

ORIGIN OF THE GRIDIRON IN MAKING FREEMASONS.

In years gone by, say forty or more, there lived in the City of Gotham, a jolly good host whose physical man betokened that he was no idle workman at seasons of refreshment, and his full face denoted that good humor and a relish for jokes whetted his appetite for bibbles as well as eatables. This jolly good host was a Freemason, and his hotel was a resort of the members of the Craft to while away their leisure time, where they were received with a smiling welcome, and their indulgences seasoned with a happy jest or some lively anecdote. Among the members of the Lodge to which our good host was attached was one, a tailor by profession, who fully equalled him in pranks and jokes, and when these two met some mischief was sure to be concocted, some plan devised for merriment at some other's expense. Among the inmates of the hotel was a very worthy young man, a mechanic, employed in the neighborhood, boarding there for convenience. This young man had a desire to learn the mysteries of Freemasonry, and requested the landlord to advise him the course to pursue, to which he readily agreed, as the young man was every way worthy to become a member of the fraternity. The application was made, and everything was satisfactory. Prior to his initiation, he concluded to make his debut in the Lodge in a new outfit, and he engaged a new suit from our jolly good tailor, to be finished on the night of his initiation. The tailor being cognizant of his customer's application to be made a Mason, and divining the purpose for which the suit of clothes was ordered, he, at the suggestion of the host, devised a plan for some sport on the occasion. The worthy host's wife it was known had some curious views concerning the Mystic Order, and believed it was not altogether for beneficial or charitable purposes the Masons met in their Lodges. The tailor prepared a piece of cloth, and scorched it in stripes as if it had been burnt on a gridiron; this he neatly basted on the seat of the pantaloons. The clothes arrived in due time, and soon incased the physical man of the candidate for initiation. He presented himself before the host before going to the Lodge, who, in the presence of his better half, appearing to admire very much the new suit, and inspecting the lower part of his coat, he remarked, "How very considerate!" loud enough for his spouse to hear, and then left the house accompanied by the candidate. The next day the clothing was closely examined, and before the close of the week, there were few of the lady acquaintances, whose husbands were known to be Masons, who did not see those pantaloons. It must not be supposed there were no secret conversations in relation to making Masons after retiring at night, between the good host and his better half. She, good soul, serious and moralizing. He unable to contain his laughter, and striving to prevent giving offense. The circumstance gave occasion for much talk among the good wives of the neighborhood. In due time the piece of cloth which had created no little excitement was removed, and the young man remained in ignorance of the practical joke; the subject being of a delicate nature, could not be communicated to him by those who believed him to have been a victim to some cruel ceremony. It was this circumstance which gave such extensive currency to the belief that a heated gridiron was a necessary implement in Masonic initiation—*World's Masonic Register.*

SECT.—It must not be imagined that Masonry is a system of religion at the present period. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Such a supposition would reduce it to the level of a religious sect, and utterly destroy its universality. It embraces a view of all the main facts connected with the great plan of human redemption; but leaves the brethren to arrange those facts as may suit their own individual opinion. This is the doctrine of the first ancient charge.

THE WORKING TOOLS OF A ROYAL ARCH MASON.

The working tools of a Royal Arch Mason are the *Crow, Pick-axe, and Spade*. The *Crow* is used by operative Masons to raise things of great weight and bulk; the *Pick-axe* to loosen the soil and prepare it for digging; and the *Spade* to remove rubbish. But the Royal Arch Mason is emblematically taught to use them for more noble purposes. By them he is reminded that it is his sacred duty to lift from his mind the heavy weight of passions and prejudices which encumber his progress towards virtue, loosening the bolus which long habits of sin and folly have laid upon his disposition, and removing the rubbish of vice and ignorance which prevents him from beholding the eternal foundation of truth and wisdom, upon which he is to erect the spiritual and moral temple of his second life.—*Brooklyn Standard*

MASONIC MENDICANCY.

We are pleased to learn, from the proceedings of several Grand Lodges, now before us, that while Masonic charity is increasing in its legitimate work, the Brethren, generally, are beginning to understand, and properly rebuke, a species of Masonic mendicancy, which within the past ten years has been a source of more fruitful annoyance to the Craft than any other. Strict investigation is now made in many States of all travelling applicants for Masonic aid, as to their claims, both on the score of merit and of necessity, and only those are assisted who are able to furnish such internal evidence of being worthy as will stand the test of Masonic requirement. To all others, Masonry is not only not bound to contribute, but by so doing, she inflicts positive injury upon herself and upon society. Want of discrimination in the bestowment of Masonic charity has given existence to a large and increasing number of Masonic vagrants, who have made no other use of the institution than to derive from it a subsistence, which otherwise would have been the reward of industry, if obtained at all. Some of the Grand bodies have taken action upon the subject, and defined the limits of a Brother's duty in considering applications of this nature. We are of opinion that as it is often impossible to determine, from a Brother's appearance or application, the extent of his necessities, the rule to regulate Masonic charity should rest in the sound discretion of the one to whom application is made, but that in applying the restrictive rule, the Brother should not forget that it is better to be deceived an hundred fold, than that one needy, meritorious applicant should be denied. Masonic vagrancy, we regret to say, has in other States, as well as in our own generally been but another name for Masonic knavery, and the Subordinate Lodges of many other jurisdictions than our own, contain the evidence of broken honor and faithless promises to an extent sufficient to cause the cheek of every honest Brother to mantle with shame, that such wretched specimens of humanity have ever found their way into the Fraternity.—*Brooklyn Standard.*

SECRET.—What can it be? This is a question which has been asked for centuries, and will probably continue to be asked for centuries to come. Ceremonies, customs, moral explanations of allegorical and symbolical instruments and figures which are to be found in a Freemasons' lodge, are, it is true, considered as secrets by some of the brotherhood. But those cannot be the real genuine secrets of Freemasonry; it is impossible; for a Mason may be acquainted with all the ceremonies, usages, and customs of the Craft—he may be able morally to explain every symbolical or allegorical instrument or figure which is to be found in a Masons' lodge—and yet neither be happy in this world, nor have a sure foundation on which to build his hopes of happiness in the world to come.—*Gadick.*

THE NINE MASTERS.

The following are the names of the nine masters who are said to have been elected by Solomon after the death of Hiram Abiff:—Moabon, Jachin, Boaz, Gamzani, Azariah, Joram, Jsch-'gi, Achal, Obed.—*Brooklyn Standard.*

ITEMS.

"I go through my work," as the needle said to the idle boy.
"But not till you are hard pushed," as the idle boy said to the needle.

A little boy of a certain village being asked what was the chief end of man, answered. "The end what's got the head on."

One of Sir Boyle Roche's invitations to an Irish nobleman was rather equivocal: "I hope, my Lord, if ever you are within a mile of my house, you'll stay there all night."

AN EPIGRAM.

Quoth Mary to John,
"How wicked are men,
To Abraham's bosom
Scarce one goes in ten."

Quoth John to Mary,
"Why should they, my dear,
Since daily they find
Far sweeter ones here?"

How did Jonah feel when he went down the whale's throat?

He felt taken in and was considerably put out in about three days.

How did he look and think?

He looked down in the mouth, and thought he was going to blubber.

"Do you believe in second love, Mrs. McQuade?" "Do I believe in second love? Humph! If a man buys a pound of sugar, isn't it sweet? and when it's gone don't he want another pound? and isn't that sweet, too? Troth Murphy, I believe in second love."

YOUTH AND AGE.—Youth is fed by poetry and imagination; mature age, by realities; as plants draw all their nourishment from the air, until they bear fruit; and afterwards from the ground only.

If laughter is the daylight of the soul, a smile is its twilight.

GENEROUS.—A young clergyman having buried three wives, a lady asked him how he happened to be so lucky. "Madam," replied he, "I knew they could not live without contradiction, so I let all of them have their own way."

"My native city has treated me badly," said a drunken vagabond, "but I love her still." "Probably," replied a gentleman "her still is all you do love."

Said a certain individual to a wag—"The man who has raised a cabbage head has done more good than all the metaphysicians in the world." "Then," replied the wag, "your mother ought to have the premium!"

The proverb which says the first step towards greatness is to be honest, does not state the case strongly enough. Honesty is not simply the first step toward greatness; it is greatness itself.

Let a youth, who stands at the bar with a glass of liquor in his hand, consider which he had better throw away, the liquor or himself.

Why has the weather been so intensely hot lately?—Because the World has knocked spots out of the Sun.