

always have the lead. The office seekers whose name is legion, a class not usually devoid of large possessions of character and ability, but who bring Masonry into reproach by their fierce struggling for high positions. These show forth great capacities for usefulness, but, alas, the dead fly makes its presence known wherever they are.

So there are other over-sensitive in their natures, too exacting in their demands upon their associates and friends, possessed of idiosyncracies of one sort and another, peculiarities of disposition and of character, to whom the illustration we have borrowed from King Solomon, may justly apply. They may be good men and true in the main, but there are little faults and blemishes apparent, which both hinder their usefulness and diminish their happiness.

If we might add a word or two by way of improving the subject, we should urge that more attention be given to these tendencies and defects of natural constitution. Let the aim be to fortify the weak place, to repress the quality or tendency which seems developing to excess. The work of life, in which Masonry is no small contributor, is to develop a strong and symmetrical being. To this end let thought and culture and every other means and appliance be brought into use, that the life may be rounded out into fair and harmonious proportions, every part obtaining its full development, as it is wrought into usefulness and true grace.—*Freemason's Repository*.

## ROLLA FLOYD OF SYRIA.

THE W. M. OF ROYAL SOLOMON MOTHER LODGE, F. AND A. M. OF JERUSALEM.

### *Damascus Correspondence of the American Traveller.*

"THEN he'll do it," exclaimed the man to whom I had said that we had engaged Rolla Floyd to accompany us from Damascus to Jaffa. "You have been fortunate in securing that mysterious man. His name is worth a hundred rifles against any tribe in Syria."

Floyd was one of a colony of Americans who left the pine forests of Maine, in the United States, some ten or a dozen years ago, to settle in the Holy Land, there to be ready to greet the blessed Redeemer at His second coming. But dissensions, bitter and irreconcilable, arose among them in Jaffa; they were looked upon with hate and suspicion by Jews, Arabs and Mohammedans; their crops were stolen as fast as they ripened, and many of the men falling out with work took to drink. They lost their lands, bordering the plains of Sharon, near Jaffa, by a fine point of Turkish law, and through the combined effects of death, ill luck and licentiousness, the members became mad, drunk and reckless, and of all that devoted praying band, every member of which when leaving America, was justly famed for purity, piety, faith, and virtue, there only remains in Palestine, so far as I could ascertain, Rolla Floyd and his worthy and amiable wife.

These two unwavering Christians remained true to Christ and true to themselves. Mrs. Floyd made friends among the natives by her needle, her medicines, and her patient tenderness with all who were afflicted, while Mr. Floyd started the pioneer express of Syria by carrying letters and packages between Jaffa and Jerusalem, on week days, and preaching the Word of God, without money and without price, on Sundays. His fine athletic form and his wonderful strength, coupled with his invariable kindness of heart and mildness of temper, soon created a marked sensation among the natives; for when finding them in personal quarrel and rolling in the dust like fierce mastiffs, he frequently rushed into the crowd and, grasping the two combatants by the napes of their necks—one in each hand, slowly walked down to the sandy shores of the Mediterranean, and soured them into the briny surf until promises of peace and reconciliation had been given. Frequent attempts were made to rob his express of valuable packages, but he always managed to capture one or both of the bandits, and compelling them to listen to an impressive sermon on honesty, he always let them off on receiving promises of reformation. By this kindness in not turning his prisoners over to the Turkish vengeance, and his entire fearlessness, he in time became as great an idol among the desperate thieves and cut-throats as he was among the most upright.

With a memory that seems to be without limit, he shortly became entire master of the Arabic, so that he speaks it with an accurate fluency, acquired by but few not born in the desert. In his familiarity with the Bible he surpasses all men I have ever seen, quoting from memory almost any verse that may be called for between Genesis and Revelations. It is asserted by those who have known him intimately for years that they have never seen him display anger, surprise, or boisterous mirth. Travelling as a missionary throughout the entire length and breadth of Palestine, and becoming