

has my entire approval. But its application in particular cases must be left to the discretion of the Master of the Lodge. If any error is to be committed, let it be on the side of charity. Our burial service says: "While we drop the sympathetic tear over the grave of our departed Brother, let us cast the mantle of charity over his faults, foibles and errors, whatever they may have been, and not withhold from his memory the praise that his virtues may have claimed. His faults were human. Absolute perfection belongs only to the Almighty. The wisest and best of men in all ages have erred." Assuming, however, that your lodge has not been derelict to its duties—that the conduct of the Brother heretofore has not been such as to make it your duty to prefer charges against him and sever your connection, I should say that if he became irresponsible from the casual and unguarded use of intoxicating liquors, and while in that state terminated his own existence, there was no impropriety in burying him Masonically. But as I said above, it is one of those cases that must be left to the discretion of the Master of the Lodge, subject to the application of the general principles as herein stated. Time was when a suicide was regarded as a *criminal* and was *punished* as such by forfeiture of goods and chattels, and by being buried by the roadside with a stake through his body. But a more enlightened civilization regards such as subjects for pity rather than condemnation.

AFFLICTED WITH THE SAME DISEASE.

"Do you think Masonry ever did you any good, except so far as sociability is concerned?" such was the question asked of a Brother, who, in reply, related the following instance.

"I was travelling in the West a few years ago, and on arriving at the hotel at S—I was attacked by a malady to which I was then subject, rendering me unconscious for several days. During the time of my illness, I received the best of care, both night and day, as my speedy return to consciousness proved. After recovering somewhat from my illness, I asked the landlord the amount of my bill, feeling sure that it would take nearly all the money I had about my person. He came to me, and turning up the left lappel of my vest, disclosing a small Masonic pin, said: 'Nothing, sir; you came to my house a sick brother, and it was duty and pleasure to nurse you back to life and health again.' I remonstrated, but to no avail, he invariably answering with some quotation that reminded me of the obligations we had taken. Finally I said, 'Well, where is the doctor that attended me; he will surely take his pay.' 'I think not, Brother, for he is afflicted with the same disease,' (meaning Masonry). I found upon investigation that the landlord was right, the doctor being determined to receive no pay 'for doing his duty,' as he expressed it. As long as I live shall I remember with gratitude those two Brothers, who remembered their obligations and did for a sojourning Brother even as though he was a near and dear relative. I tell you this feeling of fraternity that extends over the whole surface of the earth and reaches high into heaven can not be valued by mere dollars and cents."—*Repository*.

OLD MASONS.

The Masonic Token has the following:—We call the attention of the *St. Louis Freemason* to the fact that David Stiles, noticed in their August number, died Sept. 24, 1873, aged 108.

Since our last, we find by the following extract from Bro. Skinner's history of Waterville Lodge, that they not only have a Mason older than Peter Talbot, of East Machias (Oct. 1806), but one who was made a year before Stephen Trowbridge, of Millford, Conn. (1805):

Col. Reuben Hayes Green, of Winslow, opposite Waterville, was born in Dover, N. H., August 20, 1783, and took his Masonic degrees in Saco Lodge, in this State, in the early autumn of 1804, immediately after arriving at his majority, so that if his life is spared a few days longer, he will have reached the first year of his age, and his 70th year as a mason. He possesses uncommon vigor of mind and body, and enjoys a remarkable degree of comfort in his beautiful home on the banks of the Kennebec.

We find that Edward Howe, the oldest in Portland, was initiated in Portland Lodge in February, 1806.

Hon. James Garland, of Lynchburg, Va., was initiated in 1812, and is claimed as the oldest in Virginia.

Capt. John Knight, of Manchester, Mass., was made in 1801 or 1802, and is the oldest in the country, so far as we hear. David Stiles was initiated in 1797, and if there is one living who was made between 1797 and 1801 we should like to put him on record.

Daniel Bostwick died in Jersey City in September. He was made a Mason by Union Lodge of Stamford, Conn., in 1805, and was an active member of the Order up to the time of his death.