

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

GUELPH, Jan'y 29, 1883.

J. B. TRAYES, Esq., P.D.D.M.,

Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

DEAR SIR AND R. W. BRO.,—Your journal is such a consistent advocate of Masonic benevolence and charity, as well as of all that is best and highest in Freemasonry, that I make no apology for asking you to use its influence in aid of the scheme set forth in the enclosed circular, a copy of which has been sent to the various lodges in this jurisdiction.

My principal reason for making this appeal for a school for our children, rather than for an asylum for aged and unfortunate Masons, is that while the lodges can, and, to a great extent, do, relieve the wants of such as these, it is simply not possible for individual lodges or brethren to give that unceasing care and attention to the training and education of children which is so absolutely necessary, if they are to have even a small chance of becoming honest, upright men and women.

I maintain that, as members of a fraternity such as is Freemasonry, bound together by the strongest ties of friendship and brotherhood, we are individually responsible to Almighty God for the care we take of these our brothers' children, and if we neglect to make an effort to provide for their proper education and moral training, when the opportunity is afforded us, and the sacrifice required so insignificant, we shall prove recreant to our professions, and unworthy of a society, based as we claim Freemasonry to be, upon the purest principles of piety and virtue.

I remain,

Dear Sir & R.W. Bro.,

Yours fraternally,

H. LOCKWOOD.

Guelph Lodge, }
258, Guelph. }

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, Officers and Brethren, of Lodge, No. . . . , of A. F. & A. M., G. R. C.

W. SIR AND BRETHREN,—

The Grand Lodge of Canada numbers upon its Roll eighteen thousand Masons in good Masonic standing, and dispenses annually, for purposes of benevolence, between nine and ten thousand dollars. This money is distributed among aged and infirm Masons, whose means are insufficient to support them, and among the widows and orphans of worthy Masons, who are in like circumstances. A great deal of good is doubtless done by these means; many a heavy burden is lightened, and many a weary mother, toiling to support her children, can look forward with a wonderful comfort to the few dollars she is certain to receive, knowing that they will buy many comforts for her little ones, which, by her unaided efforts, she could not hope to provide. And, Brethren, I do not presume to measure the incalculable amount of good done by individual lodges, and by the individual members of these lodges. The good is done, and the cares that are lightened by these means, can only be rightly estimated by the Great Architect of the Universe, to whom alone, many of them are known, and by whom they will, in due time, be rewarded. But, I would ask you, do we individually do as much good as we can, or ought to do? and do you think the amount of our Grand Lodge Benevolences as great as is consistent with the peculiar tenets of our Order, taking into consideration the number on our Roll, and the comparatively easy circumstances of the vast majority of our Brethren in Ontario?

Brethren, I want to point out to you a way to extend our charity. I want the Craft to take under its protection and fostering care, those children of Freemasons, who, deprived of a father's care and a mother's never-tiring love, might, if left to themselves, become outcasts from society and a blot on our good name as Freemasons.

I want you to found an Orphan Asylum, where the orphan children of worthy Masons may be rescued from the snares and temptations that beset a penniless childhood, and be made useful members of society. I would not call it an Asylum, either. I would like it to be called the Freemasons' School, for we know that it wounds the finer feelings of even children to be taught that they are dependent upon charity, and if it is thoroughly understood that our children are entitled, as a matter of right, to the privileges of the school, either by election or by such other process of selection as may be determined upon, children from our school will rank with