

6.—BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS A STRANGE BROTHER.

You are cautiously to examine him in such a method as prudence shall direct you, that you may not be imposed upon by an ignorant, false pretender, whom you are to reject with contempt and derision, and beware of giving him any hints of knowledge.

But if you discover him to be a true and genuine brother, you are to respect him accordingly; and if he is in want you must relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be relieved. You must employ him some days or else recommend him to be employed. But you are not charged to do beyond your ability; only to prefer a poor brother that is a good man and true, before any other people in the same circumstances.

Finally,—All these charges you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated to you in another way; cultivating brotherly love the foundation and cape-stone, the cement and glory of this antient fraternity; avoiding all wrangling and quarrelling, all slander and backbiting, nor permitting others to slander any honest brother, but defending his character and doing him all good offices, as far as is consistent with your honor and safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you injury, you must apply to your own or his lodge; and from thence you may appeal to the grand lodge, at the annual communication, as has been the antient laudable conduct of our forefathers in every nation; never taking a legal course but when the case cannot be otherwise decided, and patiently listening to the honest and friendly advice of masters and fellows, when they would prevent your going to law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy period to all law-suits, that so you may find the affair of masonry with the more