

She received him cordially, because he had been pointed out to her on the street as the great physician who had done so much good in the city.

We shall not attempt to describe the interview between Leslie Bunk and Clara Banks, only to say that Leslie told his story well, for his whole heart and life were in the success of the telling. And it did succeed, for in less than six months thereafter Leslie Bunk and Clara Banks were united in the bonds of wedlock, and no happier man or woman can be found anywhere than Leslie Bunk and his wife Clara. If you doubt it, call at their beautiful home in the old Mohawk valley, and see for yourself. Love had conquered.—*Masonic Jewel*.

OBJECTIONS TO THE INSTITUTION OF FREEMASONRY.

CASUALLY overhearing a conversation between one of the fraternity and a novice during the past week on the subject of this article, I could not but listen intently, as it was apparent no privacy was desired by the parties thereto, and the questions of the novice were evidently intended to obtain information as to an institution in which he had tendered his name, and as I understood, had been elected. The ardor of the brother caused him to remark that there were 30,000 Masons in the city of New York, and more than 110,000 active and non-affiliated Masons in the State. To this the novice quickly responded:

"Is not the Institution of Freemasonry dangerous to the well-being of society at large, containing, as it there does, so great a power in numbers; its secrecy furnishes fit opportunities for forming and maturing plans and projects inimical to the public welfare, and, the disseminating opinions and sentiments destructive to the interests of virtue and sound morality, and should not Masonry, therefore, be checked if not suppressed.

I waited for the reply, and give it as nearly as my memory serves. The brother said:

"Would you judge that because things *may* be perverted that therefore it necessarily follows that they *will* be?" Then with a little irritation of manner, added, "Would you not consider the person who should reason thus either an idiot or a maniac? Would you judge of the good or evil tendencies of any association, even of religion, in that way? Would not a person of candor and ingenuousness inquire into its principles, examine its authorized publications, ascertain what doctrines it supported, what precepts it inculcated, as to who were the persons that had been its patrons and friends, who are now its members, and what are their characters and conduct in the several relations of life compared with the rest of the community? Have you not our verbal and written exposition of principles and precepts, and are you not individually acquainted with many of our past Grand Masters and our present Grand Officers? There are Judge J. L. Lewis, Clinton F. Page, Simons, all Inspectors-General of the Supreme Council, Thorne, Austin, Husted, and a host I could mention, living; Governors Daniel D. Tompkins, De Witt Clinton, and others. Could they, or Washington, Lafayette, Warren, Greene, the Generals of our armies and our wisest statesmen, uphold and support an institution that could from its principles militate against the Government or society? Were not all the signers of the Declaration of Independence, with the exception of a half dozen earnest upholders of Masonic Order, and every General of rank in our War for liberty, except the traitor, Arnold, a firm friend and member of the institution?

"Weigh these points, these several branches of evidence, fairly and impartially; and I am ready and willing to abide by whatever verdict yourself shall render. And, let me add, as I foresee what is crossing your mind, that because our institution is diffused among the whole community, having its members in every town and village and almost every hamlet, it might be converted into a powerful engine for effecting political changes and for aiding the political advancement of its members for *selfish* ends, to the *exclusion* of other good and worthy citizens. A moment's reflection will show the futility of this objection.

"The very constitution of the society shows that it is absolutely impossible that such results can ever occur. The Fraternity is composed of men of all professions and occupations; our members are made up of individuals of all religious sects, of all political parties. If it were limited to merely entertaining the same political sentiments, if its members held the same religious tenets, then there would exist just and righteous grounds for fearing that in the hands of influential, ambitious and unprincipled men, it might be prostituted to such base purposes as the objection in your mind supposes. Let me give you one instance of many that are in my thoughts, of the case of Judge J. L. Lewis, 33°, who was the Past Grand Master of this State and P. Grand Commander of the Supreme Council; he ran for Clerk of the Court of Appeals; the Masons of this noble State certainly held political power—the balance of power at least—and yet he was defeated."

Deeming the argument fair and complete, I withdrew.—*Eq a Tol, in Hebrew Leader*.