

"Henrietta," said a lady to her new girl, "when there is bad news, particularly family afflictions, always let the boarders know it before dinner. It may seem strange to you, Henrietta, but such things make a great difference in the eating in the course of a year."

Let us then, dear reader, kind and true, join hands on this that we never will dimit. That we never will loosen our cable tow thus fastened to the horn of the altar. That we never will shrink from any Masonic duty which lies in our power to perform. That we never will violate any principle of the Order knowingly. That our purse shall be open to the call of honest charity—our heart to the tale of honest distress. And when we pass from time to eternity it may be honestly said of us, "There was a Mason who acted up to the standard of the Craft."—*Masonic Journal*.

GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.—The following are the officers of Grand Lodge for the year 1877: M. W. Bro. His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, K. G., G. Master; R. W. Bros. Robert William Shekleton, Deputy G. Master; Marquis of Headfort, Senior G. Warden; Lord Dunboyne, Junior G. Warden; Robert Warren, D. L., G. Treasurer; Viscount Bernard, G. Secretary; The Rev. John James Macsorley, and the Most Rev. Lord Plunket, Bishop of Meath, G. Chaplains; W. Bros. the Hon. David R. Plunket, Q. C., M. P., Senior G. Deacon; George A. Stevens, G. Sup. of Works; Theophilus E. St. George, G. Director of Ceremonies; George Moyers, LL.D., G. Steward; Harry Hodges, G. Sword Bearer; Charles Ogilvie Grandison, G. Organist; Humphrey Minchin, M. B., G. Inner Guard; Samuel B. Oldham, Dep. G. Secretary and Treasurer; Bros. Archibald St. George, Assistant G. Sec.; Samuel G. Downes, G. Tyler; Edward Batchelor, Assist. G. Tyler.—*Freemason*.

A society has been formed in France, under the name of the "Societe de l'Œuvre Apostolique," one of whose special aims it is to abolish "le shake-hands," which mode of salutation is looked upon, as it is by the Mohammedans, as "an odious form of moral corruption, hypocrisy, and insanity," and "a most disrespectful usage," which comes to us from the Freemasons. The society is formed of Catholics. If the custom is derived from Freemasons, that ancient and honorable Order must be a good deal older than it is commonly thought to be by those who do not believe in the theory that it originated at the building of Solomon's Temple. Ovid speaks of right hand joined to right hand in pledge of faith, but as we have it, it probably is a remnant from feudal times and a *quasi* acknowledgement of superiority. Whether or not it is odious depends, like everything else, on circumstances. The Frenchmen will never get even with the Germans if they don't turn their attention to something better than such societies and pilgrimages to Lourdes.

THE Mason's Widows and Orphans Home, of Kentucky, has had to undergo some severe trials, and many a doubt of its success has been entertained and expressed; but its friends have determined to be equal to all its meregencies, and to crown it with victory. At the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge it was ordered that a proposition to levy annually, for the next two years, a tax of one dollar on each member should be submitted to the subordinate lodges, at their annual meetings on last St. John's Day. From the *Masonic Journal* we learn that the proposition was carried by about four votes for to one against it and that many of the lodges voted for it un-animously. Commenting on this, the journal says: The action of the fraternity in levying a tax upon themselves of near one hundred thousand dollars will be gratifying to the friends of that great enterprise, the Home, established for the benefit of the widows and orphans of our deceased brethren, as it will insure the success and permanent prosperity of the institution, and place it beyond the contingency of even a temporal suspension or financial embarrassment. The promptness and unanimity with which the brethren have responded to the liberal proposition is highly creditable to them, and will reflect honor on the name Mason, and silence those who sometimes say that there is no practical good resulting from its labors or flowing from its organization. The "Home" is secure, brethren, and when the success of the proposition is announced by the Grand Master, Fairleigh, many widowed hearts will cease to ache.—*Voice of Masonry*