

last ; and referring to a person under sentence of temporary separation from the community, along with yourself—'

'Mellicent !' Amelius exclaimed.

'We have no time for interruptions,' Brother Bawkwell remarked. 'The person is Sister Mellicent ; and the business before the Council was to consider a letter, under her signature, received December second. Said letter,' he proceeded, taking up one of his papers, 'is abridged as follows by the Secretary to the Council. In substance, the writer states (First) : "That the married sister under whose protection she has been living at New York is about to settle in England with her husband, appointed to manage the branch of his business established in London. (Second) : That she, meaning Sister Mellicent, has serious reasons for not accompanying her relatives to England, and has no other friends to take charge of her welfare, if she remains in New York. (Third) : That she appeals to the mercy of the Council, under these circumstances, to accept the expression of her sincere repentance for the offence of violating a Rule, and to permit a friendless and penitent creature to return to the only home left to her, her home at Tadmor." No, friend Amelius—we have no time for expressions of sympathy ; the first half of the ten minutes has nearly expired. I have further to inform you that the question was put to the vote, in this form : "Is it consistent with the serious responsibility which rests on the Council, to consider the remission of any sentence justly pronounced under the Book of Rules ?" The result was very remarkable ; the votes for and against being equally divided. In this event, as you know, our laws provide that the decision rests with the Elder Brother—who gave his vote thereupon for considering the remission of the sentence ; and moved the next resolution that the sentence be remitted accordingly. Carried by a small majority. Whereupon, Sister Mellicent was received again at Tadmor.'

'Ah, the dear old Elder Brother,' cried Amelius—'always on the side of mercy !'

Brother Bawkwell held up his hand in protest. 'You seem to have no idea,' he said, 'of the value of time. Do be quiet ! As travelling representative of the Council, I am further instructed to say, that the sentence pronounced against yourself