

by the raising of the Nile, and the inundation which followed. This symbol is particularly, if not exclusively applicable to the Egyptians who inhabited the Delta; who by placing a reliance upon the warning providently given by this star, and in consequence retiring to the high ground with the produce of their agriculture, might enjoy the comforts surrounded them.

What connection can possibly exist between a star and prudence, except allegorically in reference to the caution that was indicated to the Egyptians by the first appearance of the star, which warned them of approaching danger?

As to the allusion to the star that guided the wise men to Bethlehem, every intelligent and candid Mason will acknowledge its absurdity; because he must know, that the principles and dogmas of freemasonry, contained in the ancient mysteries from which it is derived, existed long before the birth of Jesus Christ.

The temples of the ancients being a representation of the universe, they adorned and beautified them with figures of various objects in nature and particularly with the signs of the zodiac and the planets, which form a beautiful border of skirtwork round the grand luminary the sun and represented by the *indented or tessellated Border*.

OF GOOD REPORT.

We frequently hear the remark made, both by the initiate and un-initiate to the mysteries of Freemasonry, that "persons not of good character are admitted to Masonic Lodges." Would such be the case if proper inquiry were made? We contend that no man should be admitted to brotherhood among Masons about whom there is a doubt as to character or habits, and there should be a doubt when good character is not proved by strict inquiry into past life and present moral standing. No brother should propose a candidate for Masonic degrees unless, from his own personal knowledge of the person proposed, he can vouch for his worthiness. The committee appointed by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge should be selected with care, and any brother accepting an appointment on such committee should accept it with the full purpose of faithfully performing the requirements of his office. It may be at personal inconvenience that sufficient time is devoted to strict inquiry, but we should hope no Mason would accept such a position who was unwilling to work for the Craft even at a little personal inconvenience. Every member of a Lodge should use the means in his power to be assured of the character of those proposed to be admitted to brotherhood, for no good man wishes to associate with the vicious; especially he does not desire to admit a bad man to the close bonds of brotherhood.

We fear that occasionally the watchmen become sleepy, or what is more, indifferent, allow the enemy to penetrate our portals and share in our mysteries. This may arise from various causes—the W. M. may desire to increase the number of members of the Lodge more rapidly than a healthy growth could accomplish; the Lodge may be pressed for funds, or there may be a desire to create a large fund, that when calls are made for charity the means may be at hand to be applied to succour the unfortunate brother or his family. Too often we fear the initiation fee is an argument that halts inquiry.