

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

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!