

Let us now pass on to one or two topics connected with our present assembly.

Agreeing heartily as I do with all that our excellent Grand Secretary and Presiding Officer have so well said in respect of caution as to the admission of new members, I would, after a long membership, point out that some of us take a fallacious view of the subject. I have heard it said if a person can pay his dues and is a good sort of a fellow that is quite enough. I venture to think that such a view is not a true one, nor a Masonic one of the matter. In the admission of members we ought to ask ourselves this question, is the candidate so thoroughly respectable and well principled that we could, if need be, safely introduce him to our own family circle? If we cannot say so, we have no right to admit him into our Lodge, which, remember, is a band of brethren, linked together by the most sacred ties of virtuous and religious sympathies, by a love of morality, honor, loyalty, and truth.

At this moment some, I fear, are tempted into Freemasonry by a sort of idea that they are providing against a rainy day. They treat it, as an enlarged benefit club, which view, as Lord Zetland once most truly said, is utterly opposed to the real teaching of Freemasonry. Freemasonry never was, and never can be a mere benefit society. We relieve our brethren in unforeseen emergencies of calamity and distress; we educate the orphan and we assist the widow, but no one has a right to claim such relief—it is and must ever be the spontaneous expression of pure Masonic benevolence.

I think, too, Worshipful Sir and Brethren, that, like as our Grand Master so well reminded us, "Loyalty and Charity" should be our watchwords just now. Happily for us we know nothing of political discussions, but as Freemasons we are loyal always to the sovereign of our native land, and we pay honest obedience to the laws of any country where we may casually reside.

Loyalty is a wide word, and includes not only loyalty to our sovereign, but loyalty to our own duties as fathers and husbands, as brethren, as citizens. Loyalty, too, to those fair sisters of ours, in the true chivalry of Freemasonry, who shed, let us ever remember with gratitude and devotion, the inestimable blessing of Masonic grace, and faith, and love, and truth, on this hard world of ours.

Bro. Woodford here read an extract from Chaucer called "Praise of Women," which was loudly applauded by the brethren.

He proceeded to say, as to charity I need say but very little; we can fairly point to our great charities when the outer world asks us, either with sincere good will or impertinent curiosity of what good we are.

Bro. Woodford here read another extract from Chaucer entitled "Mercy," which was also greatly appreciated.

And now, brethren, I beg to conclude my short and imperfect oration, thanking you for your attention, craving your forbearance, and reiterating my own hearty good wishes for the progress and prosperity, the harmony and the welfare of the Chaucer Lodge.

A MASON'S GRAVE.

ON turning the corner of a walk, just as I had emerged from the foliage of a magnificent weeping-willow, whose branches, drooping downwards, swept the grass silently in the gentle breeze of evening, I came upon a grave, before which I stood for some moments in wondering admiration; it was so different from anything else I had seen, or indeed expected to see, in the cemetery, that I was thoroughly surprised. A space somewhat larger than usual was enclosed by a neat but substantial iron palisade, within which in front rose two pillars of beautiful proportions and masterly workmanship. That on the left was of the Doric order, its base being ornamented by a level in relief, its capital surmounted by a frieze adorned with triglyphs and metops, and supporting an entablature on which was placed the terrestrial globe. The right hand pillar was of the Ionic order, finished with the same attention to detail, its base ornamented with the square and compass; on its summit rested the celestial globe. The floor of the enclosure was a beautiful tessellated pavement, in colors, in the centre, and in front of the headstone was a perfect ashlar, with a lewis. The chastely canopied headstone stood on an elevation of three steps. On the first were the words "And God said, let there be light, and there was light." On the second, "Behold, I will set a plumb-line." On the third, "We have found." On the plinth of the stone, an anchor in relief. Above it the words, "Be ye also ready." The edges of the stone were worked in the form of a cable. In the centre, under the canopy and over the inscription, an open book, in which was written, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." On the book rested a ladder with three rounds, behind which, as a back-ground, was a sprig of the acacia tree, and immediately above the ladder was an irradiated eye. The inscription ran, "Sacred to the memory of Henry Tucker, who departed this life," &c. The pavement