

A QUAKER FREEMASON.

In the address delivered on the 24th of June, 1857, at the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of St. John's Lodge, No. 2, of Providence, R. I., Past Grand Master Randall related the following incident which occurred in the days of Anti-Masonry:

"There were, in those dark times, many instances of individual firmness. Of these, I will relate one. You know that it is contrary to the discipline of the Society of Friends to allow any of these members to join the Masonic Fraternity. Nevertheless, not a very few of that persuasion have, at different times and places, entered the Order. Among others, there was one Quaker Preacher in the westerly part of the State, who had six sons, all of whom were Freemasons. By some means Levi, for that was his name, finally found his way into our mystic pale. The Friends discovered, at last, that he had been initiated, and accordingly sent a committee of two, *Abraham* and *Joseph*, to express their concern to their erring Brother, and to obtain from him an assurance of fidelity to the articles of discipline.

"Abraham, who was the spokesman, after having stated that they had come as a committee of the Friends' Meeting, said:

"Levi, we understand that thou art a Freemason."

"I have had the reputation, Abraham, of being a Freemason, for these twenty years."

"But wilt thou tell us, Levi, whether thou art a Mason?"

"No Abraham, I will not tell thee whether I am or not."

"Shall we tell the Meeting, Levi, that thou dost renounce Freemasonry?"

"No, Abraham: I will not. *I will see thee condemned first!*"

"The committee left him and reported to the Meeting; but Levi continued to preach and was no more molested after that."

WIFE, CHILDREN AND FRIENDS.

BRO. THOS. J. CORSON, of New Jersey, was compelled to prepare his Report on Foreign Correspondence, to his Grand Chapter, while under the affliction of temporary blindness; and he thus beautifully expresses himself when appreciating the benefits of wife, children and friends, as his daughter acted as amanuensis for him:

"For nearly three months (most of which time I was compelled to sit with bandaged eyes in a darkened room) I was confined to my house by a severe disease of the eyes (*Iritis*), which deprived me of the ability of reading or writing. And even now the sight is so much impaired (which impairment I have reason to hope will eventually be greatly relieved if not entirely removed) that reading and writing are performed with such great difficulty that these luxuries (and none can tell, until deprived of these pleasures, what luxuries they are,) have to be indulged in very sparingly. But though the eye may be dimmed for a time, the heart has lost none of its zeal for the good cause; nor has it abated one jot or tittle of its interest in all that concerns the welfare of our beloved institution, and its love for Masonry and Masons can never grow cold while life lasts.

While I have a very vivid recollection of the intense pain which the disease inflicted, and while I shall not very soon forget the sad condition to which I was reduced, when my wife and children were indeed eyes to the blind and hands to the helpless, still I shall never cease to remember with devout gratitude the many comforts which surrounded me. The gentle ministrations of those about me, and the warm sympathy of friends, showing itself by numberless acts of kindness, sank deep into my heart, and taught me that human love is an emanation from a Divine source.

O! Companions, earth is indeed the vestibule of Heaven, while we have such comforts as Wife, Children and Friends."

"When the black lettered list to the gods was presented,

A list of what Fate for each mortal intends;

At the long string of ills a kind angel relented.

And slipped in three blessings, Wife, Children and Friends.

"In vain angry Pluto affirmed he was cheated,

That justice divine could not compass its ends,

The scheme of man's doom he maintained was defeated,

For earth becomes Heaven, with Wife, Children and Friends.

"If the stock of our bliss be in strangers' hands vested,

The fund ill secured oft in bankruptcy ends;

But the heart issues bills that are never protested,

When drawn on the firm of Wife, Children and Friends."