

grumbling the widows and orphans they have left behind. That is my last will and testament, and I hope my Brethren will take due notice thereof, and govern themselves accordingly.

At the risk of over-running our allotted space, we must find room for the following common-sense remarks concerning the much discussed inspection of Lodge Charters by visiting Brethren :—

Many times have we smiled when we were appointed by our Masters to examine visitors, previous to which they demanded an inspection of our Lodge Charter, because we saw they looked at it as the traveller in Egypt looks at the Sphinx. They never saw our Grand Lodge seal before; the signatures of our Grand Lodge officers were to them hieroglyphics; and all they beheld was a piece of old and much-handled parchment. The expression of their eyes convinced us every time that they knew just as much after the inspection of our Charter as before. Every visitor ought to acquaint himself with the status of the Lodge before he calls to make the visit; and if he neglects to do that it is his own fault, not that of the Lodge. The clandestine Lodges are not so plentiful in our country; and any Mason who reads a Masonic journal, or the Proceedings of his own Grand Lodge, which every Mason should do, can easily find out where there are such, or which Lodges his Grand Lodge forbids him to visit. But let us look at this matter in the light of every-day life, in which it explains itself easier. Suppose I would call at the house of a Brother Mason or anyone else for a visit, but before entering would ask for his family Bible or his genealogical table to satisfy myself that there was true blue blood in his veins, would that be gentlemanly or polite? Certainly not. It would be looked upon as very rude; and the boss of the house would be justified to tell me to make myself "scarce." I am aware that Bro. Drummond, of Maine, and some other great Masonic jurists, hold the opinion "that the comparison of the Fraternity or a Lodge to a family is not in all respects accurate." It may be so in other cases, but we do not believe in this. If there is a difference we can't see it.

It appears to us, that if a visiting Brother is in doubt as to the legitimacy of the Lodge to which he seeks admission, he had better postpone his visit until he can assure himself, without asking the Lodge to suspend its sitting or business for the purpose of sending out its Warrant to suit his sweet will and convenience.

M. W. BRO. ABBOTT RODNEY HEYWOOD,

*Grand Master.*

K. W. BRO. CHRISTOPHER DIEHL,

*Grand Secretary.*