

THE SQUARE.

This is one of the most important and significant symbols in Freemasonry, and as such it is proper that its true form should be preserved. Our French brethren have almost universally given it with one leg longer than the other (as was frequently the case in this country in the last century), thus making it a carpenter's square. It is also often unnecessarily marked with inches, as an instrument for measuring, which it is not. It is simply the *trying square* of a stone mason, and has a plain surface, the sides or legs embracing an angle of 90 degrees, and is intended only to test the accuracy of the sides of a stone, and to see that its edges subtend the same angle.

In Freemasonry it is a symbol of morality. This is its general signification, and is applied in several ways: (1) It presents itself to the neophyte as one of the three great lights; (2) to the F. C. as one of his working tools; (3) to the M. M. as the official jewel of the Master of the Lodge. Everywhere it inculcates the same lesson of morality, of truthfulness, and honesty. So universally accepted is the symbolism, that it has gone outside of our order, and is found in colloquial language communicating the same idea. As a Masonic symbol it is of very ancient date, and was familiar to the operative masons. In the year 1830 the architect (Bro. Payne) in re-building a very ancient bridge called Baal's bridge, near Limerick, in Ireland, found under the foundations an old brass square, much corroded, containing on its two surfaces the inscription: "I WILL STRIVE TO LIVE WITH LOVE AND CARE UPON THE LEVEL, BY THE SQUARE," with the date 1517. This discovery, therefore, proves, if proof were necessary, that the teaching of our old operative brethren was identical with the speculative application of the working-tools of the modern Craft.—*Mackey*.

Masonry has 15,838 Lodges and 1,802,992 members.

WHAT IS EAST?

We have been asked to explain what is meant by the word "East" as Masonically employed, and whether the Master of a lodge as such may occupy a seat in any portion of a lodge room other than that which is literally East.

According to the philosophy of the ancient Egyptians, the sun was the great fecundator (begetter) of Nature. This power was by them ascribed to the sun after they had observed that the light and heat of the sun were necessary to the life and propagation of both vegetable and animal life, and as the sun appeared to rise in the East, and was all-powerful in nature, the East subsequently became known as the place of potency (power). Then the sun, or the East, symbolically and hence Masonically, is the place of power and control as the head is the place of power and control over the body. Hence the East is Masonically used to designate the head, headquarters, or controlling power or place of Masonic bodies; therefore we say, "the grand East at Boston," at New York, at Washington, etc., wherever the general office or general place of convening may be fixed for a Supreme Council or governing body of Masons. Therefore the Master of the lodge, being absolute in power for the time being, is himself the East, that is the power, the light and life-giving principle to the lodge. He forms, controls, and disperses the lodge at his will and pleasure, precisely as the sun by its action brings forth the leaves upon the trees, continues them for a time, then ripens them, and scatters them to the four winds of heaven. Thus, it will be seen that no matter what portion of the lodge room be occupied by the Master as his seat, that portion is symbolically, and hence Masonically, the East.

The Duke of Wellington was a Freemason and his father, Garrett, the first Earl of Mornington, was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1777.