

secrets? But Masonry is not, properly speaking, a secret society, inasmuch as its tendencies, objects and aims are open for all the world to see. Those ends are brotherly love, relief and truth, boundless charity and untiring benevolence. For this we are united, to this we are bound by the most solemn obligations. Clergymen and physicians, lawyers and journalists, merchants, princes, skilful artizans, all are ready to give their best aid one for all and all for one. For our own turn may come when we shall need a brother's hand and a brother's sympathy. A conflagration such as that of St. John might reduce the wealthiest here to abject poverty. Misfortunes overtake us all alike, and adversity visits us in turn—no life is exempt from suffering—no career is free from vicissitudes; and although, (to quote the eloquent words of the Grand Master of Kansas), Masonry cannot subdue the tempest, nor say to the ocean, "Peace, be still," yet it lifts the sinking mariner from the engulfing wave and warms him into life. It cannot hush the voice of the thunder, nor arrest the lightning's fiery missile; but it takes the victim of the storm and wraps its snow-white robe around him. It does not stand at the door of the sepulchre to roll away its stone and bid its silent, solemn tenant come forth; but it finds the lame, the halt and the blind, that have fallen by the wayside, and pours into their hearts the oil of joy and gladness. It does not go abroad to proclaim its benevolent spirit, but it wipes the tear from the widow's eye, and guides the feet and guards the head of the orphan. It does not boast of its deeds of charity, but it "feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, and binds up the wounds of the afflicted." It does not claim that it has fraternized the world; but it diffuses its spirit of universal brotherhood and charity as gently as the dews of Hermon and as genially as the light of Heaven. Not many months ago our Grand Master stated that in the last eight years the lodges under his jurisdiction had dispensed in charity over \$80,000. Last year the Grand Lodge alone distributed nearly \$8,000 in charity, and this exclusive of the sums given for the same object by private lodges and by individual Masons. By these and such like fruits is the Masonic Order known. You need no shining appeal from me to urge you to go on as you have begun, to give to-day as liberally as you have done before. You know as well as I that there are still widows to be cheered, orphans to be fed by your bounty; that here and there some distressed Brother who is in want is timidly and anxiously waiting to be relieved, perhaps, by the very contributions you are about to give this afternoon. O, if you could follow this money which you are about to offer for the relief of the poor to-day—if you could trace it to its destination and see the joy and gratitude that it evokes, you would

wish you had given double. Brethren, I know that you have many claims upon you and constant applications for relief; but I ask you to remember that you are bound, not to love others less, but to love some more; to be charitable to all, but especially to your brethren. The world will judge you "by your fruits." See then that ye have not to be ashamed of your fruits. Do not let us rest with the noble past or happy present. The present is the legacy of our fathers to us, and the future will be our legacy to those that shall come after us. Let us do our best to make that legacy a glorious one, worthy of ourselves, of our noble aims, and of our ancient Brotherhood.

The Mother Lodge, Kilwinning.

We are indebted to R. W. Bro. J. H. Isaacson, Grand Secretary G. L. of Quebec, for a copy of the following article from the *Ayr, Scotland, Advertiser*, April 19, 1860, which will prove of interest to our readers:

On Saturday last, the members of the Mother Lodge, Kilwinning, assembled in their Hall to receive and consider the Report of the Committee which had been appointed to inquire into the rights and privileges belonging to Mother Kilwinning.

Depute-Master Conn, in introducing the business of the meeting, expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing so many brethren present, some of whom were from a considerable distance—thus showing the degree of interest they took in the prosperity of the ancient Lodge, of which they were members. He thought they should all know what were the privileges of the Mother Lodge; but as he believed considerable misapprehension prevailed regarding her proper position, he had called this special meeting of the brethren for the purpose of having made more generally known some of the inalienable rights and privileges which belonged to this most ancient Lodge, and which, with the support of the brethren he should on all fitting occasions endeavor to uphold. Bro. Conn then called upon the Secretary (Bro. Wylie), who, on behalf