

Like this same Gulf Stream it is the Wandering Summer of existence. Never still, never idle, never satisfied, it wanders everywhere that man may have the blessings of its influence and receive the benefactions it carries for all humanity. And in its labors it is so gentle, so solicitous of his well-being, so tender in its ministrations, that it may well be designated as the Summer of all effort for the alleviation of sorrow and the perfecting of man in every work that is good. And finally, like that same great stream, after its labors covering every clime and mingling with every people, it is full of warmth and sunshine, the blessed expression of unchanging and universal benevolence."

And on the subject of fraternal intercourse, and what it reveals to the Masonic student, he well and truly says:--

"There is nothing which, to the student of Masonic practice and life, is more attractive and full of instruction than the story of the Craft as it presents itself in the labors of the different Grand Bodies with which we are in fraternal relation. It is like the knowledge which comes to the traveller in distant parts. The views are broadened, the aspirations are lifted, the comprehension is enlarged, nor is the love of home and its blessed associations thereby lessened. But oftentimes we have, as a result, not only a kinder feeling for the world at large, but a deeper love for our own, because, by contrast and comparison, we often find merits which constant association had concealed from our view.

Every year the range of our Masonic vision is extended, the number of our Brethren increased, and the opportunities for the exercise of those virtues which Masonry inculcates are more frequently presented.

And when we behold how earnest many of these Grand Bodies are in the discharge of their duties, how they have by splendid charities and public services, won from even unwilling lips the utterances of commendation, when we look upon the Masonic structures, whose very walls are eloquent of Masonry, and whose careful guarded portals are the beautiful gateways through which the orphan passes from the waste and want of life to restoration and fullness of plenty, we, even, we, wonder while we praise. Within some of the Jurisdictions of our Brethren, to be an orphan is to have a thousand fathers all intent upon promoting the best interests and securing the largest benefactions to those whose care they have assumed. In other parts, to be afflicted with the burden and grief of widowhood is to be husbanded by those whose highest pleasure is to reconcile to a fate they could not avert and free from tears the eyes they could not keep undimmed. And, again, in others, old age to those who (in younger hours) watched and guarded the altar fires, is made so gentle in its steps, and so sweet in its decline, that the very pressure of years is made to exhale a fragrance of peace and satisfaction unknown to youth and vigor. Elsewhere, other gifts round out Masonic life, and benefits of a different, but still of an exalted nature, make demonstration clear and unmistakable, of how rapid is the growth and how intelligent the methods which this noble institution employs to illustrate in works its splendid professions of universal benevolence."