

"A LONG- FELT WANT."

An occasional banquet, a social gathering of the brethren with their wives and sweethearts now and then would, without doubt, cultivate a better feeling among Masons, though they cannot break down the bars society has established. If the means of the lodge will permit it, a sensible and prudent expenditure in refreshments would work well, but that is not the great desideratum after all. A little practical "charity"—not almsgiving especially, but *practical* work is wanted. That is, to treat brethren as if they really were brethren, and the obligations of Masons were not mere sound and fancy.

1. Go on foot and out of your way to help a brother to a situation wherein he may support himself and family and maintain his self-respect. "Put yourself in his place." Spend five minutes in thought about it, and act as you would have him act if your positions were reversed.

2. Pray for him; but mind you "the prayer of faith" only is acceptable; then show me your faith *without your works*, and I will show you my faith by my works."

3. Don't tell everybody everything you know (and a heap that you do not know) about an erring or unfortunate brother, but

4. Try to support him by helping him to a position that will enable him to support himself.

5. Good counsel, of course, but *words without acts* are wind, hypocrisy, falsehood.—*Masonic Home Journal*.

Never make use of a woman's name at an improper time or in mixed company. Never make assertions about her that you feel she herself would blush to hear. When you meet with men who do not scruple to make use of a woman's name in a reckless manner, shun them, as they are lost to every sense of honor.

MASONIC CHARITY.

Charity in its broadest and Masonic sense is a personal obligation or responsibility, and means that whatever is bestowed for relief is a *gratuitous* offering—never contemplating a benevolence that demands a *quid pro quo* for its kind offices. The fundamental and unchangeable law is found in the unwritten statute, and in every grade of the Institution. If the reader will recur to his obligations we shall be readily understood in saying that there is nothing in the law that conveys the thought that members of a lodge, or other Masons, have legal pecuniary investments therein, and that are at their disposal upon application for relief. On the contrary, the enactment provides that a Mason shall make his contributions to the needy in obedience to the dictates of his judgment of the "worthy" character of the applicant, and his "ability" to comply with the necessities of the needy. It is quite true that a Mason has a moral right to *expect*, in the event of indigency, that his needs will be regarded with favor; nevertheless not in any instance is it contemplated that he can properly approach a brother member, or his lodge, with a demand originating in any legal claim upon either. That which is true of personal responsibility in this direction is also true of the lodge as the almoner of the member. If, therefore, we are correct in our premises—if it is undeniable that a Mason is not vested with *rights* to charitable consideration—if it is a fact that an applicant for charity must rest his claims to attention upon his good name and the ability of the brethren to respond to his wants, why the necessity or apology for legislation that not only casts a reflection upon our charitable professions, but that is sapping the foundations of the Fraternity by drifting us from our landmarks and associating the organization with mutual insurance? *The fundamental law is ample under all possible contingencies.*—*E.c.*