

THE LITTLE MATCH-GIRL.

A Christmas Story. BY THE DANISH POET, HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN.

It was so terribly cold—it snowed, and the evening began to be dark; it was also the last evening in the year—New Year's Eve. On this cold, dark evening a poor little girl with bare head and naked feet. It is true she had shoes on when she went for home, but of what use were they? They were very large shoes; her mother had lost worn them; they were too large; and the little one lost them in hurrying over the street as two carriages passed quickly by.

The lights shone out from all the windows, and there was such a delicious smell of roast beef in the street—it was New Year's Eve, and she thought of that! She sat down in a corner between two houses—the one stood a little more forward in the street than the other—and drew her legs up under her to warm herself, but she was still colder, and she durst not go home; she had not sold any matches or got a single farthing! Her father would beat her—and it was also cold at home, and there the wind whistled in, although straw and rags were stuffed in the largest crevices.

Her little hands were almost benumbed with cold. Ah! a little match might do some good, durst she only draw one out of the bundle, strike it on the wall and warm her fingers. She drew one out, rich! how it burnt! it was a warm clear flame like that of a candle, when she held her hand round it—it was a strange light!

The little girl thought she sat by a large iron stove with brass balls on the top, and the fire burned so nicely and warmed so well! Nay, what was that? The little girl stretched out her feet to warm them, too; when the flame went out the stove vanished—she sat with a stump of burned match in her hand. Another was struck; it burnt, it shone; and where the light shone on the wall it became as transparent as crystal; she looked directly into the room where the roasted goose stuffed with apples and prunes steamed so charmingly on the table, which was laid out, and covered with a shining white cloth and fine porcelain service. What was still more splendid, the goose sprung off the dish, and waddled along the floor with knife and fork in its back; it came directly up to the poor girl. Then the match went out, and there was only the thick, cold wall to be seen.

She struck another match. Then she sat under the most charming Christmas tree—it was still larger and more ornamental than she had seen through the rich merchant's last Christmas. A thousand candles burnt on the green branches; and motley pictures, like those which ornamented the shop windows, looked down at her. The little girl lifted up both her hands—then the match was extinguished—the Christmas candles rose higher and higher; she saw that they were bright stars—one of them fell and made a fiery strip in the sky. "Now one dies!" said the poor girl, for old grandmother, who alone had been kind to her, but who was now dead, had told her that when a star falls a soul goes up to God.

She again struck a match against the wall, it shone all around, and her old grandmother stood in the luster, so shining, so mild and blissful. "Grandmother!" exclaimed the little girl, "oh, take me with you! I know you will go away when the match goes out—like the warm stove, the delicious roast goose, and the delightful Christmas tree!" And she struck in haste the whole remainder of matches that was in the bundle; she would not lose sight of grandmother, and the matches shone with such brilliancy that it was clearer than in broad daylight. Grandmother had never looked so pretty, so great; she lifted the poor little girl up in her arms and they flew so high, in splendor and joy, there was no cold, no hunger, no anxiety—they were with God.

But the little girl sat in the corner by the house, in the cold morning hour, with red cheeks, and with a smile round her mouth—dead—frozen to death, the last evening of the old year.

COMPASS AND SQUARE.

The Festival of St. John and its Celebration by Goderich Masons.

As noted under the usual heading, the officers of Goderich and Maitland Lodges were duly installed last Wednesday, the former at 4 p. m. and the latter in the evening. The brethren of Maitland took the occasion to testify their appreciation of the services of the I. P. M., R. W. Bro. Radcliffe, and for that purpose secured a handsome Past Master's jewel, which was suitably inscribed by Prof. C. J. Newman, of St. George's Church. After the installation ceremony, R. W. Bro. I. F. Toms read the following address, and made the presentation:

To R. W. Bro. Richard Radcliffe, of Maitland Lodge No. 115, Goderich. Right Worshipful Sir and Bro.—It is with feelings of the greatest pleasure that the officers and members approach you on the present occasion to ask your acceptance of this Past Master's jewel as a small token of the respect which is entertained for you as a Mason and a man.

Ever since your connection with this Lodge, and more particularly during the years in which you occupied the office of Worshipful Master, your zeal, energy and diligence in advancing the interests of the Order in Goderich, and this Lodge in particular, have won for you the admiration and respect of all the brethren of this Lodge; while your courtesy and fraternal kindness have won the hearts and affections of all with whom you came in contact.

This small token of respect which we now present to you in the name of the officers and members of this Lodge is given not only as a token of our recognition of the valuable services which you have from time to time rendered, but also as a mark of the very great personal estimation in which you are held by the brethren.

That you may long live to be an ornament to the Masonic Order, and that the Great Architect of the Universe may watch over you and protect you and yours, is the earnest prayer of the brethren of Maitland Lodge.

Bro Radcliffe responded substantially as follows: R. W. Sir and Brethren—I rise to thank you for your kind and complimentary remarks and this beautiful gift under considerable emotions. There are such a variety of ideas forcing themselves upon my mind that it is difficult for me to arrange them. I therefore hope that if I should break down it may be attributed to the extreme sensibility by which I am agitated, for I earnestly assure you I feel sensibly your kindness.

There are certain occasions in the life of nearly every man when he cannot find words to adequately express their feelings, and were I even a much better speaker than I am, it would be impossible for me on this occasion to speak what I feel.

To be thought well of by one's fellow men, especially those with whom one is brought in such close communion as I have been with all of you, those who have an opportunity of judging of one's character by his every-day life and conduct, must be very gratifying, and, as actions speak plainer than words, I must perform deeds that I have been thought well of by you.

When first you elected me to the honorable position of W. Master of Maitland Lodge I felt that it was an honor, and I appreciated it as such—for I consider that to be the Master of any Masonic Lodge, but especially such a lodge as Maitland—which is composed of men of intelligence and respectability, not but that the members of other lodges are intelligent and respectable, and that Masons should be both; but in comparing the members of Maitland with those of other lodges, I am forced to the conclusion that they not only compare favorably with any, but are superior to many—a lodge which has had for its Masters on former occasions men of the highest social standing and of the highest intellectual attainments. I say to be Master of such a lodge is an honor that any man, no matter what his position in life may be, might well be proud of.

When on several subsequent occasions you repeated this honor, I could not but feel that you felt that the trust and confidence then reposed in me had not been misplaced, and I trust you may never have occasion to think otherwise. But, brethren, you have this evening performed the crowning act by your presentation, and, as I said before, if I were a much better speaker than I am—if I were a very Demosthenes—I could not give utterance to my feelings.

But there are other things besides this valuable and beautiful gift for which I must thank you—that which I prize more highly, the uniform courtesy and kindness which you have on all occasions shown to me, whether in the lodge or out of it. I would be indeed ungrateful were I to let this opportunity pass without acknowledging the many obligations I have been under to my esteemed friend, R. W. Bro. Toms, for his ever ready and willing counsel and advice, which his long experience in Masonry and his otherwise legal training so well fitted him to give.

In conclusion I will say that I never make rash promises, but this I will promise—that I will try, with the assistance of the G. G. O. T. U., to put this tool to its proper use, and trust that, with the same assistance, I may always be enabled to square my actions by the square of Virtue and keep within due bounds with all mankind, and may the Most High prosper my endeavors.

The lodge being closed, all adjourned to the annual supper at the Albion Hotel, where the host, Brother John McBride, had prepared a spread, as one member expressed it, "equal to any similar occasion in the Masonic history of Goderich." R. W. Bro. Radcliffe occupied the chair, with V. W. Bro. Joseph Beck as vice, R. W. Bro. Toms and Bro. Rev. J. Hill, of Seaford, sat to the right and left of the chairman.

A list of toasts was duly honored and responded to by those present, Bro. Hill, on behalf of Britannia Lodge, making a most eloquent speech on the lessons of the craft. Song and sentiment filled up a most enjoyable evening, the company dispersing at 12.30, all happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again.—[Star.]

SALE OF ASHES FOR ANIMALS.

This subject has been frequently discussed hitherto, especially the use of salt for farm stock. That all domestic animals do better where they are constantly supplied with salt I am perfectly satisfied from experience and long observation.

The only case where salt seems to do injury is where cattle have been long without it, and then giving to them all they are inclined to consume. I am willing to own that it is temporarily injurious, not because the article itself is bad, but because of taking too much at one dose. The proper way to feed salt is to place it where the stock can get it when they please and take what they are inclined to eat. Never mix it with food, as that they are compelled to take it or not. More and better butter can be made from the milk of a cow when she has her free supply of salt than from one entirely deprived of it, or having an irregular supply of it, and also takes less time to churn the cream. Nature requires salt as an aid in preserving health. It assists in digestion as well as in many other ways which I need not here mention. For cattle at pure lumps may be laid at any convenient place where a board can be fixed to shelter from the rain and still allow the stock free access. At the barn the lumps can be placed under the shed or in some other convenient spot. But sometimes stock seem to require an alkali as well, and that is most conveniently supplied in wool ashes, which horses, cattle, sheep and swine will greedily devour when they have an opportunity. These should also be supplied where the stock can have access to them as desired. The ashes should be from good sound wood, and kept dry.

When desirable to keep cattle at pasture, and there is no way to shelter the ashes and salt, a convenient trough may be fastened between two posts, on top of which are fastened two planks or boards as a roof to shelter from rain. The trough should be long enough so that the trough may be sixteen or twenty inches above the ground, and there must be room above between it and the roof to allow of free access to the salt or ashes. This answers for all stock except sheep and swine, which can have the troughs lower. I believe that if a constant supply of salt and ashes is provided where all kinds of stock can have access to them, very much less disease would be known among farm stock; I have never known bots, colic or worms in horses where ashes and salt were thus furnished.—Cor. Country Gentlemen.

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