, and there remained some time. He was then made a Mason. The letters proceeded to give his speeches on Masonic occasions, in which he extols Masonry, and thus expresses himself: "I am fully convinced that Masonry is one of the best, *"plus belles"* associations that is known in the world." Again this letter gives on another occasion the following addresses spoken by M. Ferretti: "I shall ever be a warm defender of this sublime order, whose mission is to moralize the universe and to relieve and protect suffering (abandonnee), humanity."

A copy of this number of *Le Monde* was specially sent the same year to the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, (R.W. Richard Vaux), with a request from the Editor that *Le Monde* might be furnished with a certified copy of the facts and proceedings of the Lodge initiating M. Ferretti.

The Grand Master replied that he previously heard a rumour of the nature referred to, but had never given it credence. He would however cause a search to be made in the records and report the result.

Search was accordingly made by the R. W. Grand Secretary of the