

over the first of the four Cardinal Virtues. Conforming to the customs of the times, his good nature yielding to the repeated solicitations and importunities of friendly associates, he had sipped the magic draught, been cheered by the exhilarating influence of the sparkling wine-cup, till he not only loved, but actually deemed it an essential.

The Brethren, alarmed for his honor and safety, held repeated consultations to determine and adopt measures for effecting his reformation; but such was the awe and veneration in which he was held, that there was but few who possessed sufficient fortitude to even whisper good counsel in his ear, or warn him of the approaching danger, and those few proved unsuccessful. It is related that some warm and zealous friends, unwilling to relax in their efforts while there remained any probability of benefitting him, solicited the friendly aid and gentle admonition of Past Master ———, of Lively Stone Lodge, thinking probably that the intimate friendship subsisting between the two Past Masters would secure at least a favorable hearing, and might, possibly, be productive of a salutary reformation; but alas for the sequel! He came and was cordially received; being seated in a room by themselves, the subject was introduced; the facts were all admitted, and regrets expressed that they *were facts*; but the subject being rather humiliating, and becoming unpleasant, both feeling somewhat embarrassed, the decanter and glasses were introduced just to cheer the desponding spirits and show that the admonition had been favorably received and no umbrage taken. Each drained his glass, and then discoursed more freely on the great cardinal virtue, Temperance, and, when conversation flagged, they drank again, and changed the subject; the facetious story and approving laugh were duly reciprocated—

“Time flew merrily,

Glasses passed cheerily,”

until supper was announced, when oh! the treacherous