

A TOUCHING INCIDENT OF THE BENEFICENCE OF FREE- MASONRY.

During the war between the United States and Great Britain, of A. D. 1812-1814, when, as is well known, there was such a bitter feeling between the two countries, and when hostilities were carried on as intensely as if no community of interests or feeling ever existed between the people of the two nationalities, it is refreshing to be able to cite instances where our common humanity arose above the bitterness of national strife and the animosities of unholy war, and in which the peaceful mission of Freemasonry became a prominent factor.

In the latter part of July, 1812, a number of American prisoners were brought into the port of St. John, New Brunswick, and confined in the county jail. An incident of this kind, at that period, would not ordinarily attract unusual attention, as prisoners were being continually captured on either side and taken into American or British ports; but on this particular occasion it was reported that there were Freemasons among the prisoners here alluded to, and this had its effect upon the brethren of the only Masonic lodge then working in St. John,—St. John's Lodge, No. 29.

On examining the record book of this lodge, containing a minute of the regular communication held August 4th, 1812, I found the following entry:—

"It was proposed and unanimously resolved,—That Bros. Wm. Durant, John Dean and James Holly, be a committee to wait on the American prisoners now confined in the county jail, and if any of them belong to our Ancient Order, to see if we can render them any assistance."

Although there were no Freemasons among the prisoners, and although the charitable impulses of the brethren of St. John's Lodge were

not, in that special instance, called into action, nevertheless the act and intention were impressively illustrative of the universality of Freemasonry, which in this and other ways, humanely influencing her children, and in fulfilment of her beneficent mission, soars above and beyond the narrow prejudices of nationalities, sects and politics, and bearing aloft the olive branch of peace and good will, "soothes the unhappy, sympathizes with their misfortunes, compassionates their miseries, and restores peace to their troubled minds." And thus the brethren of St. John's Lodge, at that time, impelled by such feelings and influenced by such principles, cast aside their political and national animosities to practically carry out the tenets of their Masonic profession.

WM. F. BUNTING.

—Liberal Freemason.

GLEANINGS.

Non-affiliation of long standing is usually regarded among Masons as a serious offense, and is punished by withholding all the rights, benefits and privileges of the fraternity. It is regarded as cheating the lodge and fraternity out of what is fairly due, in moral and financial support. It is a wrong towards needy brothers and distressed widows and orphans dependent upon the fraternity for aid. In short, it is an effort to flank the toll-gate and custom-house, and get to Heaven on a "flowery bed ease," and can hardly be regarded as exactly on the Square.—*Advocate.*

It is said Rev. Mr. Stoddard has been exhibiting around Niagara, the stone which the Marquis tied to Morgan to make his drowning a sure job. The evidence that the stone was used is a trifle weak, but it is at least possible that some Mason wanted to use it that way, and as it is a substantial thing, would have done the business if it had been used.