

Florentine galleries, and filling them with glowing pictures from the pencil of the Divine Artist Himself.

But females, if they cannot be admitted to our Lodges, are not infrequently invited to participate in our banquets, and sit at the festive board by the side of their husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers. True, a Table Lodge is not opened, and we do not communicate to them any of our secrets, but we share our social joys with them, and they participate in our Refreshment, if not in our Labor. This is a practice that we should be glad to see observed more frequently.

Even when woman is denied a place at the Banquet-board we may still sing :

"As Brothers we are met for mirth and delight,
And joy the bright hours of our Banquet shall fill;
Though woman, dear woman, be absent this night,
The spell of her beauty is over us still.

"Though shut from our Lodges by ancient decree,
In spite of our laws woman there bears her part;
For each Mason, I'm sure, will tell you, with me,
That her form is enshrined, and reigns in his heart.

"'Twas wisely ordained by our Order of old,
To tile fast the door, spite entreaties and sighs;
For once in our Lodge, she would rule uncontrolled,
And govern the Craft by the light of her eyes.

"Think not that in mysteries alone we delight,
Or that selfishness ever our fond hearts can fill,
Though woman, dear woman, be absent to-night,
The spell of her beauty is over us still."—*Philadelphia Keystone.*

COUNSEL TO LIVE MASONICALLY.

BEFORE concluding my address, the last probably which it will be my privilege to present to you, permit me to refer briefly to the importance of a faithful adherence in principle and practice to the sacred tenets and cardinal virtues of our institution. It may seem trite to say that these are of far greater importance than its ritual; and yet the fact remains and is a reproach to Masonry, that Masons here and there, and among them some who spare no pains to make themselves perfect in the ritual, are sadly indifferent to its moral precepts and obligations. Do not understand me to depreciate the value of high acquirements in the ritual. We should all be bright Masons. Let it be remembered however, that the ritual is only the shadow of the real body of Masonry. It is the casket which contains the jewels of Masonic principle and character. Too many of us carry caskets in which the jewels are either wanting or are so defaced with careless handling that we dare no longer call them jewels.

I am aware that to some Masons these admonitions are distasteful and will probably be received with some impatience. They will say that Masonry is not religion, and that it is not to be so preached and enforced. I answer that it is true that Masonry is not religion, and that any man who accepts it as such makes a mistake which may be fatal to his happiness here and hereafter. But I answer further that Masonry is a pure high toned morality, to the practice of which every brother has voluntarily and in the presence of that God in whom he has avowed his trust, solemnly pledged himself. The obligations thus assumed can not be set aside or neglected without condemnation and loss of character both to the individual and to Masonry.

Further, any brother who after faithful instructions and warning, finds himself unwilling to abandon immoral practices, becomes a proper subject of Masonic discipline, and where a lodge unfortunately includes in its membership a controlling immoral element and influence there can be no question as to the propriety of promptly arresting the charter.

We are not to content ourselves however, with merely abstaining from immorality. It is especially the duty of Masons to carry into daily life the tenets of our profession, which are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It has been represented to me that some of the brethren have been careless in this direction. We should not wait for invitations to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, or rally to the support of a falling brother. Our eyes should be open to see, and our ears open to hear, and our hands ready to supply the needs of those in distress. I am persuaded that any failure in duty in this direction will be found mainly in our larger towns, where the pressure of business and