

The most annoying and trying time is at funerals, where the reverend brother prays on and speaks of the dear departed (whom perchance he had never seen alive,) while the members of the Craft are compelled to listen and wait, knowing well that the reverend talker only goes round the corner to his cosy home while they have a five mile ride to the cemetery and back, and the Masonic funeral service to perform at the grave.

I remember only recently in an East-side church, the man of the gospel arose and said that as there was to be service at the grave he would be very brief in his remarks. I thought here is a sensible, good man, and he commenced; after talking about twenty minutes I looked at my watch, and from this out, it took the gentleman two hours to make the few brief remarks, while we had to await his pleasure, looking out through the dim church windows at a threatening sky, with a three hours trip before us, and it was then three o'clock p.m.

The W. Master whispered to me, patience Brother L. is a *great* virtue, especially in this case.

E. LOWENSTEIN.

### AN UNKNOWN FACT.

A correspondent calls our attention to a statement made by Mr. J. J. Curran, M. P., in the course of his speech on the Orange Bill, which was to the effect that all secret societies in the Province, excepting the Freemasons, were illegal according to the Quebec Statutes. It has been pointed out to us that the member for Montreal Centre should have qualified that statement, in as much as *all* Freemasons do not enjoy an equal protection of the law. The exemption made by the statute in favor of the society, exists only for the lodges which hold their warrants or charters from the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland. Now, it is a fact, not generally known, that here in this Province in 1869, the Orange-

men fearing and knowing that they could be taken hold of at any time as an unauthorized secret society, started lodges of Freemasons and began to assemble under that name without holding any authority from Great Britain and Ireland, as was exacted by the statute. The Orangemen, who thus tried to get under the shelter of the law by deceptive means, appealed to the Grand Lodges in England for the necessary charters or warrants which would give them authority to establish separate lodges, that eventually would be used for the purposes of Orangeism instead of Freemasonry. But they failed every time they made their demands. Their dodge was seen through, and, as we heard it forcibly expressed, was completely "sat upon," especially by a well known ex-judge of this Province who opposed the scheme tooth and nail, and was greatly instrumental in preventing the Grand Lodge of Great Britain from being deceived by the Orangemen of Quebec. So that at the present time there are a large number of lodges in existence which are altogether illegal as they do not come within the provision contained in the 10th chapter of the Consolidated Statutes. Thus all lodges of Freemasons holding their charters from the Grand Lodge of Quebec are illegal. In fact the lodges which are of English register do not recognize the lodges of Quebec register, as they are not admitted to take part in the more secret proceedings of the *bona fide* Freemasons.—*Montreal Post*.

[This bosh will be news to our Quebec brethren.—ED. CRAFTSMAN.]

Sir Knight Gurney, of Chicago, pays the following tribute to "Our noble Queen:"—"Victoria is the mother of a Grand Master, the mother of a family of Masons; and one of the brightest, most exemplary jewels that ever graced the diadem of royalty. She is an honor to our English brethren, an honor to her sex, and when time comes that she must go up higher, humanity will weep, civilization mourn, though angels rejoice in the brighter crown of her immortality."