

skeptic that Christianity has come to stay until time shall be no more. But Masonic bodies in Ontario have none of those glorious monuments to point to, sure evidence that the true spirit of Masonry has not as yet taken possession of us. I was greatly pleased in a conversation with R. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, when relating to me his visit to Louisville, Kentucky, to hear his description of the Masonic Home which the Kentucky Masons have provided for the orphans of deceased brethren. How these children are brought up in the knowledge and love of God; how they are taught several trades, and sent out into the world as honorable men and women and ornaments to society. Is it not time that our Grand Lodge, and the brethren in general, should take some such step, in order to care for and make useful the little ones whom it is our duty to look after? I trust the day is not far distant when some such step will be taken, when we will have an opportunity to refute the arguments of our enemies and traducers by pointing out that we have done some good in this world. Truly it is said 'By their works ye shall know them.'

"Another duty imposed on us, and to which I would like to draw your attention for a few moments, is the following:— You are on no account to wrong your brother or see him wronged. You are to speak as well of a brother when absent as present. Should I touch on this subject? Is it necessary? We are bound by the most sacred ties to one another; we have sworn to faithfully carry out the above command. Surely then, no member of our Order, without proving himself a perjured man, would be guilty of such actions. Well, brethren, plain talk is always the best. If I were to deny such a state of existence, and try to impress you with the belief that we are a self admiration society, you would laugh in your sleeves at my innocence and lack of perception. Now let me make a plain statement, and I only do so in order to point out an evil, so that you may apply the remedy. I have found among Masons, men, who are as a by word and reproach to the institution; men who take pleasure in backbiting and slandering their brethren, who, instead of protecting the fair name of their brother, assist in dragging it in the dirt and defiling it; men who take pride in publishing the failings and defects of their brother instead of throwing the mantle of charity over them, or endeavoring by good advice and friendly assistance

to correct those failings and defects. I have also seen Masons who are jealous of the prosperity and advancement of their brethren, or take particular pride when ill-luck and misfortune attend a brother; who stand on every street corner and make the same public, and with all the wisdom imaginable shake their heads and say 'I told you so.' There is no use in denying the fact that such men have crept in among us, and as 'evil communication corrupt good manners' it is incumbent on me to point out the fact to you, who are not aware of it, so that you may gather your robes tightly around you and not touch the leprous thing when passing. I can be met with the argument that no human institution is perfect, that you find such men in the church of God, that in the greatest and noblest society ever inaugurated—Christ and His disciples—you found a Judas, and that consequently you must expect to find such men among Masons. I agree with a great deal you say, but it should be your duty to purge your lodge of such men. It proves to you the necessity of exercising care and caution in the admittance of members. See that the applicant is well known in his neighborhood, that his conduct as a citizen, as a religious man, as a husband, father or brother, is such as to entitle him to the respect and esteem of the community; that in fact he possesses all the qualifications which go to make a good Mason before you admit him among you."

Bro. Malone here emphasized his remarks by quotations from some writers on the subject of slander and backbiting.

In conclusion Bro. Malone said:—"The subjects I have dealt with are with you daily. You cannot but notice and feel the effects of them. Perhaps it is on account of our familiarity with them that we are apt to lose sight of their importance. If I have been the means of bringing the above matters more forcibly before you and awakening you to a sense of the duties imposed on you by our Craft, then I am amply repaid for the little trouble I have taken. I trust I may have been the means of, at all events, impressing on you that

"He who has a thousand friends
Has never a one to spare,
And he who has one enemy,
Will meet 'em everywhere."

Bro. Malone on concluding his able paper, which is certainly replete with food for reflection, was accorded a hearty vote of thanks by the brethren.