

all true, what of it? I fail to discover anything about very bad, even at that." He wanted to tell his father so, but the frequent introduction of the subject in the family circle, and the tenor of his remarks, only satisfied him that a knowledge on the part of his father that he was not satisfied, would only produce a state of things it would be far better to avoid. So when he handed back the book, and his father asked, "Now, my son, are you satisfied?" "he only answered, "Yes sir; I am satisfied;" but satisfied of what? was not asked, and he did not volunteer to tell.

He dismissed the subject, as far as circumstances would allow, with the reflection that he had several years to live yet, before he could act in the matter; and perhaps, before then, some new development would be had, or his father change his mind.

We will now skip over seven years of his life, which brings us to his twenty-first birthday. With it came the recollection of the former resolution, and the declaration of it made to the gentleman he had shown up the mountain, seven years before. And circumstances now occurred which revived the fire of his former desire, and it burned fiercer than ever. It was the 27th of December, 1848, and the Masons of Haverstraw were to have a "public installation."

He went; and when the orator of the occasion arose to speak, who should he recognize but his first Masonic acquaintance, the gentleman who wore the pin. As the orator spoke of the achievements of Masonry; of its principles, and finally of the unfounded accusations against it, and the persecutions suffered, ostensibly, on account of Morgan's revelations, but really in consequence of a spirit of bigotry and intolerance, fostered in too many of the churches, and by too many of the members, all based upon absolute ignorance of the Order, there was not only an earnestness and eloquence in his words which swayed the minds of his audience, but a pathos which touched their hearts; and many were prepared to say at its close, "Surely the Masons have been persecuted." And more than one young man was heard to say, "I will send in my petition, and join them, if they will have me."

Charley Van Orden believed every word the speaker said. He said the discourse possessed the internal evidence of truthfulness: not absolutely infallible, but as reliable as any class of evidence, alone.

He waited to see Mr. Oakney, for that was the name of the speaker, and after recalling to his recollection the circumstances of their first meeting, and the promise, he frankly stated his present difficulty, arising from the burning desire to carry into effect that resolution, and his father's uncompromising opposition.

"But surely your father will not attempt to control you now, that you are of age," said Mr. Oakney.

"Of course he cannot successfully," said Charley, "if I choose to disregard his wishes; but that is just the thing I do not wish to do. For, with all his prejudice, he has been one of the very best of father's to me; and he is really a very excellent, amiable, Christian man."

"Well," said Mr. O., "if I am to advise you; go to your father, and tell him frankly your desire; ask him to suspend his objection; assure him of the pain it would give you to oppose his wishes; and promise him, in such manner as he shall dictate, however solemn, that if you find anything corrupt, or corrupting in the institution; or even, that when initiated you find yourself among bad associates; that you will never take another degree, after making such discovery: and that you