



## Semper idem—Semper fidelis.

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### The Canadian Freemason

A Journal devoted to the interests of Freemasonry, is published monthly, by Bro. Hill.

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It contains the most interesting new relative to the craft, report of the Grand Lodges, &c., while the original articles coming as they do from the pens of Brothers of known ability, as Masonic writers, will, we trust, be found both interesting and instructive. All communications on Masonic subjects, jurisprudence, exchanges, &c., must be addressed to Dr. Cunynghame, Editor of the Canadian Freemason, and on all other matters connected with the journal to the publisher.

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#### NECESSITY OF STUDY TO A MASON.

BY ALBERT PIKE.

Masonry is a succession of allegories, the mere vehicles of great lessons in morals and philosophy. You will more fully appreciate its spirit, its object, its purposes, as you advance in the different degrees, which you will find to constitute a great, complete, and harmonious system.

If you have been disappointed in the three first degrees; if it has seemed to you that the performance has not come up to the promise, and that the common-places which are uttered in them with such an air, the lessons in science and the arts, merely rudimentary, and known to every school-boy, the trite maxims of morality, and the

trivial ceremonies are unworthy the serious attention of a grave and sensible man, occupied with the weighty cares of life, and to whom his time is valuable, remember that those ceremonies and lessons, come to us from an age when the commonest learning was confined to a select few, when the most ordinary and fundamental principles of morality were new discoveries; and that the three first degrees stand in those latter days, like the columns of the old, roofless Druidic Temple, in their rude and primeval simplicity, mutilated also and corrupted by the action of time, and the additions and interpolations of utterate ignorance. They are but the entrance to the great Masonic Temple, the mere pillars of the portico.

You have now taken the first step over its threshold, the first step toward the inmost sanctuary and heart of the Temple. You are in the path that leads up the slope of the Mountain of Truth; and it depends upon your secrecy, Obedience, and Fidelity, whether you will advance or remain stationary.

Imagine not that you will become a thorough Mason by learning what is commonly called the work, or merely by becoming familiar with our traditions. MASONRY HAS A HISTORY AND A LITERATURE. Its allegories and traditions will teach you much; but such is to be sought elsewhere. The streams of learning that now flow broad and wide must be followed to their heads in the springs that well up in the far distant Past; and there you will find the meaning and the origin of Masonry.

A few trite lessons upon the rudiments of architecture, a few ordinary maxims of morality, a few unimportant and unobscured traditions will no longer satisfy the earnest inquirer after Masonic Truth. Let him who is satisfied, and content with them remain where he is, and seek to ascend no higher. But let him who desires to understand the harmonious and beautiful proportions of Masonry, read, study, reflect, digest and discriminate. The true Mason is an ardent seeker after knowledge; and he knows that books are vessels which come down to us full-freighted with the intellectual riches of the past; and that in the fading of these Allegories is much that sheds light upon the history of Masonry, and proves its claims to be regarded as the great benefactor of mankind.—*Masonic Eclectic.*

A Philadelphia paper inserted the following advertisement, "wanted a coachman to take care of a pair of horses of a religious turn of mind."

### REVELATION OF A SQUARE

CHAPTER III.

(Continued.)

"A what?" shouted Bro. Lamball, "A masonic ball?" which was succeeded by another general laugh. And Bro. Villoneau repeated the lines from Phædrus:

*Mons parturit, genitus immanes cieni.  
Eratque in terris maxima exspectatio.  
At ille matrem peperit;*

which was the signal for cachinnation the third.

"On what law of Masonry do you found the legality of your scheme?" said Bro. Morris.

"The R. W. M. was unable to furnish either law or precedent for his delectable scheme, and, therefore, he staved off the enquiry by demanding in return: "On what law do you found the legality of Refreshment?"

"On the second clause of the sixth Ancient Charge," said Bro. Morris.

"At length Bro. Desaguliers, who happened to be present, rose with great gravity, and addressing the Chair, said;

"R. W. Sir, the proposal you have just submitted to the Lodge is so thoroughly alien to the principles of Masonry that I am scarcely surprised at the indecorous exhibition we have just witnessed, but which, I hope, for the credit of the Lodge, will never be repeated while the S. Warden's column is in the ascendant. Supposing, for the sake of argument, that the Brethren were inclined to indulge you by acceding to your unprecedented propositions, they would be incapable of executing the design, without committing a gross violation of the general Constitutions of the Order. Are you aware, R. W. Sir, that a standing law provides that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make any alteration or innovation in the body of Masonry, without the consent first obtained of the Grand Lodge? and this, Sir and Brother, would be an innovation which no Grand Lodge could ever be found to sanction or approve."

"After Dr. Desaguliers had thus expressed a decided negative opinion of the subject, the