

LADIES:—In excluding you from our Lodges, we intend no disrespect. Nature has endowed you with stronger sympathies, a more tender heart than man's. The sphere of life in which you move is calculated to nourish and sustain these sympathies. Man, born of a sterner nature, moving in a sphere in which he comes in contact with the grosser elements of human nature, becomes hardened, and his heart becomes seared to human sympathy. Too often is the domestic circle a place in which to vent his griefs and disappointments in the world without. Powerful as is woman's influence, it often fails to cherish in man's breast the kindlier sympathies for his fellow-man. The altar reared on the domestic hearth is sacred to love and love alone. We do not seek to rear a rival altar; nor Love, the flame from ours, wither the flowers that twine around yours. Our offerings are alike pure, but of a different nature. Man needs a closer acquaintance with his fellow-man than he can gain at his own fireside. He needs it not only for himself, but for you and yours. Death may lay his chilling hand on him, who is your only stay and support. How pleasant will it then be to find gathering around you those who were indebted to him for acts of brotherly kindness, and who are anxious in return, to render you that kindly sympathy which the bereaved heart only can appreciate. We do not seek to estrange our Brothers from the domestic circle; on the contrary, we endeavour to lead him to the performance of those social duties which are enjoined on all. We endeavour by cultivating the finer feelings of his nature, to render him more fit for the discharge of those duties and better prepared for the enjoyment of social comforts. Then let us be co-labourers in the work of love. Let us walk together as Sisters and Brothers. We will live in the exercise of Love towards you, Friendship towards man, and Charity towards all!