

We have just received a photograph of the elegant Jewel, which we have placed in the hands of the Engraver, and hope to be enabled to give it in our next, together with a more detailed list of the distinguished brethren, who attended on the occasion, (numbering, we are informed, no less than six hundred,) for which we regret we have not space in the present number.—*Freemason's Magazine*.

THE WAY TO DO THE WORK.

BY BRO ROUNSEVILLE.

No officer can do his work well who does not thoroughly understand it; hence the necessity of "studying" it. It is not enough that he can repeat it, parrot-like. We do not agree with those who think that an uneducated man makes the best officer, because he is more likely to get it exact. It may readily be conceded that an ignorant man will be more likely to use the exact language of the work than one who is educated. It is undoubtedly the fact, and for this reason: The man who does not think has no words but those he finds in the work to express the idea which that work contains. He gets the idea from the work, and expresses it in its own language, because he has no other. With the educated, thinking man, the case is different. He has half a dozen terms that express the same, or a similar idea, and he will frequently have one at hand, when the term that is orthodox escapes his memory.

Now it is doubtless desirable that there should be uniformity in the work, but we submit that there are other things more desirable. One of these is a forcible and impressive manner of delivering the lectures. The change of a single word for one of the same, or similar signification, mars the work less than the false pronunciation or accentuation of the word laid down in the ritual. Suppose the candidate is told in the true work that he has "exemplified" an event in history, would it detract from the impression of the work should he use the word "illustrated" instead? We give this as a specimen of the principle for which we contend, that there are worse errors than the substitution of a strange word of similar meaning. The sentence in which the word "exemplified" occurs, badly delivered, would be less forcible and impressive, and subserve the interest of Masonry less than the interpolation of "illustrated" in a well and forcibly spoken sentence. If this be true, it is better to make the manner of delivering a study, as well as the text of the work.

This brings us back to our starting point, that a good officer will endeavor to understand—thoroughly understand the work. And by this we do not mean that we should go through it without missing a word or misplacing a syllable. Some do that and yet know very little about the words. The ritual of Masonry will bear study. It is terse, simple and expressive, and in nine cases out of ten when an officer is at a loss to construe a passage in it, if he will express the idea in the most forcible, direct and simple language that he can command, he will get it correctly. There is no verbiage, no rhetorical periods, no high-sounding epithets, no rounding sentences in Masonry. It is like the three pillars, it combines wisdom, strength, and beauty, without a display of tawdy finery. Then it follows that the officer who shall attempt to deliver his charges and lecture in grandiloquent, or what is generally called an eloquent manner, will most surely fail.