

into the sick room, where they talked a long time with Mr. Pearson, and when she went away Alice said to her it seemed that an angel had been there to cheer her up and comfort her. Young Winslow admired the manner of Mrs. Wakelee, who moved like one accustomed to the sick room, and her pleasant voice charmed him, as she talked about matters that would tend to comfort the sick brother. About ten o'clock Mr. Wakelee and Warren Sanford came in. Mr. Pearson was anxious to see them, as he longed to be present with them that night. He asked numberless questions of Mr. Wakelee and Mr. Sanford, until it was feared he would become fatigued, and they got up to go out of the room; but he called them back and said if they would stay and talk he would not say a word. The meeting was talked over, and there was no more interested listener than Hiram Winslow. It was near "low twelve" before Mr. Mrs. Wakelee arose to depart, promising to call again on the morrow. Soon after they left, preparations for the night were made. Alice was to sleep in the parlor close to her father's room, while Sanford and Winslow were to sit in the back kitchen so that they could talk and read if they wished it. After all was quiet, and Hiram was certain that Alice was asleep, and her father's medicine had been administered, he began to ask his friend Sanford to tell him what the principles of Masonry were. Although Warren Sanford was a new Mason, he stated briefly the principles on which the craft is founded. Young Winslow, before the morning watch was over, determined to see the mysteries of Masonry, and so expressed himself to his companion. Mr. Sanford advised him to consider well before he offered himself at the altar of Masonry; not because there was anything which a good man could condemn, but to be a Mason at heart one must be prepared to suffer reproach and sometimes abuse in silence, rather than attempt to vindicate before an excited crowd the goodness and charity of Masonry. "You know that your father is an unflinching opponent of all secret societies and especially the Masons; and you as his son, ought not to adopt a course that you feel will be distasteful to him, until you have fully considered the matter; but after such careful consideration you may conscientiously take the step you propose."

Young Winslow said that before he took the step he should tell his father of what he intended to do, but as he was of age he should act as he had purposed. Mr. Sanford again cautioned him not to act too hastily, for he had plenty of time to consider the matter, as lodge did not meet again for several weeks, having adjourned for a summer vacation.

During nearly the whole of the night watch Father Pearson had been awake and heard the conversation, and when daylight dawned he called young Winslow to his bed-side and cautioned him not to act too hastily, nor bring sorrow to the grey hairs of his father. He said: I am glad that you think well of Masonry after hearing so many denunciations of it, for it satisfies my mind that you will make a good Mason; and, if you desire it, I should very much like to present your name to our lodge for acceptance." Here the conversation closed, and young Winslow and Sanford went home, having called Alice to attend to her father. As they left the house she thanked them over and over again for their kindness, and she looked quite refreshed after a good night's rest.

Days passed. Father Pearson gradually grew worse, notwithstanding the unremitting care and attention of his friends and brethren, and