

which embraces the best men of every nation, in every station of life, and whose principles are as enduring as the church in which you make so loud professions; for, like the church, its great light is the holy Scripture, by which we are taught Faith, Hope and Charity; and the greatest of these is Charity, for it extends beyond the grave through the boundless realms of eternity.

"By the exercise of brotherly love we are taught to regard the whole human race as one great family; the high and low, rich and poor; who as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support and protect each other. On this principle, Masonry unites men of every clime, sect and opinion, and cements true friendship between those who otherwise might remain for ever at a distance from each other. It is the duty of every Mason to relieve the distressed but especially a brother Mason. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim Masonry has in view.

"It encourages fortitude, teaches prudence, practices temperance and endeavors to administer justice without distinction. It commands charity and practises charity; and while I honor, esteem and love the church, I equally honor, esteem and love masonry. Masonry teaches us not to scoff at other men's opinions however different from our own; not to traduce the character of those who choose to worship the Almighty in their own chamber; not to speak ill of our neighbors; not to blaspheme; but ever to extend the hand of charity, that shall give to the sick and distressed wherever found, of whatever nation, from whatever clime, so long as they are worthy. Such, Mr. Winslow, is Masonry."

The scene was a remarkable one during the utterance of the remarks by Father Pearson. David Winslow was astonished to find so earnest and ardent a defender of Masonry, for while he knew Mr. P. occasionally argued with him on his favorite topic in rather an evasive way, he little dreamed that he was a member of the despised fraternity.

The younger Winslow dropped his saw, and seemed to take in every word that was uttered; and it was evident from his manner that he was not satisfied with so meagre a statement, for he desired to know more about the brethren who assembled to build the Temple at Jerusalem. He determined to have a confidential talk with Father Pearson at the first opportunity; but it did not occur as soon as he expected.

The next morning dawned hot and sultry, and as soon as the breakfast was over he hurried to the shop in hopes to meet Father Pearson before seven o'clock. But at arriving at his place of labor he was disappointed not to find Pearson at his accustomed place. The forenoon passed, but the faithful Mason did not come to finish his designs for the Workmen. At noon young Winslow, knowing the punctuality of Father Pearson when well, surmised that the heat had been too excessive for his friend, so on his journey to dinner he passed a little out of his to his own home to call at the humble cottage of Mr. Pearson, and ascertain the cause of his absence.

He seized carefully the old-fashioned bronze knocker and let it fall one, two, three times, and again once. Soon a light step was heard inside, and the door was opened by Miss Alice Pearson, Mr. P.'s only daughter, who pleasantly bade him "Come in!" Young Winslow declined, but said he had called to learn why her father had been absent from the shop. She replied that her father had been very sick all night—that he was overcome by the extreme heat—and she feared at