

The Canadian Craftsman.*Port Hope, October 15, 1888.***BROTHERLY LOVE.**

The principle of brotherly love is one of the most prominent features taught to the neophyte as he passes through our mysteries. It is the sublime link that binds two million men of different nationalities, creeds and colors in one common fraternity. It is the tie that teaches every Mason that he is bound by affection, principle and love to every other member of the Mystic Tie. This is what we teach,—this is what we profess. The question now arises, do we practice it? We ask every Mason to consider well before he hastily answers in the affirmative. There is no doubt but that the vast majority of the brotherhood do individually practice it; but that to which we object is this: that our Sovereign Bodies are not always guided by the golden rule. The miserable, petty jealousies, the wretched spleen, the vile insinuations and recriminations in which governing organizations too often indulge, prove that Masons too frequently allow themselves to be swayed by passion and ruled by prejudice.

In proof of the above, need we again refer to the ridiculous "fights," quarrels and disputes that have occurred between different Rites and Orders of the Craft? Need we point to the efforts (constant and persistent) of old, strong and powerful Grand Lodges to crush out a younger sister, who has just emerged from their respective loins and wishes to set up house-keeping for herself? Why, almost all the leading Masons in Ontario and

Quebec have at some time or another been suspended through the tyranny, bigotry and intolerance of brother Masons. England suspended the leaders in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Canada, when she had the power, returned the compliment by suspending the most prominent Masons in Quebec, when they organized their Grand Lodge, and later still the Hamilton Supreme Grand Council suspended and expelled certain honored Masons, who had long before given up their Rite. Now, this all goes to prove that we are not practicing that brotherly love which we so glibly teach.

We ask now, in all seriousness, if it would not be much more conducive to the benefit of the Craft and honor of the Order, if these disgraceful "squabbles" between the Rites ceased; and if the English Grand Bodies would only act with common decency and courtesy towards their Canadian brethren, how much more in accordance with the divine principle of brotherly love would it be.

It is lamentable to think that through the arrogance of our Rite, and the bigotry and intolerance of a few old country Masons, the peace and harmony of Masonry in the Dominion should be sacrificed. Surely there is no necessity for this constant source of irritation, and we strongly urge upon the rulers of the Craft, at home, to carefully review their past actions and see if they are acting with justice or practicing brotherly love towards their brethren in Canada. Forbearance, they should recollect, will some day cease to be a virtue, and as the water constantly dropping on the marble slab in time leaves a per-