

OBLONG SQUARE.

One writer affirms that the present use of the word "oblong," expresses all that is meant by the Masonic phrase "oblong-square."

In this, he is wholly mistaken. The mathematical meaning of an "oblong" is,—“a rectangle whose adjacent sides are unequal,”—but it does not follow that it is a four-sided figure all of whose angles are right angles, but two of whose sides are twice as long as the two other opposite sides. The terms,—“oblong of two squares,”—or “double square,” are clumsy, but passable;—but the easily comprehended and expressive Masonic archaism—“oblong square,”—cannot well be improved upon. Its well-known meaning is universally understood by Masons and its use has been hallowed by age. Moreover, the phrase “oblong square” has, to a certain extent, the sanction of the best mathematical usage,—as in the expression “oblong spheroid,” for “prolate spheroid.”

Brethren,—suffer a word of warning;—“hands off” the beautiful and instructive “archaisms”—the ancient idioms,—still remaining in the ritual and general literature of the Craft.

THE CHAPTER.

When I lately visited a certain Chapter of Masons of the Holy Royal Arch, I was much pleased to witness the beautiful and instructive degree of Mark Master Mason conferred in a most commendable and very impressive manner.

I then asked the Master if he would be so good as to let me examine their Book of Marks. He courteously did

so, but hesitatingly said that he was not sure whether all the brethren had as yet selected their marks and had them entered in the book.

To my astonishment, the latter was the case, and upon due enquiry, the majority present, indicated that they had omitted or neglected the selection and registration of their marks. Here was an anomaly indeed! A Lodge of Mark Master Masons nearly all of whom, were without marks! It did not seem possible, but such was the case. What a beautiful record of such the Grand Scribe E. must have!

The courteous Master then said,—I fraternally thank you, my good brother, for causing our attention to be thus emphatically directed to a very serious defect in our work, and I assure you that our important duty thereanent will at once be performed and that such omission will not again occur. What says the Grand Superintendents?

NEW YORK AND QUEBEC.

The Grand Lodge of New York upholds “the rights of the Grand Lodge of Quebec as a sovereign and independent Masonic government; refuses to accept the doctrine that lodges legally constituted by competent and acknowledge authority can be compelled by any known law to transfer their allegiance against their will.” If a Grand Lodge is a sovereign and independent government, how can it permit lodges within their borders which owe allegiance to a foreign government and independent Masonic government.—*Masonic Home Journal*.