

there was a general shaking of hands all round, during which I observed the Secretary tearing up and throwing out of the window all that pile of evidence upon which his heart had been so set an hour before.

The reader need not be informed that Brother Elmore never got drunk again.—*Evergreen.*

THE RECOVERED SNUFF BOX.

THE following anecdote found in the *Lor. Jon Freemason's Quarterly Review*, is related on the authority, and almost in the words of Bro. Blaquierre, Pro. Dep. Grand Master for Bengal, a man who, at the patriarchal age of ninety-three, gave the testimony of his long experience to the excellence of Freemasonry:

"A medical gentleman had realized a moderate fortune in the Brazils, and intending to return to England, he invested the fruits of his industry in precious stones, which were secured in a small box. This treasure he shipped on board a vessel, secured his own passage in another, and safely reached England. Scarcely had he arrived when he received intelligence that the vessel on board of which he had freighted his entire fortune had been wrecked on the coast of Cornwall. Thus, in his declining years, the means of subsistence had vanished from him; he had returned to his native land poorer than he had left it. About a year had passed, when one day a stranger called at his humble lodgings and inquired for him; he was admitted. The stranger, who was closely muffled up, and appeared desirous of concealment, asked a few questions about the Brazils, and others as to the circumstances of our hero, who felt somewhat disconcerted. At length the stranger drew from under his cloak the identical box containing the lost treasure. His surprise and emotion satisfied the stranger, who, simply asking him if it were his, immediately delivered it to him and made a sign. All that transpired was that the box came into the possession of the stranger, who, on opening it, found at the top a snuff box, with Masonic emblems, and a name that enabled him, after much difficulty, to discover the real owner. The stranger took a hasty leave, and was no more heard of. Conjecture pointed at the possibility of his being what is termed a wrecker, but the ways of Providence are inscrutable in teaching the powerful lessons of retribution. Masonry, as a moral engine, has elicited many mysterious instances of the power of the human heart, however depraved, to correct itself. The snuff box became dear to the party thus restored to prosperity; and in time it was bequeathed to a gentleman who, thinking that it should remain in the hands of a zealous Mason, presented it to Bro. Blaquierre, whose successors no doubt will prize it as a sign and token of Masonic interest."

THE VICAR OF BRIGG AND THE FREEMASONS.

THE following letter was addressed to the editor of the "*Hull and Lincolnshire Times*":—

Sir,—You gave in your last issue an accurate report of the proceedings of the Freemasons at Brigg on the 6th inst., at the Lincolnshire provincial meeting. It is generally understood that the objects of the fraternity are the promotion of benevolence, morality—in a word, every charitable feeling and practice, and every Christian and moral virtue. On this occasion, as several clergymen belong to the Order, it was desired by some of the members, as was the case at Peterborough Cathedral the week prior to the last, and some time since at York Minister, to have a service at Brigg Church; but the vicar, the Rev. W. J. Wylie, M. A., claiming a gift of penetration beyond his clerical brethren, discovered such infidelity or expansion of religious views among Freemasons as to refuse them the privilege of the worst of sinners—*peccantissimi*—to join, as Freemasons, in his Church at Brigg (which, by-the-by, is a National Church), in the service of prayer and praise, and declined to allow one of the Grand Chaplains of their Order, a duly ordained minister of the Church of England, as well as Mr. Wylie, and whose teaching must conform to the articles and liturgy of the Church of England, to address Freemasons on their religious and moral duties in his church, or rather the Church of England, at Brigg. Furthermore, it may be stated as authentic, that of the sidesmen of Brigg Church, an influential resident in that town, aided the vicar by his influence and purse, very recently, to place a peal of bells in the tower of Brigg Church, and this gentleman is well known to be the leading Freemason in the town of Brigg; and the Master of the Freemason's Lodge at Brigg, at the present time, is a neighbouring clergyman, Mr. Wylie's equal