

form should be preserved. Our French Brethren have almost universally given it with one leg longer than the other (as was frequently the case in this country in the last century) thus making it a carpenter's square. It is also often unnecessarily marked with inches, as an instrument for measuring, which it is not. It is simply the trying square of a stonemason, and has a plain surface, the sides or legs embracing an angle of ninety degrees, and is intended only to test the accuracy of the sides of a stone and to see that its edges subtend the same angle. In Freemasonry it is a symbol of morality. This is its general signification, and is applied in several ways. (1) It presents itself to the Neophyte as one of the three great lights; (2) to the F. C. as one of his working tools; (3) to the M. M. as the official jewel of the Master of the Lodge. Everywhere it inculcates the same lesson of morality, of truthfulness, and honesty. So universally accepted is the symbolism that it has gone outside of our order, and is found in colloquial language communicating the same idea. As a Masonic symbol it is of very ancient date, and was familiar to the operative Masons. In the year 1830 the architect (Brother Payne) in rebuilding a very ancient bridge, called Baal's Bridge, near Limerick, in Ireland, found under the foundation an old brass square much corroded, containing on its two surfaces the inscription, "I will strive to live with love and care upon the level by the square," with the date 1517. This discovery, therefore, proves, if proof were necessary, that the teaching of our old operative Brethren was identical with the speculative application of the working tools of the Modern Craft.—"A Past Master," in the—*Minstrel*.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

The following subscriptions have been received since our last issue, and we shall be obliged if our brethren will favor us with notice of any omissions that may occur:

F. M. Bell Smith, \$1.00; R. A. Fletcher, \$1.00; Jas. Young, \$2.00; Hon. J. R. Gowan, \$4.00; J. W. Morton, \$1.00; E. J.

Carter, \$1.00; A. H. Hawthorn, \$1.00; Wm. Greenwood, \$1.00; J. C. Patterson, \$1.00; P. C. Dutt, .91.

#### PLEASANTRIES.

Mrs. Snaggs: "In case of war, on account of the Cuban resolutions, what would be likely to be the first hostile movement? Mr. Snaggs: "I think the Madrid government would capture all our castles in Spain."

She: "It must have been interesting riding through the mountain passes in Switzerland." He: "It would have been to most persons, I suppose; but, as for me, you know, it was no new thing. I always have a pass wherever I go."

Under the "Terror," in France, people learned to be excessively cautious in all they said and wrote. An old letter is said to be in existence of the revolutionary period, in which the author had at first written to a friend, "I write under the reign of a great emotion." Then, apparently reflecting that it was dangerous to speak of "reigns" at such an epoch, he amended the sentence thus: "I write under the republic of a great emotion."

The organist in an Exeter (N. H.) church on a recent Sabbath, shortly before the service began, sent the organ-boy to ask *Hall* (the janitor) to go to the vestry. The boy thought he was to ask *all* to go, and accordingly went into the audience, and whispered to one and another that they were requested to go to the vestry. One after another they went, to the surprise of the rector, who thought, however, that they wished to speak to the bishop, and told them that he would soon be in. At that point the mistake was discovered. *Hall* went to the vestry, and *all* went back to the audience!

A gentleman in England whose premises were often invaded by trespassers put up the following sign on his gate-house: "A terrific kaiblondomeni kept here." A friend asked him what terrifying thing that was. "Oh," he replied, "it is just three big Greek words put all together: but it serves the purpose well. The unknown is always dreadful."

We have a very "smart" boy at our house. Some one was playing on words, asking "Did you ever hear a napkin ring or see a lamp smoke?" when this boy of ours ejaculated, "Chestnuts! did you ever see the sugar bowl, or the peper box, or the spoon hold her, Did you ever go down a salt cellar, or hear a water spout, or drink from an ink well?"

§ Judge Byles was one day trying a man for stealing, when a medical witness was called who stated that in his opinion the prisoner was suffering from kleptomani. "And your lordship, of course, knows what that is." "Yes," said Byles, quietly, "it is a disease which I am sent here to cure."