VII

becomes a blank, never to be referred to or mentioned without a sigh or tear of regret."

APPENDIX.

Viewing this extreme punishment thus seriously, a Masonic writer of the last century arrives at the conclusion that—" As long as there is any hope of amendment, the man is rather to be advised than deserted; but if hopeless and irreclaimable, we may and must desert him; but let it be with all the tenderness imaginable, with as much unwillingness and reluctancy as the soul leaves her own distempered body. In such a situation our greatest care must be that our former affection turn not to inveterate hatred; for though the friend be gone, yet still the man remains; and though he has forfeited my friendship, still I owe him common charity." I heartily agree with this true Free Mason!

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