

MASONIC HOME.—"A bequest of one thousand dollars has been left to the Home (in Philadelphia) by Bro. Jos. Kinike, of Mt. Moriah Lodge, this city, who died suddenly at Asbury Park, N. J., on July 22nd last. Bro. Kinike is thus the first to recognize this great Masonic Charity in his last will and testament, and Mt. Moriah Lodge may be proud of his name being upon its roll of members. Our brother has been noted for many years for the interest he manifested in the charitable institutions of Philadelphia. He was one of those honest, liberal-minded, open-handed Germans, respected by all who knew him, and whose loss will be widely felt among his acquaintances. He took a lively interest in Freemasonry, until recently was seldom absent from the meetings of his lodge, and was for many years its Treasurer. The Masonic Home enlisted his sympathies, of which his liberal bequest is a proof. May other brethren follow his example.—*Keystone*. So mote it be.

THE FRATERNAL SPIRIT.—There is a peculiarity about Masons and Masonry which stamps it as a divine institution. If a Mason should be thrown among strangers, sick or in distress, though he may be a staunch member of some popular church, his first appeal will be to a Masonic Lodge or to some Masonic brother, in preference to his church or a member of it.

This fact is conclusive evidence that every Mason learns well the lessons of the Order, that his fellows are indeed his brothers. It also shows that the various church organizations have failed to impress their members with the same grand truth, and that there is a sad defect, or want of practical teaching, upon this all-important subject.

IN the May number of *Loomis' Masonic Journal* the position of Hiram Lodge, No. 1, New Haven, whose charter has been revoked by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, is stated at length in the form of an "address to the Freemasons of Connecticut," adopted by a unanimous vote of the members of Hiram Lodge, at a meeting held April 7th, last. The "address" charges the Grand Lodge with an assumption of power in attempting to change the ancient form of work, and justifies the officers and members of Hiram Lodge in refusing to obey an edict of the Grand Lodge in favor of the new departure. The cause for the attempted coercion of Hiram Lodge being this "illegal and unjustifiable assumption of power," it is further argued that all the steps taken to enforce the edict are without authority. For the good of Masonry, and in behalf of the rights of all subordinate Lodges in the State, Hiram Lodge asserts its determination to resist the Grand Lodge in its attempt to interfere with the ancient form of work.

BLUE MASONRY.—The first Three Degrees are clothed in or ornamented with blue, from whence the name is derived. The following degrees have not the same uniformity in their outward appearance. Blue is the color of truth or fidelity; and it is a remarkable fact that the Brethren have ever remained true to the Blue Degrees, while the authority of the other degrees has often been disputed, and in many places altogether denied. Under the reign of William III. of England, blue was adopted as a favorite color of the Craft.

As William III. commenced his reign as King of England, February 18, 1669, and died March 8, 1702, the adoption of the blue color by the Craft is at least a century and three-quarters old.—*The Trower*.