

viewing the position ; the second, though almost incurable, deserves our pity. As to the third, incorrigible and incapable of inspiring us with the slightest interest, we can only urge on the brethren who compose it to renounce at once and for ever their title to be regular Masons. A sense of honor forbids them to remain any longer members of a body which they discourage by exhibiting towards its labors the most intense disdain.

To these three classes of indifferent brethren we might have added a fourth, more numerous still, which comprises those Masons who are always ready to be guided by the influence of those who surround them ; but we have thought it better not to insist too strongly on the weakness of such brethren, but to encourage them by good example to re-awaken their zeal, and become once again really useful and active members of the Craft.

Indifference, adding its ravages to those inflicted by the late war, has, during the last four years especially, weakened French Masonry. Our lodges have been partially deserted, and notwithstanding the efforts of the most devoted members, the duties languish and are unproductive. Against the dangers which such a position involves, it is the duty of all who are sincerely attached to our Institution to combat with the utmost energy.

The general elections have recently taken place in all the district lodges. May the newly elected officers signalize their accession to power by a merciless war against this mortal enemy of our great family. May they pursue, unrelentingly, even to its last retrenchments, and afford in all circumstances, to the lukewarm and hesitating, the comforting example of zeal and activity. All well-disposed men are ready to give their efforts, to labor earnestly with them to restore to our lodges the life and energy which are deserting them. In this work of restoration, hesitation is impossible, devotion will not fail of its influence. And since indifference is, of all the dangers which menace us, the greatest and most pressing, let us, at this moment, and everywhere throughout French Masonry, have but one thought, but one aim, but one rallying cry : "*Guerre à l'indifférence!*"—Translated for the KEYSTONE.

THE MASONIC EMBLEMS.

It cannot be denied by those who have passed through the veils, that the very progress of Masons, in their journey from darkness to light, is regulated at every point and stopping place by some incident or illustration familiar to them as readers of God's inspired volume.

The ladder which Jacob saw has been adopted by us, the three principal rounds of which are Faith, Hope, and Charity ; and our whole course and progress are regulated by that beautiful implement which is to mark the degrees by which we are to ascend from our state of ignorance and indifference to the highest intelligence, to the brightest honors, and to the highest points of virtue and usefulness in Freemasonry.

There is not an emblem, not a badge, not a sign nor signal, not an implement of our Craft—there is nothing connected with our Heaven-ordained Brotherhood which is not designed either to teach a moral lesson, to inculcate some truth, to vindicate and establish some virtue, to propagate some righteous principle of humanity, to relieve the sufferings of our kind, or to scatter light and knowledge among the races who fell with Adam, and by whose fall we have inherited sin and death, and all the evils that infest the earth, and that transformed our Garden of Eden into a theatre of war, of treasons, of stratagems, aye, of rash rebellion against the law of nature and the commands of the Most High.

Every piece of furniture in one of our lodges, implement or instrument of work, every figure on the checkered floor, everything the eye can behold, impresses—or ought to do so—the mind with some truth, some principle, some moral or religious sentiment, or some precept of humanity.

The square which is used by all Masons, the level and the plumb, which likewise are found in every region, and in every lodge where Masonry has established its beneficent influence, teach such lessons of morality, virtue, and religion, as must command the respect of all regulated minds. The square enjoins morality, the plumb rectitude of conduct, and the level admonishes us that we are all equal.

In a word, the level, with the square and plumb, constitute the immovable jewels of a lodge, impress us that all men are equal by birth ; that talent, that probity, and that the noble exercise of the gifts with which we have been endowed by the Creator, alone make the difference between the men of this or any other generation of the sons of Adam. The working tools of the Society alone should be quite enough to win the esteem of every man who has a right appreciation of the duties, and the obligations, and the wants of life. There is scarcely an instrument belonging to the fraternity that