

The contributions in the District of Ottawa, G. R. Quebec, are scarcely known beyond the members of the craft and those, who have been the recipients : for the scriptural injunction, of 'not letting the left hand know, what the right hand doeth,' is striven to be carried out. One of the hospitals of Ottawa can vouch for the equipment of a bed by Eddy Lodge ; and in other towns and cities works of relief are performed by lodges and by individuals with similar quietness and unostentation. Allow me to say a few words about the hospital for sick children in Toronto. Three hundred and ten lodges have contributed to this hospital amounts varying from \$5.00 to \$50.00 each. Twenty-four Royal-Arch Chapters, ten Preceptories of Knights Templar and one Temple of the Shrine, have also made contributions. During the twelve months, ending 20th November, 1897, five hundred and sixty children have been cared for as indoor patients, and four thousand two hundred have received medical attendance ; and this was all free. One of the Past Grand Masters of Toronto, Jno. Ross Robertson, M.P., has given, of his own private means, to this noble institution, a total of \$60,000.00. In England a call was made upon the different lodges for voluntary contributions as a New Year's offering for charitable purposes. The lodges cheerfully responded to the call ; and the amounts laid on the various masonic altars totalled up the magnificent sum of \$6,000,000.00. But, in spite of this fact, some of our Canadian press have stated, that free-masonry had but little influence in the mother country and was fast dying out.

Let me make a few practical remarks upon this principle of relief. When masons meet together in social converse around the festive board, there are three different customs as to the use of intoxicating liquors. In some regions it is contrary to the constitution and, therefore, impossible to have them. In other places the members mutually agree to keep them away upon such occasions ; while in another class the matter is optional. It may not be un-masonic to allow liquor upon festive occasions, but it is decidedly contrary to the spirit of masonry for three reasons. It is very apt to turn many people against us, who would otherwise be our friends. It puts a sharp weapon in the hands of our enemies, which they will not fail to use at every possible opportunity ; and it is a great temptation to those, who are more or less overcome by it, and whose safety consists in letting it alone. Those, who are in the habit of taking intoxicating liquors should deny themselves upon these occasions for the good of others, and conform to the injunction of the sacred word :—"We, that are strong, ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves." The third fundamental principle of free-masonry is truth or adherence to veracity in all our thoughts, words and actions. Gladstone has said, that "truth is the expression of the divine mind." We have scientific truth, logical truth and moral truth. Scientific truth is the realization of the results of nature's laws, and is connected with the successes of the mind in working out the great problems propounded by these laws. Logical