

soon placed them on a more substantial resting place ; while familiar voices whispered words of encouragement.

They were then led to the ante-room, where, to their surprise, they found their proper apparel in readiness for them. They were left alone in the room and the doors locked upon them, with instructions to notify the Tyler when they were ready to take the solemn oath never to reveal the scenes which they had that night witnessed. After being left alone they seriously contemplated jumping from the window, but at Belle's suggestion, that they had probably seen the worst of it, they desisted, and in due time announced themselves ready for the obligation.

Emma Curious was called, and she entered the darkened room alone. She was scarcely within the door when "Fear not, it is I," was whispered in her ear in such a manner that she felt confident that Horatio Stillman was her guide. Previous to entering the room this time, Gallant had instructed her to answer "yea" to every question propounded. She did so, hardly recovering her senses until she heard "I pronounce you man and wife, what God has joined together let no man put asunder."

She was then seated with Horatio Stillman, her newly-acquired husband, who had been her choice for years, although nothing definite had been said on the subject.

While sitting there she witnessed the marriage of Belle to Mr. Shingle, who, as he afterwards expressed it, obtained her from the Tyler by a "trick of the law." Samuel Gallant avenged himself by marrying Biddy Mulcadey, in the same manner.

Hezekiah Cotton acted as May's guide, and at the conclusion of the services, she made manifest her determination to be *Eavesdrop* no more.

Next was heard a voice saying, "If any person has reason to show why these nuptials be not confirmed let them here make it manifest or for ever after hold their peace." Not one of the young ladies offered any objection, so it was considered that they were well pleased—a conjecture which subsequent events proved to be correct.

This was thought by the victims to be the last but not least part of the mysteries ; but the end was not yet.

The folding-doors were thrown open, and there were assembled the parents and friends of the newly-wedded parties, ready with their congratulations. A bountiful repast was spread, of which all partook with a hearty relish, while music and merriment made the remainder of the night pass as

"Merry as a marriage bell."

The next day Steadytown was electrified with the news, and Madam Rumor got things strangely mixed up, first avering that Belle Catchnote was drowned in the cistern at the Lodge, and then that Biddy Mulcadey had died of fright, while listening to the horrible mysteries of the Masons. But all agreed that there was no more May Eavesdrop, Belle Catchnote, Emma Curious, or Biddy Mulcadey.

Years have passed since the instances narrated above occurred, but we think the Lodge never had occasion to repent the "work" done on that night, nor the candidates the obligations there taken.

The Brother that goes to Steadytown now finds Secret Lodge in a flourishing condition, and should he ask either of the old members, if they believe there ever was a woman made a Mason, he will receive the reply, "I saw four initiated once, and to that night's work this Lodge owes its great prosperity."—*Freemason's Repository*.

## THE RESIGNATION OF THE ENGLISH GRAND MASTER,

From the London Times.

SOME singular proceedings, which we reported on Thursday, at the Grand Lodge of Freemasons will have prepared our readers for a strange announcement. The Marquis of Ripon was, till Wednesday, Grand Master of the Freemasons of England. The offices of the Brotherhood are fanciful, but they are none the less positions of honor and of some social importance. That of Grand Master is, of course, the highest of all, and Lord Ripon had held it for three years with great satisfaction to the Craft and credit to himself. The Lodge met on Wednesday for the transaction of current business, when they were startled by the announcement that the Grand Master had resigned. In a brief letter, which states no reasons, Lord Ripon says that he finds himself unable any longer to discharge the duties of Grand Master, and that he is consequently compelled to resign. The Craft are reported to have received the announcement with dismay, and it may well have perplexed them. What should have induced the Marquis of Ripon thus to withdraw, without apparent reason, from a position of dignity and influence, if not of real importance? How many of our readers can have surmised the strange answer? Lord Ripon has become a Roman Catholic! It is notorious that the Freemasons are under the especial ban of the