

A WOMAN'S SPEECH ON MASONRY.

On St. John's Day, in June, 1885, Bradford Lodge, No. 42, of Starke, Bradford County, Florida, celebrated the anniversary in a most interesting and profitable manner.

We had been so accustomed to what may be called the conservatism of Freemasonry, that never a woman has been called upon for a speech, on any occasion limited to Masonic ceremonies, save one, when we were present.

Why not, we do not undertake to explain, but our Florida brethren were fortunate, both in the opportunity and speaker, as reported by Rev. J. A. Castel, Chaplain of the lodge.

Among the toasts offered on the occasion, was one common enough at Masonic banquets, but rarely so well responded to, as by Mrs. Hunter, wife of Bro. Ralph E. Hunter, Secretary of Bradford Lodge, "in extenso," in response to the sentiment offered to "Woman."

Worshipful Master, Brothers and Sisters—Permit me, in the names of all the mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of Masons, to thank you for these, your kind expressions of sentiment and feeling, and I trust that you may ever find those of our sex who are in any way allied to you "help-meets indeed."

It is true that your code of laws is so arranged that you do not permit us to enter within the veil to solve the mysteries that envelope the tie that binds you (for there has been but one, Miss St. Leger, chronicled as a "Free and Accepted Mason"); but we can see the works and workings of the Order. "By their fruits shall ye know them." Yes, brothers, by their fruits. How silently cometh forth the leaves of the trees; first the bud, then the leaves and the blossom, and then the fruit. Silently does the great Architect perform his work, but how effectual! So with Masonry;

with a charity that vaunteth not, it distributes blessings on every hand, just as silently, but just as effectual.

We cannot speak of the inner workings of the Order, but we can speak of its outside works. To-day thousands of widows and orphans are thanking God on bended knees for the blessed Order of Masonry.

How many destitute widows have been sustained in their hour of trial by the kind and brotherly hand of Masonry!

How many orphans have been reared and educated to the same power!

How many weary beds of sickness and death have been attended by mercy in the form of Masonry—speaking in words of consolation, lifting up the fainting heart and almost despairing soul, and how many strangers' graves have been surrounded by sympathizing mourners, because the simple words "a brother," had been whispered.

What other Order has remained intact (with but one Morgan) from the days of Solomon until now, and who can estimate the good that has been accomplished in all those years? None but the puissant Architect of it all.

Sisters, let us thank God to-day that our husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons are Masons. We can look at the future and "fear not," our king cometh and our protectors are always near.—*Liberal Freemason.*

On the 6th of April, ultimo, Bro. A. G. Cunningham was installed as Worshipful Master of St. Andrews' Lodge, No. 1, Halifax, N. S., one of the oldest Masonic lodges in Canada. Its existence began in 1768, and it has had a continued record of honor and usefulness up to the present time. A zealous membership rejoice in the prestige derived from former days, and are thus moved to do the best work that now devolves upon them.—*Freemasons' Repository.*