

In 1849 several devoted members of the craft, but recently arrived in San Francisco, decided that they would meet together as brethren and attempt to do some beneficent work in the way marked out by the principles of Masonry. They hired the loft of a warehouse—an upper chamber—the ceiling of which was so low that a man of average height could not stand erect except near the center of the room. For such meagre accommodations the pioneers who organized California Lodge had to pay a rental of \$500 a month. Ten brethren united in the movement which soon resulted in the establishment of a flourishing lodge. They and those who were associated with them in the early time found their unpretending hall a place of blessed refuge, and rejoiced that within its walls they were privileged to breathe a moral and social atmosphere all so invigorating. The Masonry of these men partook of an active quality, sending them forth to do the works of benevolence which were then so much called for in that new town, filled with a population gathered from so many different countries and nationalities. There were no organized charities at that time and but feeble responses could be made to the appeals of the needy. But these Masons went to work with a will, and their accomplishments in the way of relieving distress were large and glorious. They exercised the ministries of practical helpfulness, not only toward craftsmen in need, but, so far as possible, toward all who required assistance. Generous contributions were taken at each night of meeting, a thousand dollars or more often being received at the lodge communication. The money was not hoarded, or expended for social purposes; it was used in the dispensing of a gracious charity whereby the light of joy and hope was sent into many homes and hearts.

Is it not pleasant to consider that thus Masonry began its organic life in California? It first showed itself in

the interest of charity and in the performance of a work of pure benevolence. We do not know how faithfully the ritual was taught, or with what technical exactness the ceremony of the several degrees was enacted, but we do know how nobly and well those early members of California Lodge illustrated the distinctively benevolent spirit of Masonry. All honor to them that they wrought so effectually—visiting the sick, caring for the stranger, ministering to the destitute—thus exhibiting that unselfish love which most brightens and blesses this world of ours. Surely they planted the institution on a grand foundation and made its first workings glorious. Faithfully labored those brethren at the outset, and now others are entered into their labors both for joyful congratulations and blessed deeds.—*F'reemason's Repository.*

THE RIGHT TIME.

Some thought is required for the right adjustment of the work and pleasure of life. There is a fitness of things worthy of being considered in determining what the arrangement shall be. Not only must regard be given to the diversified gifts, operations and needs of life, but a proper classification must be made if the harmony is to be secured. Things that are incongruous should not be brought into too close relations, nor should the conditions of time, place and purpose be overlooked.

Solomon declared that "to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." In enforcing this proposition he said there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance." Evidently he had regard to different occasions in pronouncing upon the fitness of these several expressions of feeling. It might be equally proper to mourn and to dance, yet it would hardly be natural to provide for both manifestations at one and the same time. Work, worship,