

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND
MASONIC RECORD.

J. B. TRAYES, P.D.D.G.M.,
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THE MASONIC ENTHUSIAST.

BY ROB MORRIS.

In every moral and religious society, those who exhibit a clear appreciation of its purposes, and conscientiously fulfil its obligations, are termed, by their more phlegmatic companions, *enthusiasts*. The term is used by such as a reproach, or, at the least, a sarcasm. In religious matters, the man who acts strictly agreeably to the principles of his creed, is styled an enthusiast; and in Masonry, the same low estimate is expressed of those who really practice what they profess. Thus, the non-performers, all the world over, excuse themselves for neglect of duty by ridiculing the performers. The following sketch is given to illustrate this singular phrase of human nature. I have drawn it from life, only under a change of names:—

Bro. P. P. Orloff was a man of uncommon physical energy and great conscientiousness. The former gave him the nervous ability to perform; the latter, the soul to contrive. In every society to which he had been attached, he had been hated for a prudent and thorough examination of the ground-work and principles on which it is founded, for the thoroughness of his practice. As a Christian, for instance, he was devoted to his creed,

and ever ready to explain, justify and defend it. As a temperance advocate, he was fearless and untiring. Finally, when, after years of careful reading and oral examination of Masonic brethren upon matters relative to their craft, he signed a petition to Record Lodge, "to be made a Mason," he entered upon the work as a lifetime affair, to be pursued with conscientiousness and ardor to its promised results.

In all his Masonic life, short and brilliant as it was, he acted the *role* of an enthusiast, according to the definition of the term upon which we set out. He acquired in perfection the lectures and the work, the drill and drama of each degree prior to advancement, and was known as the first parson in Record Lodge who refused to "go on" until he "felt his ground firm under him." He was troublesome to Bro. Coldpegg, the Master, whose Teutonic phlegm could poorly brook so much inquisitiveness concerning matters of which he (Bro.C.) had never enquired, and his patience gave way more than once or twice under the infliction. He was equally annoying to the other officers, as insisting upon frequent and exact definitions of their duties from those