

MASONRY'S MISSION NOW.

We are in troublous times. The sky of the commercial world is dark. Clouds have arisen. As a speck they appeared in the far west and have come eastwardly, gathering blackness and danger in their course. The breeze of discontented labor has grown to a storm of fearful magnitude. As the hurricane that spreads desolation on every side, it threatens some of the greatest interests of the land. Unchecked, it will spread its canopy over our whole land, and bring distress and famine and every sort of evil upon us. The outlook is certainly unpropitious. There is, perhaps, no doubt that the workingman has much to complain of. There is no doubt there are many hardships they have endured.

In many instances, perhaps, necessity has compelled them to submit to indignities that they should resent. They have seen days of suffering and hard work. They have, it may be, not had all that was their due; but how is it to be remedied? Will destruction of property secure it? Certainly not; for in the destruction of property the very means of securing employment is destroyed. Just demands made in a firm spirit, will do much more than force of arms.

What, then, can Masonry do now? Masonry teaches peace, moderation, submission to rightful rule. It abhors discord and riot. It discounts rebellion. It holds up the scales of justice in the face of the whole world. There are Masons on both sides of this question. There are Masons among the capitalists, there are Masons among the laborers. These men ought to be brought together; for Masonry places all men on the level. All Masons, rich and poor, meet upon the level. All Masons should act by the plumb. And if the magnates will meet with their employes, and in the spirit of Ma-

sonry, yielding to what is right on both sides; the question of labor and capital will be settled on a basis of peace and unity. Masonry frowns upon the oppression of the poor, hardworking mechanic, and equally upon the wicked revolt of the laborer, who, taking the law into his own hands, destroys property that is not his own. Masonry should now stand as a mediator between these two mighty forces, and by the exercise of its mild, but firm policy, speak peace and bring harmony out of discord. This can be done. The Masons in the Knights of Labor and the Masons in the Knights of Money, can meet upon the level, and forgetting the difference in position in a worldly point, can settle the troubles between them; for just as surely as the Masons on both sides look at the question from an unbiased standpoint, and in the spirit of justice as taught by the Order, they can agree. Masonry belts the world, and its influence can be made to be felt in every clime and among all people. Let Masonry promote peace and fraternity, and aid to bind up the wounds and heal the breaches between labor and capital.
—N. Y. Dispatch.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

What can be done to secure better attendance at lodge meetings?

First, select intelligent and earnest officers; those in whom the brethren and community have confidence. They should also be "bright" in their duties. Few, indeed, will long take the trouble to attend lodge and listen to the absurd butchering of a beautiful ceremony. The more intelligent a man is, the less patience he has with ignorance at the column of "wisdom." In this enlightened age, officers cannot be successful without reading, to keep up with the Masonic news and other information. Hence, some of the many periodicals should