

While in Washington the Indians were asked if they did not want to be made Masons, but they did not know what it was, and Mr. Collins, who was a Mason, explained it as far as permissible. They then signified their willingness, and were taken to a blue lodge and given the signs of the first three degrees with explanations, and when they returned to the great plains they were such for all practical purposes.

Of course Mr. Beck thought as that was the last chance for his life, he was not slow in giving the sign of distress, which was recognised by the great King of the Plains, and he was saved.

While the Indians were at Washington, the president had some medals struck and gave them to the chiefs. When the writer afterwards met the chief referred to above, in company with the mail boys, and the conductor was a Mason, of course our relations were cordial. After dining with us, the chief said:

"I have omitted something I ought to have said before. I have in my possession a memento I highly prize. I wear it near my heart. It is a present from President Pierce, that I got while in Washington."

And as he spoke thus he removed his wampum from his breast and drew from his bosom a large Masonic medal, with two hands clasped, one the president's and the other the chief's; on the other side was the pipe of peace. As far as the writer knows the chief was always faithful to his Masonic vows. The above is taken from memory, but in the main is true.—*John A. Feris, in Texas Freemason.*

Masonry to-day, instead of numbering 2,000,000, might as well be 4,000,000, provided they followed the competitive methods of securing members of other secret societies. We are not finding fault with our neighbors, but we point with pride to the fact that it must be of one's "own free will and accord" if he ever sees the "light of a Masonic Lodge." If he comes in differently he perjures himself at the very threshold

of Masonry and the brother who solicited his petition is "particeps criminis."

In answering the question, "What is the magnet that fills the ranks of the Masonic Brotherhood with so many willing, faithful companions?" Rev. Bro. Donald M. Spence, D.D., Dean of Gloucester, England, said: "It is something, believe me, nobler, grander far than mere enjoyment; something more far-reaching than good fellowship. It is, I think, the initiation into that Divine sympathy which is the secret of our Order, which so wonderfully, so happily, finds an echo in so many hearts, and draws us so many and such varied recruits."

Giblins or Gibalim according to Mackey were the inhabitants of the Phœnician City of Gebal, called by the Greeks—Byblos. The Phœnician word Gebal, of which "Gibalins" or "Giblim" is the plural, signifies a Mason or Stone-squarer. Gesenius in his *Heb. Lex.*, says that the inhabitants of Gebal were seamen and builders; and Sir William Drummond in his *Origines* asserts that "the Gibalim were Master Masons, who put the finishing hand to King Solomon's temple."

If members of the Craft would only remember that the forms and ceremonies of Freemasonry are only the shell under which lie the kernel, that the crowning glory of King Solomon's Temple was not in its marble walls, its roof trees of the cedar and the fir, the two magnificent pillars in the porch of entrance, nor its interior lavish adornment with gold, silver and precious stones, but in the holy of holies where rested the Ark of the Covenant (see Ezra iii. 12 and Haggai ii. 3), then an effort would be made to learn what is taught by its signs, symbols, forms and ceremonies, that they might enjoy the pleasures and derive the benefits Freemasonry has in store for all its votaries.

The *Masonic Visitor* has an article on the Minute Books of Lodge Carlow, which is very interesting. A few ex-