

all but the Tyler retired. Still more frequently the visitor is admitted and formally introduced, when no further attention is given him. This treatment of a visiting brother does not agree with one of the prominent tenets of our profession as Masons—that Brotherly Love, by the exercise of which “we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high, and low, the rich and poor, who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support and protect each other;” it is diametrically opposed to that spirit of Fraternity which on all occasions should actuate those who are bound by a common tie, and are professedly laboring for a common purpose. When a visitor is announced the committee of examination should consist of brethren who are familiar with the ritual and methods of the jurisdiction from whence he comes, those who are not sticklers for the exact letter of the ritual and lectures which are practiced at home, but who will exercise reasonable discretion in the performance of the present duty assigned them, ever remembering that although as a whole the work of different jurisdictions is identical, yet the minor details of the work are adverse to a degree which would appear alarming to one not well versed in the ritualistic practices of other jurisdictions, and through ignorance debar a worthy craftsman from the exercise of the right of visitation.

A writer in the *Odd Fellows Review* makes the following remarks, which are also applicable to Masonic practice:—

“On entering the lodge room and finding a strange brother present, it is your duty to go at once and take him by the hand and in a fraternal manner make his acquaintance. How often brethren neglect this duty. Some come into the hall and seeing a stranger present, pass over to the other side, often without even giving the visitor a cold nod. Such treatment and manners are decidedly boorish, and only becoming the backwoods greenhorn. This class of brethren are not only found in the country

Lodges in particular, but many are guilty of this unbecoming habit in the cities. Our Lodge is our home, and to treat a stranger at our home as they are often treated at Lodges would be an insult never to be forgiven or forgotten.”—*Light*.

ACT UPON THE SQUARE.

How simple the sentence, how hard its practical application. One of the greatest minds that ever paid homage to Masonry has said:

“I’ll no say men are villan a’;
The real hardened wicked,
Who hae no check but human law,
Are to a few restricted.
But, ooh, mankind are unco weak
And little to be trusted;
If self the wavering balance shake,
It’s rarely right adjusted!”

The whole story is told. We are so bound up in self, that we neglect this pointed mandate. If the Masonic fraternity obeyed it, how the world would gaze upon us in admiration. Vain the attack of the fanatic and zealot. The Pope may fulminate his bulls; the Blanchards, and other pretenders to sanctity may assail us, but with this duty done we can defy them all. Our danger is from within. Our neglect of this duty in the past has made many non-affiliates. The time is coming when a crusade against so-called secret societies will be popular. They are swarming like the frogs in ancient times upon the banks of the Nile. Many of them have made promises that will be settled in insolvency. This will bring on the conflict. The innocent will suffer with the guilty. Our suspended members will be loud in their denunciation and we shall be thoroughly sifted. It will be well with us if we, as an Order, have obeyed the command stated. Vain are our pretensions if this has been neglected. A man may take all the degrees in Masonry and have all titles bestowed upon him and be as destitute of Masonic life as the tinsel that bespangles him when arrayed at their gathering.

Some times we think a renewal of the dark days of 1827 would be a live