

prevented from furnishing the corpse in a shooting scrape.

Afterwards, on meeting, we never spoke, and an armed neutrality was kept up between us, which was ready to be broken on the slightest provocation, and undoubtedly one or both of us would have been killed.

Some time afterwards I made application to the Masonic lodge; was elected and during the initiation, on being brought to light, the first thing my eyes rested on was not the three great lights, but Mr. (now brother) Blank. Our eyes met, and as soon as the occasion would warrant, he came forward, and tendering me his hand, said:

"I know what you are thinking of but I am not the kind of man you take me for. I know of no good reason why you should not be a Mason. I have nothing against you except our personal difficulty, and I never allow my prejudices to influence my ballot in masonry."

I was thunderstruck and abashed, for I didn't even know that he was a mason. I made ample apologies, and we became the best of friends. Either of us would have risked his life in the cause of the other if necessary.

Now, my brethren, he was a better man than I, for I, could not have been so forgiving and generous. And whenever I see what I consider a good man blackballed, I feel like telling this story.

#### SIGN OF DISTRESS IN TIME OF WAR.

During the memorable raid that Grant's army made on Petersburg, Va., on the 2nd of April, 1865, when Lee's lines were broken a young man lay in the road severely wounded, and when without a moments warning, a company of Federal cavalymen rode upon him, he saw death staring him in the face.

His first thought was that possibly there might be a Mason even among the enemy approaching, and he gave a sign of distress, known only to masons, and then a Federal captain quickly rode

to his side, dismounted, stood there, and parted his company in the centre, they passing by him without molesting him in the least. He was quietly picked up, though a prisoner, and taken to the rear and tenderly cared for, and in the course of time was entirely restored to strong and robust health.

It is needless to say that though thirty years have passed since this notable occurrence took place, Bro. H. W. Mason, now a prominent citizen of Rockwall, Texas; a physician enjoying a large and lucrative practice, has made repeated efforts to learn the name and residence of the Federal captain who befriended him in the time of need, and it is hoped that this item may fall under the eyes of some one familiar with the occurrence.—*Squar and Compass, New Orleans.*

#### FOREVER A MASON.

The following interesting decision was passed upon by Philip S Malcolm, while Grand Master of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Oregon, during the last Masonic year. He says:

"The Worspiful Master of one of our Lodges sent me a letter, from which I extract the following:

"It being in violation of the law of the holy Catholic Church, of which I am a member, to belong to a secret order, and to continue in such, one must give up one or the other. I will not give up my religion under any consideration. Therefore, there is nothing left to do but to give up the Order. So, I humbly beg of you, to request that I may be excluded from the Order."

"I instructed the Master as follows: A man who has been regularly made a mason remains a mason forever, unless expelled from the Order by proper authority, after due trial and conviction. I believe the proper course in this case is to treat his application as asking for a demit, and as he has removed from our jurisdiction, and is clear of the books of your Lodge, there is no reason why it should not be granted. If he