

HOW ROB MORRIS WORKED.

We quote the following extracts from a recent article of Bro. Rob Morris concerning his manner of his reportorial work:

"While Dickens was haunting the streets of London to gather names and incidents for his immortal stories, I was visiting hundreds of Lodges, inspecting their rooms and furniture, observing their manner of examining strangers, opening Lodge, performing ritualistic work, laying corner-stones, exercising discipline, and burying the dead. I spent my Sunday afternoons, when away from home, in the old cemeteries, copying Masonic emblems and epitaphs, that I might reproduce them in some Masonic tale or essay, or in my editorials in the various Masonic papers that I conducted.

"Another field of Masonic information I cultivated more diligently than ever it had been done before was the memories of the aged. I do not remember that any Masonic writer adopted this plan of gathering Masonic facts before me, but wherever I found an old Mason, provided his mind was clear, I found in him a mine of valuable thought. In search of such men I have traveled thousands of miles. In the company of such men I have spent many and many an hour, inquisitive to propound questions, quick to note down the answers in short-hand, industrious to write them out and enlarge them into readable articles. As I was the first Masonic editor to do this, so I think, I am the last to do it. Judging by the editorial columns of the American Masonic press, it would appear that the only recognition an old Mason claims nowadays is to become a *thirty-third*, whatever that means, and withdraw the influence from the good old mother system of Blue Lodge Masonry, in which alone (if I may be permitted to express my belief so plainly) lies the only hope for an honorable future that Freemasonry possesses."

DUTY OF MASONS.

"Any order, to become prominent, must practice what they preach. Of these there can be no better choice than the Masonic Order. We are taught to be just to all men, to do good to one another, and have a generous and due regard for the happiness and welfare of others, while seeking to promote our own. We are enjoined to practice self-denial without self-abnegation; to relieve the distressed without privation and injury to those who are dependent upon our exertions. In fact, the Order of Masonry, as the handmaid of religion, is well designed to assist the pilgrim of life in contending against the trials of mortality, and accompanies him to the very threshold of whatsoever temple he may deem best suited to the worship and praise of our Father and our God. The very basis of Masonry is brotherly love, relief and truth, and to "do unto others as we would they should do to us." The true Mason's trust is in God, and to the man who finds it possible to entertain this hope how different an aspect the world wears—casting his glance forward, how wondrous a light rests upon the future, the farther he extends his vision the brighter the light—animated by a hope more sublime than wishes bounded to earth ever before inspired—he feels armed with the courage to oppose surrounding prejudices and the welfare of hostile customs. No sectarian advantage, no petty benefit is before him; he sees but the regeneration of mankind. From the disease, famine and toil around him, his spirit bursts into prophecy, and dwells among the eternal and everlasting ages. Then let us practice what we preach, ever bearing in mind this, our first duty to each other, whether assembled in Lodge or scattered abroad in the various walks of life.—Bro. Thos. H. Douglas, Portsmouth, Va.