

authorized will grow in interest and importance under the inspiration of its zealous promoters. The direct benefits of such a collection will not be small, and the general influence will be helpful and stimulating in manifold ways.—*Freemasons' Repository*.

### THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX.

The riddle of the Sphinx is at length on the point of being solved. The great man-headed, lion-bodied monument, which has for ages been more than half-buried by the accumulating sands of the desert, is now being rapidly brought to light; and ere long one of the most extraordinary relics of Egyptian civilization will be once more visible in its entirety. The work has been going on ever since January last, when—at the suggestion of M. Maspero, the chief director of the department of antiquities in Egypt—the French public, in the course of a few hours, subscribed sufficient funds to enable the work of excavation to be carried to completion. The interest of such news for Egyptologists may be convinced, when it is remembered that the last time the Sphinx was dug out of the sands was by King Thothemes IV., fifteen centuries before Christ, or about thirty-four hundred years ago. Scholars, in fact, are of the opinion that the Sphinx is the oldest monument in the world. In the opinion of some, it was erected or chiseled out of rock more than forty-five centuries before the Christian Era. The body is more than one hundred and eighty feet long. The ears of the human-shaped head are about six feet in length, the other features being in proportion. The learned explorers who are engaged in the work of excavation hold it probable that when the statue is fully brought to light, a number of other important discoveries will be made. *Journal and Messenger*.

### VOUCHING AND LAWFUL INFORMATION.

Bro. Drummond says of the following:—

"We think that the following is the best statement of "vouching" and "lawful information" that we have ever seen and may be safely followed, except so far as limited by express law of the Grand Lodge:"

*First*—In what way or ways may a visiting brother or brethren be vouch-ed for? (a) Can a brother vouch for another in a lodge simply from an examination prior to the meeting of the lodge? (b) Three brothers, A, B and C, are mutual friends. A and B have met in the lodge. A and C have also met in like manner. If A vouches for B to C, can C vouch for B in the lodge, A not being present?

*Answer*—A brother can vouch for a visitor only when he *knows* that visitor to be a Mason. (a) Yes, provided that in the judgment of the lodge the brother vouching for the visitor is competent to make a strict examination. (b) A, B and C being present, and A vouches to C for this Bro. B, it would be competent for C to vouch for B in the lodge, A not being present; but if A should vouch to C for B, B not being present, C could not vouch for B in lodge, as there would be a possibility of mistaken identity.

*Second*—What is meant by legal Masonic information?

*Answer*—Lawful information can only be received from one whom we know to be competent to impart it, and it must be positive and beyond question, and imparted for Masonic purposes, not casually. The voucher should also give the evidence upon which he vouches for the visitor; as, I have examined or have met this brother in lodge while working in the first, second or third degree, as the case may be. Vouching is bearing witness, and in witness-bearing we should tell that *only* which we know to be true.—Grand Master Witt, of Kentucky.