

THE FRUITS OF MASONRY.

"FRIENDSHIP is one of the greatest blessings which the benevolent Author of our nature has conferred on our fallen and imperfect state; and its sincerity is tasted and its blessings are peculiarly appreciated in seasons of calamity. The Scriptures speak of a 'Friend who is born for adversity,' but oh! few have such friendships in this selfish world. How few are there who will rally around us the closer when the storms of adversity assail us; who will open their purses to relieve us in our embarrassments; and who will whisper a kind word of encouragement, when the blasting scowl of the world is directed towards us! Yet such are the reverses and sudden vicissitudes of life that every one should calculate on the occurrence of such calamities and make provision for them. I see the ocean covered with foam—the wind is raging with the fury of a hurricane—and nothing save dismantled vessels or the wreck of those that perished meets the eye. But beyond, in the far distance, I see a sunny, sheltered Bay, where the vessels can career in safety, uninjured by the storms that are raging without.

"Such a haven does Masonry open amid the calamities of life; she assures every brother of the order that if age should steal on him, without having made provision against its infirmities, or the reverses of fortune should plunge him into poverty,—she assures him, I say, that ruthless want shall never enter his dwelling; that his little ones shall not cry in vain for food; that his circumstances in life shall be relieved; and if he has attained to old age, that while there is a shilling in our treasury, or a spark of benevolence in our hearts, he shall be assisted in weathering the storm of life, and his sun set calm and clear in the west.

"Bear with me while I suppose another case; and, Brethren of the Order, in the picture I may be sketching the domestic relations of some one present. Here is a widow, and what a volume of sorrow is embraced in that one word! Her afflictions commenced when the partner of her affections was taken from her by a hereditary and incurable disease. She sat by his bed-side and witnessed the gradual approach of the Grim Tyrant; and when the period came, so long foreboded, that the hand locked in hers could no longer retain the affectionate grasp, she felt as if all that bound her to existence was irretrievably gone. Meanwhile her child sprung up to divert the sadness of her solitary hours, and to plead her cause in the Gate; but, alas! the azure of that full-orbed eye, and a burning spot which occasionally kindled upon the cheek, showed that the beloved child was destined for an early and premature grave. And now that lonely widow has witnessed the extinction of all her hopes, and as she now lives husbandless and childless, amid the relics of by-gone days, she cries out in the bitterness of her sorrow, 'Call me not Naomi; call me Marah, for the Lord hath dealt bitterly with me.' And shall this daughter of sorrow be left to struggle alone with poverty and neglect?—No, he whom she mourns was a Brother; and therefore she shall be watched over—she shall have a home while she lives; and an honored grave when she dies. Everything that the kindest sympathy and affection will avail, will be done to soothe the sorrows of her heart and rock the cradle of her declining years. To employ a final illustration, you visit foreign lands with the view of witnessing the manners and institutions of other countries. A traveller is subject to many inconveniences and dangers; he is in a land of strangers and knows very imperfectly the language of those among whom he sojourns; he is often imposed upon by false pretences; extravagant sums are demanded for petty services; his property is liable to be plundered before his eyes; or secret means may be employed to waylay and murder him, with a view of obtaining his wealth and efforts. More affecting still, disease may lay prostrate the traveller in a strange land; no kind wife or affectionate sister is near to wipe the damp brow or moisten the parched tongue with the cooling draught; he is administered to by the cold and mercenary hands of strangers; and some Government official is stationed in his apartment to pre-

vent his effects from being stolen by the harpies around his couch. But suppose he is a Mason, and then see how our Institution cares for such; and Masonry is diffused over the world so extensively, that there is scarcely a spot, however obscure, in any nation or community, but what the Brothers may there be found. Let, then, our Masonic traveller leave the land and scenes of his nativity, and go, I care not where,—let it be amid the Prairies of Wisconsin, or the Plantations of Louisiana; or the Boulevards of Paris, or the Bridge of Sighs at Venice; amid the streets of London, or on the wharves of San Francisco; amid the plains of Hindostan, or the deserts of Siberia,—let him be in perplexity, in danger, or sickness, or distress, he has only to employ the means he has been instructed to use, and like a scene of enchantment, all is reversed. Yes, that open sesame brings the distant near, and makes the stranger become familiar; hearts are unlocked, faces beam on us with interest and affection—the sanctuary of a home is provided for us and the solitary traveller feels himself among his kindred, and 'sits down under his own vine and fig-tree, there being none to make him afraid.'—Bro. R. L. Schoonmaker.

MASONIC LITERATURE.

"The literature of the Order is one of the most interesting themes that can attract the notice of intelligent Masons. Masonry is a science; and as such it should be presented to the view of its votaries, as well as to that of the world. A few years has brought a wonderful change in the literary history of Masonry. The addresses of the Grand Masters, and the reports of the Committees of Correspondence, are enriched with the record of intelligent acts and sentiments and discussions upon nearly all the points that arise which are of importance and value to the craft. It is worthy of remark that these reports are written, and the discussions conducted in a spirit of fraternal regard, that can be found in no other merely human institution. Even the wrongs that are committed, and there must be such in some of the many and large assemblies of men as compose the various Grand Lodges and Lodges of the numerous jurisdictions of this and other countries, are brought to notice, and debated in the kindest manner; and, although reproofs often appear, they are gentle and forbearing, and the brethren give and receive them with a view to such improvement as they desire to affect. From the literature that thus presents itself in the various operations of the workmen, and which contains an immense amount of Masonic research, the brethren are conducted onward in the search of light until the volumes that contain the history of the past are procured and read, and the landmarks that direct the labors of olden times reviewed with interest and pleasure. Should this condition of things continue, every Mason must become an intelligent man; and familiarized with the symbols and rituals of the order, he will know all the better how to appreciate the character and genius of the Masonic Institution, and guard and protect it from intrusion by the unworthy. In this elevation of the literary character of the craftsman, the Order will find its protection and security. The ballot-box will be used in the certain prospect of admitting the worthy, and rejecting the unworthy; when ignorance will find itself among the proscribed. Its knocking shall be in vain at the door. It cannot be opened for the admission of men, who can neither understand its symbols nor appreciate the profoundness of its mysteries.

"Let the good work go bravely on. Let the brethren work up the literature of the craft. Let them draw forth from the arcana of science, treasures new and old and true, and spread them upon the pages, from which they may shed their lustre through the Lodges upon the great confederacy of Masonic interest: which is now attracting the notice and the admiration of the world. It is ardently hoped that the light shall be so thoroughly irradiated through the temple, that the man who has not the capacity to read the symbols shall never gain admission among the sons of light."—[Rev. J. N. McJilton.]

NON-AFFILIATION.

"There is none of the landmarks that we have seen that admits of non-affiliation. As soon as the ceremony is performed, by means of which, the character of a Master Mason is impressed, the man becomes a brother. He is a member of the Masonic Family, and as such, he is invested with certain prerogatives. Among those prerogatives are the means of universal recognition. He has the power of making himself known as a member of the Family, wherever he may go. In non-affiliation, he may exercise this power, and if he is mean enough to do it, he may receive favors and benefits from his brethren, whose association and institution he has renounced. The landmarks could never have entertained such an idea with favor. On the contrary, in their spirit, and in their letter, they oppose it. They recognize every brother properly invested with Masonic immunities as an affiliation. And in the relationship which such affiliation recognizes, he is expected to do his duty. The work of the temple is ever going on. The temple is ever rising, stone upon stone, and in the building, there is a place for every workman, and every workman ought to be in his place. Such is the view of the landmarks, as evinced in the genius and character of the association, and in their positive declaration, and we hope that as our non-affiliated brethren become acquainted with their position and its consequences, they will reconsider the act by which they were estranged from their family and return affectionately to its embrace."—[Rev. J. N. McJilton.]

CANADA.

MASONRY in Canada is flourishing like a green bay-tree. The Grand Lodge, established on the 10th of October, 1855, by forty-one subordinates, the largest number by which any Grand Lodge was ever formed, is now the proud governing head of one hundred and fifteen warranted lodges and ten under dispensation; all as well regulated, and conservative of the best interests of the Craft, as any in the world. Bro. Wilson, of Canada, has been appropriately referred to as the "Model Grand Master," and the Masonry of his Province may well be said to be "Model Masonry." Throughout the length and breadth of that extensive jurisdiction, during the masonic year just passed, only one expulsion for unmasonic conduct has taken place; and this, we are quite certain, is not through any laxity of discipline in that jurisdiction, but a general emulation of the Craft there to live up to the laws of the Order. This Grand Lodge is recognized now, we believe, by every Grand Lodge in the Union except two, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin; and we hope these intelligent bodies will, at their next sessions, grasp the hand fraternally extended to them by a sister Grand Lodge, second to none in America in the moral worth and social position of her membership, and the extent and character of her usefulness.—*American Freemason's Magazine*.

[The number of Lodges holding charters or under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Canada at the present time is about 140.—Ed. C. F.]

MASONS AND COWANS.—Never enter into a dispute with a cowan. Like the deaf adder he will stop his ears, and refuse to hear the voice of the charmer, charm he never so wisely. No matter how clear are your facts, or how convincing your arguments, still he will turn an incredulous ear to your reasoning. Though you anxiously cry out, "O Baal, hear us!" and even cut yourself with knives and lancets to bespeak his attention, there will be neither voice nor any answer, nor any that regardeth. You may as well endeavour to extinguish the sun by pelting it with snow-balls, or to cut rocks in pieces with a razor, as to make any genial impression on the mind of a professed cowan.