

lodge an unexpected *visitor*, for the poor prisoner stood aghast in the middle of the room. The Brethren (chiefly British officers) filled with surprise, called in Bro. Hopkins, who was Tyler of the lodge. Bro. Hopkins explained all, and acknowledged what he had done. They gave him credit for his charitable behavior to a Brother, and made him a generous contribution, with their advice that Bro. Hopkins should transport him as secretly and expeditiously as possible to the Jersey shore, which was accordingly faithfully done.—*Keystone.*

SAVED BY A SIGN.

The following appeared in the London *Daily News*, from a travelling correspondent, while the Franco-Prussian war was being prosecuted with vigor, and when extreme bitterness existed between the people of both countries :

“This present war has been prolific in illustrations of the value of Freemasonry in dangerous emergencies, and the anecdotes are endless of the lives saved by its means. Among the cart-loads of wounded of both nations which arrived from Sedan were two men whose consideration for each other was so marked as to occasion enquiry. They wore the Prussian and French uniform, respectively, and though neither could understand the other’s language they shared their rations, and seemed to be interchanging signals of amity all day long. Their story was a very simple one. The Prussian, who is an officer, and a man of 35 or so, with a stern, grave face, and a heavy, over-hanging moustache, had met the Frenchman, who is at least a dozen years his junior, on the battle-field, the latter being supported by a couple of comrades. Twice did the wave of conflict bring these men in contact, and on the last occasion the Prussian, who was himself badly wounded in the chest, pressed the young Frenchman hard, and had indeed his sword uplifted to administer the *coup-de-grace*, when the latter, who was faint from loss of blood, made a hasty sign to his victor which caused the latter to stay his hand. Parley was impossible, both from the exigencies of language, and the turmoil of battle ; and besides, both men lost consciousness and fell at each other’s side. It turned out that the young Frenchman had been made a Freemason a few months before the outbreak of the war, and that he had instinctively made the sign by means of which members of the Fraternity

are taught to ask their brethren for help. The Prussian was an old Mason, who recognized it instantly, and who had instinctively paused, and before there was time for consideration both men fainted away. When consciousness was restored, they found themselves side by side and with the dead and dying round them. By a strange coincidence, their wounds were such that each could give the other some slight relief, and the late enemies employed their weary hours, in which they lay disabled and untended, in rendering little kindnesses to each other, and in thus cementing the friendship which had begun so strangely. When help came, they petitioned to be permitted to keep together, telling their story with considerable effusiveness to the doctor, who after some time came to them on the field. This gentleman, who was not a military surgeon, but a member of the blessed society which dates from Geneva, raised his hands in pleased astonishment at the tale he heard, and at once showed himself to be a Freemason too ; so that three Brethren of the Mystic Tie were to be seen wondering over the strange chance which had thrown them together. I do not profess to be able to explain the particular influence brought into play, or the kind of solace which Freemasons find in each other’s company, but it is certain that the wounded men are supremely satisfied at the result, and that their story has given them quite a celebrity among their fellow-sufferers.

“At Iges, where the French prisoners were placed after the capitulation of Sedan, and where, it is but too true, they were all starving, some of their number contrived to make it known to their captors that they were Masons, and though this was ineffectual in many instances, the sturdy and uninitiated Prussians laughing the Masonic gestures to scorn, wherever it succeeded the men obtained little comforts which were priceless. A stout trooper was seen handing a warm frieze coat to one prisoner, and giving part of his rations to another ; and explained his conduct to an inquirer with a sheepish smile, which spoke volumes, ‘They are my brothers although I have fought with them, and they are hungry and cold, and must be helped. They would do it for me.’ These are merely typical cases. But it is impossible to mix much with the troops, particularly after a battle, without hearing of kindred instances of Masonic usefulness.”