

brought to a close one of the most pleasing entertainments ever held in the province.

Long driving and the keen frosty air seemed to have quite as marked an effect on the appetites of the Brethren of the Mystic Tie as ordinary mortals, and the rapid disappearance of the abundance of good things was not the least mysterious part of the day's proceedings. Stewards Forsyth and Bell commanded quite a brigade of assistants, who served the table most efficiently. We but do justice to Mr. Christopher Batty, the purveyor of the entertainment, when we accord to him a full meed of praise for the really excellent style in which the *dejeuner* was got up. The Bill of Fare was most liberal and the good taste and elegance with which everything was arranged was highly spoken of by the brethren.

STAND BY YOUR OFFICERS.

Nothing can well be more unfair than to place men in office and then leave them to fight their way through the year as best they may; nothing more unjust than to represent oneself as anxious to participate in the labors of the Craft, to obey its useful rules and regulations, and to be of service to one's fellow creatures, and then step aside and leave the work for some one else to do; yet every observant Mason must be convinced that perhaps in no respect do we so often come short of our duty as in this. It seems to be taken for granted that the officers of a Lodge, will always be at their posts, and that hence the members may stay away without any special detriment to the Lodge, or the well-being of the Craft. But the obligations of the Master and other officers to be at their Lodge meetings is no stronger or more binding than that of the members, and if as a general thing they should do as so many of the brethren do, and having been elected and installed, leave the rest to the chances, we find it difficult to perceive in what way they can be made the subject of greater blame than those who hold no office, but yet have voluntarily promised to labor for the completion of the Temple. Now is a good time to turn over a new leaf on this subject, and to mark out a new path to follow, that by such following Masonry may be made to flourish in our hands, and the world at large be more fully convinced of its good effects. Now is the time to grasp the trowel with a firmer hand, and to spread more effectually the cement of brotherly love and affection; to awaken the apathetic, to encourage the zealous, to be instant in season and out of season in hewing, squaring and numbering, in trying and shaping the blocks and fitting them into the walls of the building, that Masonry may have honour, and the Great Master Builder be glorified in the labor of the Sons of Light. Masonry was never in better standing with the community at large than at this time; it never had larger numbers of adepts, or so much work for them to do.

The times were never more propitious for good work than at present, and the wind never set fairer for a good year's work than at this, the beginning of 1872. Man the ropes, brethren, and square the yards to catch the breeze, and move onward in the path of duty. To many of us the end of this year will not come, we shall fall by the way and others take our places and keep our memories.

Always in the Western sky the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our workingtools and part upon the square.