

Masonry to a clergyman who was inclined to a favorable view of the subject, but who, after listening to the profanity of the advocate, left in disgust."

"Was he a clergyman? Had I known that I would have been more guarded in my expressions."

"He was a minister of a sect which generally took grounds against Masonry, but that makes no difference in the magnitude of the wrong—I was about to say crime—that you, a 'bright Masonry,' have committed against the Fraternity. The turpitude would have been as great—the blame no less—had he been the most humble person who can raise money enough to pay his fare in a stage-coach."

"You are very severe upon me for a mere inadvertence."

"Was it an inadvertence? Was it not the outcome of a pernicious habit which you have so long indulged in that you are scarcely aware when you are guilty of it?"

"I know of other Master Masons who are addicted to the same habit."

"But does that exonerate you? Seeing there are members who violate in this manner, their Masonic vows, ought you not, as a 'bright Mason,' and, therefore, claiming to exert an influence in the Order, to so conduct yourself as to be in a position to rebuke these transgressors of Masonic law, and by example and precept lead them to obedience?"

"Very few of us do our whole duty!"

"But Masonry requires us to perform our whole duty; and where shall we land if our leaders, those who sit in the place of light, only contribute to the gloom of the place of darkness?"

"It seems to me you are making a mountain out of a mole-hill."

"Is it a small thing that you speak irreverently of Him in whom you trust—that you disgust well-behaved people by your profanity, that a public conveyance—that you arm the ene-

mies of the Institution of which you claim to be a good member, with weapons to overthrow it? You sin not only against God; for whom, with all your professions, you appear to have little regard, but you sin against an Institution you profess to love."

"Go on, sir! I can stand your criticism of my conduct."

"I asked you if you were a Master Mason. You answered promptly and unequivocally that you were."

"I still claim to be one!"

"Pardon me if I say, in my opinion, you have a defective title to the name."

"I have been regularly initiated, passed and raised to the degree of Master Mason."

"Suppose when you were conducted into the Lodge for the first time you had refused to acknowledge your belief in God and your trust in Him; what would have been the consequence?"

"I would have been sent home without having gone through with the ceremonies of initiation. During my Mastership I have thus dismissed two who refused to acknowledge the Supreme Being."

"What, then, should be your penalty for entirely ignoring the existence of a Supreme Being, or if conceding the fact of His existence, by your act and word insulting His Majesty, trampling upon his laws, and doing what in your power lies to make your profession of trust in Him a fraud and a farce?"

"You are taking a novel view of this matter."

"Under these circumstances ought you not to be rejected as a brother, even as you have rejected candidates for initiation?"

"The cases are not parallel."

"Not exactly, but sufficiently so for practical purposes. Now it appears to me that when a man of your habits and practices is asked if he is a Master Mason his response should be in the negative."

"When I have been regularly raised to that sublime degree?"