

CHARITY.

It is well known, we presume, to most of our readers, that the Masonic Board of Relief in this city, spends a sum of money varying from \$300 to \$500 yearly, made up by Lodges of *all registers* according to the strength of members of each Lodge.

On the constitution of the new Board, at the beginning of the year, the Lodges hailing from the G. L. of C. declared that they would have no intercourse whatever with any one hailing from the G. L. of Quebec.

This course was considered to say the least of it, very extraordinary in the face of the action taken by Lodges of English and Scotch Registers, they expressing their willingness to sit on committee with the objectionable members *for the sake of our poor and distressed brethren*, altho' in no other way would they recognize them.

This was satisfactory to the representatives concerned, as they still desired to contribute their "mite" in the cause of charity, and reasonably enough expected that their Lodges should be represented, and as the very existence of this medium for dispensing charity, necessarily entailed the provision of funds, our Brethren of English and Scotch jurisdiction considered it a paramount duty to look rather to the interests of those for whom it was organized, than to any mere question of legality of Grand Lodges, until at any rate, the question had received the ventilation that most unquestionably it deserved. They still looked upon them as brethren, and respected their wish to contribute to the support of poor and distressed Masons.

We would not have alluded to the subject, but that a case of great peculiarity has arisen. The widow of a brother hailing from the G. L. of C. (from Ontario,) applied for relief to the Board, and was referred to the M. W. the G. M. of C. who it seems, altho' not willing to allow his Lodges to assuage the distress of the needy, was perfectly willing that these "illegal" Lodges should have that pleasure, and with a depth of reasoning, peculiarly his own, referred back this poor lady to the Board, with the remark that it still was in possession of money belonging to Lodges of Canada Register, and was the only proper place to apply, and that, at any rate, as it was the only Board of Relief existing in the city, it was liable for all applications of this kind, *no matter from what quarter they came.*

According to this *dictum* of the M. W. the G. M. of C., the G. L. he represents has no intention of practising one of the Cardinal virtues of Masonry only at the expense of those whom he condemns; a line of conduct, we submit, which cannot but draw forth expressions of deep regret from even his most ardent friends.

We state on authority of the proper officer of the B. of Relief, (who hails from the G. L. of Scotland) that not *one penny* of the money now on hand was contributed by Lodges under Canada register, but that it was contributed by Lodges of English, Scotch and Quebec registers.

No words of ours will perhaps be of avail, but we implore our brethren of all registers not to allow our quarrels of legality to affect the proper dispensation of relief to the unfortunate. Let us "bury the hatchet" in connection with this vitally important question at any rate, and all unite as heretofore, to exem-