

both angelic and human, for the performance of benevolent deeds. This habit of working for others, whether it be individual or through various organizations, will qualify us for the larger sphere of moral action beyond this earthly ball in the boundless expanse above. On the other hand, those, who never engage in works of faith and labours of love, who do not extend the hand of sympathy, who do not control the appetites and passions, but who live entirely for self and are governed by a principle of selfishness, must be considered as unqualified for the benevolent work of the celestial worlds, whatever that work may be. Such men are perfectly antagonistic to the second great principle of our order, and are imbued with opposite characteristics, which are pride, envy, spite, self-life and lawless ambition. These principles have caused more misery among men than the cyclone and the tempest, the earth-quake and the volcano and all the other concussions of the elements of nature.

We all dwell in houses made of clay, whose foundation is in the dust. We sojourn in a place of pitfalls and snares, set for the young and unwary ; and sometimes we pass through the valley of the shadow of death. We walk among scenes of sorrow and suffering. They are visible to us upon every side, unless we wilfully close our eyes. You and I have a duty to perform, a personal duty in trying to alleviate misery and mitigate distress, to rule our own spirits, to help bear each other's burdens, and so obey this universal law of service for others. The principles of our craft especially urge us to stretch forth a helping-hand to any man, when we find him down, particularly if he be a worthy member of the order. The following lines will illustrate my meaning. I found them in Godey's Magazine :—"The man is down, and his great need is ready help not prayer and creed. Give him a lift. Don't kneel in prayer nor moralize with his despair. 'Tis time, when wounds are washed and healed, that the inward motive be revealed. But now, whate'er the spirit be, mere words are but a mockery. One grain of aid just now is more to him than tomes of saintly lore. Pray, if you wish within your heart, but give him a lift, give him a start. The world is full of good advice, of prayer and praise and preaching nice : but the generous souls, who aid mankind, are scarce as gold and hard to find. Give like a Christian : speak in deeds. A noble life is the best of creeds. And he shall wear a royal crown, who gives a lift, when men are down." In the time of the Prophet Isaiah, we find this principle of masonry in full operation, as shown by the following quotation :—"They helped every one his neighbour ; and every one said to his brother, 'Be of good courage.'"

Let us glance at a few figures, which tell of practical benevolence at the present time. In the Grand Lodge of Quebec the calls made upon the benevolent fund in the year 1897 were all duly honoured. The total of known contributions for relief, paid out during the year, is \$1,563.08. This does not include many sums given by various lodges and by various individuals, which were never reported.