

A WORD TO THE WISE.

Under this heading the *Scottish Freemason*, one of the youngest as well as one of the ablest conducted of our exchanges, has the following on a subject of great importance to the Craft, all of which we most cordially endorse:—

“As the Masonic newspapers weekly teem with advice and instruction to the brethren, and wise counsel is given to all, it might be considered superfluous on our part offering any, when we read from day to day orations that contain all, and more than we could possibly put before you. Still we feel that by going over again such well-trodden ground, and calling your attention to suggestions so often given, we may be doing an important duty to Masonry! Remember the lesson of the chisel so often inculcated in our Lodges—‘*Perseverance is necessary to insure perfection.*’

“It is to the rulers of the Craft especially that we first address ourselves, —we mean Worshipful Masters and Past Masters. Those among you who rightly know and duly perform your duties, require no reminding, and will kindly bear with us. We would urge your Worthy Masters and your Worthy predecessors in the chair (for such is the glut of work that Past Masters will all and sundry, have to come to the front to assist you in your arduous duties,) we would urge your worthy Wardens, aspirants for the chair of your Lodge, ‘to be careful who you admit as candidates.’ *Examine well their personal characters, their daily lives!* Make it difficult in this respect to gain admittance. If a candidate is proposed by a well-known and worthy brother, inform yourselves (through him) of the candidate’s fitness for admission, ‘that so their light may shine among men, and glorify their Father which is in heaven.’

“Do you follow us brethren who rule Lodges? Undoubtedly you do, and will duly perform your duties, but a word to the wise is never in vain; prosperity and good fortune might turn the head of the best amongst us; be careful!—watch!

“To your Worthy Past Masters we would say that, though you have now laid down the seals of office, even in your case you cannot yet enjoy that comfortable “*otium cum dignitate*” that you so fondly hoped for. Another sphere of usefulness is opened to you. When the proposers and seconders, when the rulers of your Lodge have done their duty, your turn comes! You, the old and venerated rulers of the Craft, well skilled (as you should be) in the various duties, the various teachings and lectures, you, we say, have now your work —‘the instruction of the initiates.’ You have not only to explain the ceremonial through which they have passed; you have not only to prepare their minds for what is to follow; you have to inculcate in them the true spirit, the true aim of a Mason: you have to form what in Masonry are their infant minds, so that, as they gradually rise on the ladder, they may duly appreciate the beauties of our Order, and seek earnestly to penetrate ‘the inner “arcana” of our science.

“Has this thought ever struck your Worthy P. M.’s. Doubtless many, very many, have felt it, and acted conscientiously upon it; but, as in the case of an initiate, who has not grasped these high aspirations, he becomes a lukewarm Mason, perhaps seldom again entering a Lodge. So in your case, even amongst you, who say, ‘I have done my duty; I may now rest from my labors.’ Absentees from Lodge, even in your exalted grade, sometimes exist. We write in all kindness, not doubting you as a whole; but does not zeal flag sometimes? Does not the youthful zest that once animated you sometimes