

and not a mere exercise of courtesy, otherwise it degenerates into a specious fraud. Masons solemnly promise to assist a brother in the hour of his adversity and affliction, to care for his widow, and to ameliorate the condition of his orphan children. Such are our professions before the world, and an affiliate has a legitimate right to demand realization of our promises, while failure to do so degrades our brotherhood in the eyes of the brethren and of the profane. Need we then wonder, seeing our most sacred obligation practically repudiated, conscientious members desert our association, and contemplative outsiders hesitate as to placing reliance upon our charitable declarations, especially as we openly avow an inability to carry them into effect? It does require an individual to be a Mason to lay up a stock of faith or a superfluity of hope, but charity he may need and naturally expects it to be extended to him. Were not our money injudiciously invested in profitless temple buildings, or wasted in idle parades, we would have ample means for charitable purposes, and not present the pitiable spectacle of neglecting our sick or of turning the widow and orphan, ailing and starving, from our Temple doors. The reason for this is that in Masonry, as at present conducted, there is neither economy, system or provision in the management of our revenue, and the cardinal aim of our organization is sacrificed to displays of idle pomp and egotistical vanity consuming all our available finances.—*N.Y. Cor. Stone.*

NOTE.—So much for million dollar temples, and per diem and mileage expenses to Grand Lodge.—*Ed. C.*

PERSONALITIES.

"Brethren, love one another," has been, and ever will be, the best and most beautiful inculcation of Freemasonry. We naturally love to linger and dwell upon these words, so full of peace, harmony, fraternal affection,

and so charged with the sentiment that, more than any other, has united us together into a brotherhood of united interests. Long enmities have been appeased by reflection upon the lesson it carries to every Masonic heart. It has reconciled more difficulties than all the laws Masonry has framed for purposes of legislation and discipline. To this inculcation the fraternity is vastly indebted for its prosperity and usefulness. In this brief sentence is contained the vital principle that gives to our institution its numerical strength, its stability, and its rank as the first of all human societies. The universal law of love for our kind has, in Masonry, become the sublimest duty and the greatest pleasure. As the constant dropping of water will inevitably wear away the hardest stone, so has the constant repetition of this admonition eaten its way into the heart of the institution we revere.

And yet, while the Craft is united in the fraternal bond of love, we find here and there exceptions to the rule. In every society made up of human units, we will find individuals who have no regard for their fellows, or for the society of which they form a part. These individuals make use of every opportunity to gratify a spleen that is as natural to them as the air they breathe, and are never more happy than when they are aiming malicious and bitter darts at those who do not agree with them. It is too much to expect that men who were brought up in gall, taught in wormwood and graduated in the school of defamation, could possibly be taught to regard the admonitions of Masonry as the highest in propriety. "As the twig is bent so is the tree inclined." Warped in youth, in manhood there must be crookedness.

It is a source of great satisfaction to reflect that the good lessons taught in Masonry have been effectual in great good. Men who have the proper sense of virtue and right conduct become better by associating them-