

## REVEALING SECRETS IN PUBLISHING MANUALS.

There are periodical outcries against manuals that have full instructions for the "work" of Masonry, lest our ceremonies be made public and nothing of the mysteries or to mystify be left us! Hands are held up in holy horror; the "landmarks" are about to be displaced and ruin threatens our ancient and honorable institution (?). A manual that was but a compilation of other works put into convenient form was regarded as a "clean give away." To publish a ritual in cypher is by some esteemed next to blasphemy. All this brings forcibly to mind the remarks of Mr. Secretary Jenkins, of the English parliament, when Sir John Hotham moved that the proceedings of the House of Commons be published. "Consider," said he, "the gravity of this assembly; there is no great assembly in Christendom that does it; it is against the gravity of this assembly, and is a sort of appeal to the people."

So these monitors are "agin" the "landmarks" of Masonry. The people may know too much. They may know something about the teachings of Masonry and see how poorly we live up to our professions. They may learn that the compasses is a symbol to teach us to "circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds," and see how badly we circumscribe; that the gavel is to symbolize the breaking off of superfluities, "the better to fit us as living stones for that spiritual temple not made with hands." Oh, that there was more of this kind of spirit to be found among us. They may find out that the trowel is to symbolize the "spreading of the cement of brotherly love and affection," and be surprised to hear the conversation among Masons impugning the motives of Brother A., or the secret whisperings and innuendoes about Brother B.

Brethren, don't be afraid of the manuals; let us rather be afraid that

we lack somewhat of that charity that is kind—that should induce us to quietly tell a brother of his faults and endeavor to aid in a reformation; that charity (love) that warns of approaching danger to morals or character as well as to person or property. Let us learn the true use of compasses and square, of gavel and gauge, of plumb and trowel, so that we shall not neglect the weightier matters of the law or substitute traditions for them. Then we will have no fear of the manuals, which look plain to us but are as an unsolved riddle to the uninitiated.—*Masonic Home Journal*.

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"We heartily congratulate the *Masonic Chronicle* on its successful career, and trust that now upon entering its third volume its friends and supporters will push its circulation by every honorable means. There is no reason why there should not be two good Masonic journals in Ohio, a State in which Masonry is thoroughly taught and practiced. The *Chronicle* has come to hand regularly, and every month contained an immense amount of general Masonic news. It has never been ashamed of its opinions, nor squeamish in expressing its views. Whilst at times we have found it necessary to dispute some "items" in its Masonic creed, we have always found it courteous though firm in controversy. The *Masonic Chronicle* has always proved itself a firm friend of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and does not hesitate to denounce the recent outrages. We wish it all success."—*Canadian Craftsman*.

Thanks, Bro. Trayer, for your kind words. When we projected the *Chronicle* we proposed to make it the fearless advocate of genuine Masonry, and not a cringing supplicant for patronage only. To do this we expected that we should be compelled to offend the tender feelings of some portion of the Fraternity, and we probably have done so, but like yourself, and few