

chance of assuming that position, unless he could present his personal qualifications in a kind of private stump speech to the individual members.

The election came and went, and Brother Madden Loftus' slate was not only broken, but smashed. He submitted without a murmur, however, but it was a noticeable fact, and one that caused remark upon the members, that he was not quite so punctual in his attendance upon the communications of the Lodge as formerly, and with some of the members with whom he was most intimate, he would mourn over the fact that Masons did not carry their principles into the daily business of life. Some were unkind enough to interpret this language as conveying a rebuke to those brethren who did not give him all their patronage in that particular line of business in which he was engaged. Whatever may have been the cause, he became luke-warm, and a frequent absentee from the lodge meetings.

About this time an unpleasant affair occurred in the lodge, and a brother was tried and suspended from all the rights and benefits of Masonry. Mercurial in temperament as he was, Brother Madden Loftus could not be quiet during the excitement among the fraternity which such a state of affairs engendered. He heard the story of the accused, accepted it as a correct statement of the facts in the case, was employed as his counsel, and under the apprehension that counsel in such a case was employed to acquit, he did his utmost, by all allowable means, to effect that end, and was defeated by a nearly unanimous vote of his brethren.

As might be expected, this defeat did nothing towards ameliorating the condition of his mind, and for weeks he was not seen beyond the tyler's "place." Subsequently the secretary made a call for dues. This was the feather that broke the camel's back. He could not pay so much money for so ignoble a purpose. The body had refused to be governed by, or to take heed to his counsel, and he would not put his hand in his pocket to aid in sustaining and Institution which would go back on him in that manner, foil all his intentions, and frustrate his most important plans. In short, our Brother Madden Loftus concluded he would not stand the outrage any longer. He would take a dimit, and as Lodges sometimes rejoice at the opportunity to get rid of an uncomfortable member by dismission, the dimit was granted, and our brother was remitted to the condition of a non-affiliated Mason.

For years our brother has thus stood. He claims to be a Mason in good standing; visits lodges when he wishes to do so; attends celebrations as a member; asks that the brethren shall care for him in sickness, and when he comes to die, will request that the members who have borne the burden and heat of the day, who are dusty with toil in behalf of the Order which he has refused to assist, should follow his body to the burial, and if that request is not granted, he would argue that Masonry is a useless affair, and that the members thereof did not live up to their obligations they had assumed. And what is of still more serious import and deleterious influence, there would be found those in the Order who would sustain him in all his assumptions, and strenuously contend that he was just as good a Mason as those who had cared for all the obligations which they assumed. Such men are held to be Masons in good standing; to have fulfilled their Masonic obligations; to be entitled to draw from the treasury.

This is a brief outline of a Masonic life "drawn from nature." We fear it may find a counterpart in thousands of those who have taken our vows upon them, and profess to be a member of the Masonic Institution, in good standing. But this we know, that in the lodge from which this sketch was drawn, not a man could be found to say, that a man in that condition could be a good Mason. Were the question to be propounded to them on the next regular meeting; "has Brother Madden Loftus fulfilled his Masonic obligations? every member would be in his seat, and when the vote should be taken, there would be one unanimous "No!" And were we a member of the lodge, and present, we should not mar the harmony of the chorus—we should say: "The man who is Madden Loftus, has violated his Masonic obligations;" and so would they say all.—*Voice of Masonry.*

A SECRET DISCOVERED.

On a visit to a neighboring city recently, I called at the house of my friend B—, with whom I had been long and intimately acquainted. To my astonishment I found his lady reading a Masonic paper. I asked her what change had come over her that she could not only admit such a paper to her house, but could sit down to its perusal; for I knew her father's family were among the most vindictive, bitter, proscriptive anti-masons, that ever left the infected district in New York. She replied, that she had discovered the grand secret of Masonry; and if it would be agreeable to me, she would