

vows, and earnest in their endeavors to uphold the principles of the Craft

It is the duty of the Hiramite to help the widow and the orphan; to clothe the naked; to feed the hungry; to visit the sick; to comfort the dying. No follower of the Widow's Son has a right to shirk these duties. He is a sworn servant of the Most High God, and if he believes in the Father of the fatherless and the God of the widow, he must serve Him with love and zeal; he must practically obey His behests. Prayer and praise in a warm room, and by a cheerful fire, may be very well, but He who knows the secrets of all men and searches the heart, knows all, and cares for and watches over and loves those who, like his favored Teacher, the Gentle Nazarene, goes forth and practically illustrates his faith, his love for mankind, and his hope in immortality by kindly words, by good deeds, by generous actions, by self-sacrificing efforts in the cause of humanity, charity and truth. The Mason's God is a practical God, and believes in deeds rather than in words.

Let, therefore, every Brother, at this season of the year, do something for the honor and glory of the Divine Author of his being. This is Masonry, and this is the pure and simple Masonry that our fathers and forefathers practised in secret and dread in the dim and distant vista of the past. No Mason is so poor as long as he and his family enjoy health, not to be able to do some good, to accomplish some deed that, perchance, the Recording Angel will enter in the golden Book of Paradise. He may be poor, but can he not visit the sick-bed of a dying brother? Can

he not read to him during the day, and cheer him with words of joy during the long and weary hours of the night. He can tell his wealthier brethren of the sick man's troubles, of his cheerless home, of his empty cupboard; and out of their wealth they can give him aid, and perchance relieve his midnight vigils. There is much for every Hiramite to do. This is the season in which to do it.

Many will waste their tens and twenties and fifties in the gaieties of the season. The tables of the Masonic banqueting halls will groan with the weight of costly viands; glittering and precious jewels will bedeck the breasts of the retiring officers, and what will be done practically for those in penury and distress? for those impoverished, yet in the "sere and yellow leaf of old age"? for those without a husband's strong arms to protect them from the storm of poverty? for those lacking a parent's care? Every lodge in the Dominion, every Mason in Canada, if he cannot go out to practically illustrate the good deeds and the objects of Masonry himself, or find time to work the design traced by the finger of the Chief Overseer Himself on the Trestleboard of Truth, can at least aid those who are willing to work "in the vineyard of the Lord," serving Him and exhibiting His manifold mercies and benign goodness by daily and hourly fulfilling the mission of Freemasonry—that mission which Immanuel taught by parables and precepts; which he practically illustrated by his meek and lowly behavior before the arrogant Pharisee and scoffing Sadducee; which he consecrated on Calvary, olive clothed mount, when, between two thieves, from His body, which was nailed to the accursed,