

ness of the applicant, there would soon be but few frauds on the road. In cities the general plan of having a Masonic Relief Board, to which all applicants for assistance are sent, has been worked very successfully in many of them. These Boards are generally composed of prominent brethren of the several Lodges of the city. Here, brethren of experience employ every means possible to dispense charity in a systematic manner. The Board selects some brother for his peculiar fitness for the place, and makes it his duty to investigate all applications for relief, and the applicant is temporarily provided for, if necessary, until he is satisfied whether help should be extended or not. The charity fund is created by a small assessment per capita on the membership of each Lodge, made quarterly or semi-annually as the funds may be required. In this way the burden is pro-rated among the Lodges, and each bears its proportionate share. No better plan for helping the worthy, needy brother, detecting the unworthy, and distributing the burden so that each Lodge shall contribute its just share, could be devised.

FOR THE CRAFTSMAN.]

MASONIC CHARITY.

BY A. BORNGASSER.

Charity is one of the cardinal virtues of Freemasonry, it is the light which reflects the life of a true Freemason. To stretch forth your hands to assist a brother whenever it is in your power, to be always ready to go anywhere to serve him, to offer up your warmest petitions for his welfare, to open your breasts and hearts to him, to aid him with your best coun-

cil and advice, to soothe the anguish of his soul and betray no confidence—he reposes in you, to use your utmost endeavours to prevent him from falling, to relieve his wants as far as you are able, without injuring yourselves or your families; in short mutually to support and assist each other, and earnestly to promote one another's interests, are duties incumbent upon every true Freemason; unfortunately they are too often forgotten and too frequently neglected. But there is no occasion for advocating charity to you, my brethren; are you not all Masons, the sons of mercy, and does not charity herself within your breasts plead her own cause? Does she not tell you to look upon the whole world as one family, and every individual has a just claim upon your kind offices; that the Divine Artificer has thus created you for the preservation of harmony in the system of things which his unerring wisdom has thought fit to establish; that it is not to your own immediate endeavours to which you are indebted for what you enjoy; that the diligence by which you have acquired, or the genius by which you have commanded the goods of fortune were given to you by the Supreme Benevolence; and given, not as emoluments to yourselves only, or only to be employed for your own advantage. Remember He is the Father of all, that he regards the whole human family as his children, nor excludes the meanest from his paternal care; that his mercies, however partially they may seem to be bestowed, are not given for the benefit of a few, but to the whole; if he should therefore, have dealt more favourably with you than with thousands around