

Craft? We have read of men who, while enduring all the horrors of a bitter winter's campaign, badly fed, and badly clothed and lodged, sick and wounded, exiles from homes and friends, with nothing to cheer or comfort them, suddenly raised out of their deep distress by finding amongst themselves a brother of the Craft, though total strangers and even enemies before. These men have cheered and helped each other, sharing with one another what any had over and above the bare necessities of existence. It does seem that all that divine love, good will and self-sacrifice for the sake of others, of the early Christians, which led the world to cry out "See how these men love one another," is now centered, I may almost say *alone* in the Masonic fraternity. We see it at times indeed in the Christian churches now-a-days, but certainly not universally nor even generally.

For this we love the Brotherhood. Here is a living principle, inculcated by God Himself, and enforced by His Holy and Divine Son on all His followers, which we find more universally observed in the body of Freemasonry than in any other society, divine or human, except we range the divided Church of Christ, as one, against it; then perhaps we may find its equal. Ask the fatherless and the widow of the love and thoughtful carefulness of this fraternity, and hear their answers of commendation and then prayers of thankfulness for the blessings of a friend in need, who then, most truly, is a friend indeed. Ask the stranger in a strange land who first "took him in;" the hungry, who first "fed him;" the naked and destitute, who first clothed and assisted him, and you will generally find that, if he be a Mason, his answer will be "the fraternity of Masonry." They first found him out and gave him those things which were needful for the body, and thus by their works both of love and charity proved themselves the friend they profess to be to each other.

I am aware that objections can be found against this Brotherhood, and that many such have been made, though most unjustly. Many judge the Craft by the actions of a few of its members, which, as you will readily admit, brethren, is most unjust. There has never existed a society of men either purely human or purely divine in its origin, or semi-human, or semi-divine, upon which some of its members have not brought disgrace and shame. Even the divine Church of Christ with its glorious principles, design and work, if judged by the ungodliness and faithlessness of many of its members would have to be most unmercifully condemned. And so of Masonry. But judging each by its object and work, our eulogy will stand unimpeached and unimpeachable.

There is an objection against the Order, urged most unjustly to its disadvantage which I wish here to answer. It is said that Freemasonry is a secret society, and therefore should not be upheld by respectable men. Now, while I acknowledge that it is a secret society in one sense, I most emphatically deny that it is secret in the sense in which the objection is urged. The very fact before you to-day: the fact that the representatives of this body in Nova Scotia having given notice