

to me the Brother's credentials were not sufficient ; but, after careful enquiry and correspondence with admitted authorities in this and other Jurisdictions, I found that the Supreme Council of France A. & A.S.R., is a legitimate Body, and is in no manner connected with the Grand Orient of France, which latter Body we do not recognize as legitimate. I find that the late King of Hawaii was a member of the Lodge mentioned, and that anyone hailing from the Supreme Council, or from any of its subordinates, is entitled to recognition. I relate this merely for information, and in order that Subordinate Lodges may understand that Brethren claiming under Supreme Council of France, A. & A.S.R., are entitled to Masonic intercourse with them ; but otherwise, if they claim under the Grand Orient of France."

R. W. Bro. Edwin H. Van Patten delivered a very eloquent and flowery "oration," the part which we prefer being its conclusion which reads as follows :—

If I mistake not, it is the universal experience of all who, having belonged to other orders, become Masons, that the seriousness and solemnity of the work impresses them more, perhaps, than any other one thing. And why should it not? Life itself is a solemn thing, and cover it up as well as we can with roses or pleasure, disguise the fact as we may for a season with jest and song, it can never alter the fact one iota, or put off the ravages of time for a single moment.

We are told that the ancient Egyptians often placed a skeleton in their banqueting halls, in order that even in the midst of their revelry they might be reminded of the ultimate fate of the physical man. The idea shocks our sense of propriety ; but if it served a useful purpose and acted as a check on frivolity and needless levity, why was it not a good thing ?

As Masons, we acknowledge a serious purpose in life. We obligate ourselves upon the Holy Bible to purposes that are noble, and accept principles that are as enduring as time itself. We are taught that

" Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal "

And the star of truth ever shining above our consecrated altars is but the earnest of that hope which reaches beyond the grave to the boundless realms of eternity.

Masonry has a double mission. It makes us better individuals, and alleviates the sorrows of others. It teaches that universal love which ennobles both recipient and donor. It whispers the word of friendly admonition in the ear of the erring, and in silence and secrecy drops its charities in the hand of poverty, with a touch so delicate that it relieves without humiliation.

It binds its votaries in an ever increasing bond of sacred union. Strand after strand is added, until the cable is impossible to be broken.