

Masonic Journal, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Royal Craftsman, Plainfield, N. S.

South African Freemason, Cathcart, Cape Colony.

Voice of Masonry, Chicago.

Victorian Freemason, Melbourne, Australia.

Tyler (four numbers), Detroit.

Trestle Board, San Francisco.

NOTE.—We wish it to be understood that any publications forwarded to THE CRAFTSMAN, and not acknowledged have failed to reach, and our journalistic brethren will oblige by notice of any such omission.

THE SQUARE.

This implement is one of the most simple that can be imagined. Two sticks and a nail or two are all that is required to make one. Why do Freemasons so revere it? Why do they place upon the Square an importance almost inconceivable. We have often remarked that our Craftsmen are idolators to a certain extent. It is rather a dangerous assertion to make, and were we not to qualify our remark, we might be censured as accusing our Fraternity of following the pernicious systems of antiquity. As we understand idolatry, it was the benefit that the image gave, and not the image itself, that was revered. Of course to particularize, we would necessarily be compelled to give the history of the image worshipped in order to trace the benefit. So it is with the Square. We revere it for the lessons that it teaches. Its language is indeed significant, and to the Craftsman that is of an inquiring mind, its meaning is of double importance. Of the rude figures that have come into great reverence we mention the Cross. It was first used by the primitive Egyptian to measure the rise of the Nile. In later ages it was used as an instrument of death, and now it is a symbol of the Great Jehovah. It occupies the zenith of symbolism for the associations connected with it. The Square tells us how to act towards our fellow men. As the Master Workman applies the Square to see that the work is true, so we see that our conduct towards one another corresponds with the Divine command. This is the real object of speculative Freemasonry. It teaches us how to act and how to live. While men may endeavor to live good and true, our system enables them to conform their actions

that they will be good even though they are unconscious of it. Here it is that the result of our science is achieved. Our system makes them good, but this is accomplished by aid of scientific principles, and it is in their exemplification that we come so near to the old time worship already alluded to. We look upon the Square as a teacher that brings peace and happiness by simply admonishing the thoughtful man how to correct by viewing his own actions.—*Freemason's Journal*.

HOME OR LODGE?

A brother from Iowa writes :

What ought a Mason to do whose wife is bitterly opposed to his being a Mason? Please answer in your columns.

Ans.—This belongs to a class of questions that each brother thus situated must answer for himself. It is a question as vexed as it is delicate. In the first place, were the case our own we should ascertain our wife's feelings in regard to the matter before we took so important a step. No institution has ever existed that more fully and fairly recognises the fact of a man's duty to his family, country and God than does Free and Accepted Masonry. Our first duty is to these great, paramount interests. If the opposition of the wife was found to be irreconcilable we think we should remain aloof from the order. If the opposition developed later, after we had taken the obligations of the Fraternity upon us, then much would depend upon circumstances. If the hostility proved so extreme as to compel a choice between the order and domestic peace, then, much as we love and believe in Freemasonry, we should (were the case our own), we think withdraw from it and cleave unto her whom the law of both God and man has made "bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh."

We may suggest, however, that we believe most wives are disposed to be reasonable if their husbands are sufficiently considerate. Exemplifying the spirit and principles of our noble order as every true Mason will be led to do, will soon win any worthy and faithful wife. Make the good that there is in Masonry apparent in your life, my brother, and the opposition of that wife of yours will very likely yield as the mists melt in the sun's warm rays.—*Master Mason*.