

THE DEPUTY G. M.'S VISITS.

During the past month Masonry has been very active throughout the city, and at least two of the city lodges have entered red letter days—beg pardon, nights—upon their minutes. I refer to the official visits of Deputy Grand Master Robertson to Rehoboam and Wilson Lodges. The first visit was to Rehoboam Lodge, and I must say that it was as large a gathering of Masons as any person would wish to see. The East was well filled, and many great Masonic lights shone therein, some of them resplendent with Grand Lodge regalias. It was a thoroughly representative gathering, and when Bro. Robertson was tendered the Grand Lodge honors, it was a grand sight. Worshipful Master Carkeek presided with much dignity and grace, and the ease with which he greeted visiting brethren, and the kind words of welcome spoken showed that the members of Rehoboam had made a wise selection.

Among those present were : W. Bro. E. T. Malone, P.D.D.G.M. ; V. W. Bros. Roaf, P. G. Organist ; C. W. Postlethwaite, P.G.S.D. ; Geo. Tait, P.G.S.D., and W. M's, J. Knox Leslie, Malcolm Gibbs, F. M. Morson, B. J. Allen, W. Miller, Richard Dinnis, J. McKenzie, W. Burrage, F. Sallow, N. L. Steiner, W. S. Robinson, and A. S. Ardagh. The Deputy Grand Master made his speech, which was excellent of its kind. I confess I expected to hear something about Masonry, its principles, growth, and early struggles, as well as a review of its present condition. I was disappointed. Bro. Robertson dealt chiefly with his visit to the Board of Relief in Louisville. He told how they were taking steps to expose dead beats and frauds. To this I said Amen ; but he added that they were also taking steps to have widows and orphans cut off the list because their husbands or fathers were a few months behind in their dues. To this I said, "God help them." Surely this was not Masonry. Then there occurred to me a story told to me by a young Mason, a story that I shall never forget. He said that his father had died while he was only a few days old, leaving his mother in rather straightened circumstances. His father was not a member of the Craft. In the same village about the same time, a Mason died leaving a widow and two orphans in similar poor circumstances. It was then my friend said that

he first learned that Masonry can extend beyond the grave. Kind hands wiped away the tears from the eyes of the widow and orphans of the dead Mason. She was given a start in the stationery business. Her children were sent to school. She never lacked wood or bread. When the Masons gave a concert, as they often do in country places, the widow and her two orphans were welcome guests. Many and many a night my friend told me he cried himself to sleep because his father had not been a member of the Craft. While he had to struggle all day for a mere pittance and spend his nights in study, his chum Tom went to school and spent his evenings on the street. When he contrasted his position with that of his more favoured neighbors, and before he had discarded knickerbokers, he had made up his mind to become a Mason. It is from such deeds that those who have not seen the light conceive a favourable opinion of Masonry. To rob it of its most sacred trust, the welfare of the widows and orphans, would be a deadly blow to the Order. It sounded to me like sacrilege. Every Mason is enjoined to honour, guard and love the wife, child, and sister of a brother.

Can this question be abrogated by death, and a question of dollars and cents? Masonry is a fraternity, not a benefit society, circumscribed by dues and assessments. Masonic charity is not of such a character, nor are such actions in accordance with Masonic precedent and traditions.

Right Worshipful Brother Malone's paper on Masonic Duties was an excellent one and contained many maxims that the dispensers of Masonic charity should paste in their hats. The addresses delivered at a later stage of the proceedings were happy and well timed, and altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent, as the reporters say when they write up "bun struggles."

STEVENSON LODGE.

My next visit was to Stevenson Lodge where I found and was greeted by Worshipful Bro. John Nicholson. I saw there the kindly faces of many old sturdy pioneers. Among them Worshipful Bro. John Patton, as humorous and as Irish as ever ; Worshipful Bro. Cuthbertson, whom they say is a great Imperial Federationist ; Bro. Graham, a pillar near the north-east corner of the lodge ; and a wonderful display of young Masons. Stevenson Lodge has an active member-