

and morality, philanthropy and beneficence cease to be cardinal virtues, the crowning excellence of the "Mystic Tie" will doubtless continue to be exemplified in promoting the universal brotherhood of man.—*H. in Masonic Advocate.*

## FARODY ON THE "OLD OAKEN BUCKET."

By a Brother.

How dear to my heart is the Lodge of Freemasons,  
Where oft I have met with those brethren so dear,  
And where I have witnessed with pleasing sensations,  
The emblems and badges that there do appear;  
The apron or lambskin, the tools in their order,  
The numerous jewels, the furniture too,  
The Mosaic pavement, with tessellate border,  
And e'en the great light that is always in view—  
The great Holy Bible, the Lodge-honored Bible,  
The soul-cheering Bible that's always in view.

That sacred retreat I do hail as a treasure;  
For often I've met, and when there with the craft,  
Have frequently sipped from the cup of true pleasure,  
And taken from thence a most beautiful draft.  
How kindly the craftsmen receive a new brother  
(Provided he's worthy the honor that's due);  
And quickly he's brought from one place to another,  
And sees the great light that is always in view—  
The great Holy Bible, the Lodge-honored Bible,  
The soul-cheering Bible that's always in view.

How grand and sublime is the regular employment  
Pursued by the craftsmen, when in Lodge they do stand;  
Not wealth, or the hope of an earthly enjoyment,  
Could tempt me to leave that time-honored band.  
And though by mischance I may leave friends now near me,  
And 'mong total strangers my labors pursue,  
Yet there I'll be happy, and these thoughts shall cheer me,  
The thoughts of the light that's always in view—  
The great Holy Bible, the time-honored Bible,  
The soul-cheering Bible that's always in view.

—*Brooklyn Review.*

## THE MASTER.

THE Master of a Lodge, while he occupies his chair, is clothed with absolute sovereignty over the members. No sceptre in a Czar's autocratic grasp was ever wreathed with more complete authority than is the gavel in the Master's hand. If its sound is not perfectly obeyed, he has the right to instantaneously close the Lodge: There is no appeal from his decision to the Lodge. It can only be taken to the Grand Lodge. He can close his Lodge at will, and a motion to adjourn is always out of order in a Lodge. It is not the will of the majority in this respect that governs, but of the Master. The Master has the power to inflict punishment on an offender, and no one can say in the Lodge, "What doest thou?"

The power of a Master being thus absolute, there is the greatest reason for him to exercise his office with consideration for the feelings of the craft. While firmness is essential, it should always be exercised with a discriminating courtesy.

The Master is to a large extent responsible not only for the peace and prosperity of the Lodge, but for its standing in the community. He should be exemplary in his own conduct. If he is profane, lewd, or dissipated, he will bring himself into merited contempt and blot the escutcheon of his Lodge. If he is lax in discipline, and permits every kind of character applying for membership to be gratified with admission, he will soon find himself presiding over a corrupt mob instead of a guild of pure-minded and generous hearted-brothers. He has the power by his single ballot to keep out the gambler, drunkard and libertine, and if he fails to exercise his prerogative, his sovereignty will rapidly degenerate into a dishonorable presidency of a vulgar and immoral club.

The Master must rapidly familiarize himself with the landmarks, constitution, by-laws