

THE ROUGH ASHLAR.

From a Volume of Masonic Sonnets, by Bro. George Markham Tweddell, now in the press.

A Stone rough from the Quarry, to which ne'er

The Mallet and the Chisel were applied,
Nor e'er by skilful Builders has been tried
For Column, Frieze, or Architrave: for fear
Of base material made them choose each Stone,

Worthy a Mason's labour to produce,
When dress'd with care, a portion fit for use
In goodly Fabrics. They would not adorn
Their Temples with such workmanship as soon

Might eaten be by gnarling teeth of Time.
And now we gaze with wonder in each clime

At their enduring Structures. Sun and Moon

Alike show marvels when they shine upon
Those noble Structures built by Brethren long since gone.

If for an earthly Building it be meet
Always to choose sound, firm, and lasting Stone

We Speculative Masons ought alone
To work up good materials, when we greet
Each other in our Lodges as the Sons
Of Light: for Masonry does not profess
To change the vile to good, though it will bless

All who will live its precepts. Mere Goths and Huns

And Vandals—fit alone for Attila
Or Genseric to rule—are not the men

From which to make Freemasons. Only when

The heart and mind have been prepared,
we may

Each become polish'd Stones, and upright stand

Fit for acceptance at the Master-Builders hand.

ROSE COTTAGE, STORESLEY, YORKSHIRE, ENG

CANADIAN MASONIC NEWS.

At the last meeting of King Solomon Lodge, No. 22, Toronto, the ballot was passed upon three candidates for initiation, and all were accepted. This may appear an insignificant item, but its significance lies in the fact that they are the first that have passed the ballot in two years. This is an indication that the present W. M., V. W. Bro. Hamley, has succeeded in restoring harmony in a lodge that has been notorious for its unmasonic actions.

CAPT. FOSTER of the little steamer **D. Foster**, which plies on Burlington Bay, (Hamilton,) is the owner of a very curious flattened, oval pebble, which was ploughed up on the farm of Mr. Jackson, in the township of Houghton, County of Norfolk. On the one side it bears very well executed figures of a gavel, square and compass, trowel, key, all-seeing eye, twenty-four inch gauge and letter **G**. On the other are figures of the sun, moon, stars, ladder, sack and an Indian bearing a bowl. The history of this curious stone and how it came to be where found are mysteries which may never be solved. Capt. Foster will be glad to show the relic to anyone who takes an interest in such matters.

At a recent meeting held in Toronto of representatives from the various Lodges, Chapters and Preceptories of the Masonic Order, a scheme was matured for the erection of a Masonic Temple. A committee was appointed to prepare a prospectus and stock book, and to receive subscriptions for the stock. The capital stock is placed at \$200,000—20,000 shares at \$10 a share—so as to give every member of the Order a chance to subscribe. The Committee is as follows: M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Q. C. Chairman; Bros. Alex. Patterson, secretary; Walter S. Lee, R. Cuthbert, E. T. Malone, S. Davidson, J. A. Willis, J. Ross Robertson, R. T. Coady, C. Postlethwaite, A. Carkeek, F. J. Menet, T. F. Blackwood, Geo. McDonald, M. Snider, Wm. Roaf, T. Sargent and L. J. Clarke. The site of the new building will not be definitely selected until a good deal of the stock has been taken up, but it will likely be between Queen street and College Avenue, probably on Yonge street. The representatives of the different branches who were present at the meeting reported a general feeling in favor of the building throughout Masonic circles.