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NOTHING TO LEARN.

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Not long since, while in conversation with a brother Mason, who, as far as degrees were concerned, had arrived at the highest round of the ladder of American Masonry, I was both surprised and pained to hear him make this remark: "There is nothing in Masonry for me to learn; I have learned the whole." Knowing that the brother had not the reputation of being an over-zealous Mason, and not too much given to study; and knowing, also, that my pursuit of Masonry had not enabled me to arrive at anywhere near such a conclusion I was led to ask myself, is he the only Mason that has arrived to that point of egotism, wherein he has learned the whole?

In after conversation with the brother, I found that his boasted knowledge was only superficial, and extended no farther than the ritual of degrees which he had taken, and even that knowledge limited. Amongst the ideas that he had advanced, was, that Grand Masters and Grand Lodges were in existence as far back as the days of Solomon, King of Israel. That he is not alone in that opinion I do not deny. Our best informed students, however, tell us that Grand Masters and Grand Lodges were unknown previous to A. D. 1717.

Without study, one is very apt to confound the traditions of Masonry with the actual facts. Traditional evidences, and facts, are decidedly different. Traditions would carry us back thousands of years, while facts do not warrant such assertions.

"Nothing to learn." Let the reader stop for a moment and ponder well upon the meaning of those words.

"Nothing to learn" of an institution whose origin is clouded in mystery; whose present membership in the whole world is about a million and a half, about 600,000 of which are in North America, which spends thousands of dollars annually for benevolent purposes; whose silent, though powerful influences for good are felt over the whole world; which has withstood the anathematizations of popes, the persecutions of governments, as well as those of individuals; the fanatical tirades of unscrupulous politicians; who has traitors within its ranks as well as foes without; and one too, in spite of everything that has been done in opposition to it, stands as high above that of its enemies, as the heavens is above the earth.

"Nothing to learn" of such an institution as that of Masonry. Can it be possible that so much egotism can