

some boy of twelve, with a winning face and curly brown hair, and saw with pleasure the great love he bore his father, which was every day increasing, promising a full return for all the anxiety he endured when he rescued him from under the train.

MASONIC FUNERALS.

In looking over the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, we were struck with the apposite remarks of Grand Master Charles F. Stansbury, in his annual address, on the subject of the sparse attendance of Masons on the funerals of their brethren. We fear that those remarks may apply to some other jurisdictions as well as this. The correctness of the views entertained by our M. W. brother must be so apparent to every one, that we will not occupy a line in defending them. But as the subject has not often been brought to the attention of the Craft, notwithstanding its importance, we do not hesitate to transfer the remarks to the pages of the CRAFTSMAN.

Bro. Stanbury said :

"There is but one subject on which I feel called upon to speak of any habits of the Fraternity in our jurisdiction in terms of censure. I refer to the meagre attendance upon Masonic funerals. The right of Masonic burial is a sacred right, which belongs to every Master Mason who dies in good standing in the Order. It means, if it mean anything, the right to be buried with honor : not a title to be grudgingly followed to the grave by a corporal's guard of unwilling and mortified brethren, who feel that their presence is suggestive rather of a slight than of an honorable manifestation of respect for the dead and sympathy for the living. I have been pained, on many occasions, when I have seen the evidence of a forgetfulness of our duty in this particular regard, because I have felt that those who had a right to expect the consolation of respectful attention and sympathy were justly disappointed and grieved ; and that a reproach might thus be brought upon the Order of not acting up to its principles of fraternity. Especially have I felt so when I have noticed that the attendance seemed to be graduated by a consideration of the Masonic and social position of the deceased brother, in apparent forgetfulness of that fundamental maxim of our Order, that in Masonry we meet upon a level of our common humanity, and that death detects the fallacy of pride and does away with the artificial distinctions of a heartless society.

"This direliction of duty has not merely fallen under my own occasional notice. It has been repeatedly brought to my attention by the Masters of Lodges, who are always expected to attend and officiate, however meagre and discouraging may be the attendance of the members. Every member of a Lodge ought to recognize it as a duty to encourage and support the Master in the performance of this, as well as every other official ministration devolved upon him by his position. The hour when we may need sympathy and consolation is likely to come to every one of us. How desolate in such an hour the feeling, that no one cares for our sorrow, or is willing to take the least pains to lighten our bereavement ! Brethren, let it not be cast as a just reproach upon us, that we desert our brother when he lies helpless in death, and refuse to his family the solace of our sympathy."