

A Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada which had been in the habit of celebrating the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist by a little social supper, until last year had been in the habit of inviting the ladies of the members to join them. Last St. John's Day the Lodge pursued the same niggardly course, but the ladies were not to be outwitted, and on Tuesday evening, after the Lodge was closed and the brethren were duly seated at their table, word came to them one by one that their wives, sisters, etc., wished to see them at the house of a brother not far distant from the Lodge-room. On entering the house they found the ladies enjoying themselves at their oyster supper, and the gentlemen were politely invited to be seated and partake of their bounty. There never was a more badly sold lot of Masons than they were, and they vowed the ladies would grace their tables at the next 27th of December festival.

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#### London Masonic Mutual Benefit Society.

An alarming rumor was current a few days ago to the effect that the highly esteemed secretary of the above society, R. W. Bro. H. A. Baxter, was \$18,000 short in his cash. This created quite a stir among the members of the society, those knowing the brother and the manner in which the financial affairs of the institution are conducted feeling certain that there must be a terrible mistake somewhere, and so it proves, as the following paragraph from the *London Advertiser* will convince every one:

"Somewhere out west there exists, or struggles for existence, a Mutual Benefit Society whose affairs are sadly in want of reconstruction. A short time ago the secretary became disgusted with the prospect, put on his hat, locked the office door and threw

the key in the well, and has not since been heard of. The company is only \$18,000 short, but that is nothing in the flourishing State of Missouri. The *Toronto Mail*, in its anxiety to grapple with the floating rumor, jumps on the item in a promiscuous manner. Without making the slightest enquiry it announces in Saturday's issue of that paper that 'the secretary of the Masonic Mutual Benefit Society is reported to be \$18,000 short.' It is no wonder, then, that R. W. Bro. Baxter, secretary of the society in this city, is nearly driven to his wits' end answering communications pouring in from all parts of the country, enquiring as to his whereabouts and the solidity of the society. The president, Col. Lewis, is likewise pestered with scores of anxious enquirers as to the health and present post-office address of Bro. Baxter. It is very annoying, and all the more so since the worthy president stands the postage himself. Bro. Baxter would like to get hold of the man that set up the word 'Masonic' for 'Missouri.' 'The idea,' he says, of our splendid institution being short \$18,000, when every one knows, or ought to know, that we have a reserve fund of \$34,000, and all bearing good interest. If I could only lay my hands,' etc."

It is unnecessary for us to add that the society is in a flourishing condition—that its affairs are very well and carefully managed—and that R. W. Bro. Baxter is one of the most careful and efficient secretaries to be found in connection with any financial association in the Dominion. It happens at times that good comes out of evil, and we look for that result in this instance; for as bad news travels fast, and this foundationless report has doubtless gone all over Canada, the contradiction of it will be as general. In any event, the members of the London Masonic Mutual Benevolent Society can depend upon it that their interests are in good hands and will always be carefully protected.