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A CLEAR BALLOT FOR A WIFE.

A STORY FOUNDED ON FACT.

BY W. H. H. E.

A few years ago there resided in the quiet village of C——an earnest, active member of one of the leading churches, whom we shall call for the want of a better name, David Winslow. He was one of those active men who are naturally born to lead, and in the church society he exercised considerable influence in the direction of its affairs, and for one occupying the position he did (being an humble carpenter), was looked up to many for advice and good council. While he was an earnest, ardent and honest worker in the Lord's vineyard, he was equally as honest in opposition to all secret societies, and lost no occasion to make known his objection to them. At the class meeting he prayed fervently to the Great Architect to so enlighten the minds of all men, that they would forsake the errors of their ways and unite with the church in practising those Christian virtues which we are taught to observe.

At the workshop he often held long arguments concerning the evil effects of secret societies on the community; and while he thus argued his eldest son, Hiram, who worked day by day at the same bench, was an attentive listener; and naturally enough, it awoke in his mind a desire to know more of the mysteries of which his father talked.

Mr. Winslow usually directed his conversation to Mr. Henry Pearson, a man of sixty, who, while he held but little argument with his shopmate, would occasionally ask questions in such a manner that, while they related to the teachings of the church, they pointed strongly towards the principles of Free and Accepted Masonry. Thus days and even months passed. Mr. Winslow, whenever an opportunity offered, used to question Father Pearson about the sincerity of Masonry, until Father P. concluded that he ought to plainly tell the scoffer what Masonry was and what it was not; so turning from his bench, where he had been drawing some some designs for a new church edifice, he said: "Mr. Winslow, I have heard you for a long time make light of Masonry, and ridicule its principles; and now I feel it my duty to tell you that you are very far from the truth in your condemnation of a society