

his honors, health and wealth. But change the picture as you will, and there is little or no change in the conduct of brethren. The fickle world may hiss instead of applaud, but Masonry is ever the same. It regards not the outer man, but the inner man of the heart. The Mystic Tie binds like no other tie. "Once a Mason always a Mason." Yes, even though merit decrease under the blighting blows of adversity. Freemasonry still extends the hand of friendship and brotherly love. When wealth departs, Freemasonry acts not like the publican, who passes the suppliant by on the other side, but like the Good Samaritan, who pours oil into the wounds of the distressed one, cares for him until he is able to care for himself, and aids him to recover his old position, so that he in turn may aid others. When disease supplants health, or death snatches a brother from his family, and leaves them dependent and in distress, Masonry aids as it can the sufferer to battle with sorrow, sickness or death. An evening with my Masonic brethren proves all this.

We reserve the happiest thought for the close—not the best in every sense, but in a certain important sense. There is no social enjoyment equal to that which prevails when labor is over in the lodge, and the brethren are assembled around the social board. It is a dinner party, a social and convivial gathering, a joyous merrymaking, an intellectual feast and a Masonic lodge all in one. There is nothing like it. We all know each other, for we are all brethren. We all are ready to contribute, each as much as we can, to the common fund of enjoyment. Nowhere is brotherly love more fully displayed than at the Masonic banquet board. We eat, drink, and are merry. We forget dull care, and engage in innocent mirth. In turn we sing a good song, tell a good story and make a good speech. The hours pass quickly by, so that an evening with our Masonic brethren

is passed before we are aware of it. Let us value as we should the fraternity which affords us so much profit and pleasure. There is none other like it, no not one.—*Keystone.*

LATE HOURS AT MASONIC GATHERINGS.

Freemasonry calls the attention of every candidate to the importance of rightly dividing the passing hours, and appropriating them to proper uses. One portion of the day is allotted to work, another to the development of the moral nature and the services of benevolence, and still another part is devoted to refreshment and sleep. There should be a careful adjustment of these several sections that no one of them be infringed upon, and no demand of the moral, social, intellectual or physical being, be allowed to pass unheeded. Freemasonry is intended to build up the whole manhood. It recognizes the various elements of human nature, and would provide for all, so that the result may be a healthy, hearty life—a full-formed, symmetrical and vigorous manhood.

To this end all excesses need to be avoided. It is not wise to crowd too much work, or too much play, into one occasion. It is not well to practice a ceremony to unseasonable length, or continue festivities beyond well approved limits. Weariness of the flesh and weariness of the mind is sure to follow a tension long continued, even though the service to which attention is given may be every way pleasing and edifying. And then, possibly, there is a neglect somewhere; a want of sleep and rest, by which the body suffers and becomes enfeebled. All this ought to be guarded against so far as possible, that Freemasonry may express itself most truly and accomplish its highest usefulness.

We are moved to this word of reminder by our knowledge of the fact that earnest, zealous brethren, having