

"so capable of instructing in the necessary masonic Lectures as all that society ought to be instructed in, that the officers that are at this time elected, shall attend the Newark, or some other well-informed Lodge's lectures, at least once between each and every regular Lodge night, so as to be capable of informing the members of this Lodge with the necessary principles and lectures of operative Masons, and that they solicit the degree of Mark Masons, that the brethren of this Lodge may be benefitted thereby, and that any Brother, proposed as a candidate shall make known whether such attendance will be convenient to him previous to his election." This resolution of Bro. Thomas is defective in grammar and confused in statement, but it is excellent in intent, and I record with pleasure to night, what he long ago recorded with pardonable triumph, that it was "unanimously agreed to by the brethren present." We accept the spirit of our first Secretary's formidably lengthy motion, and find it true of it as of weightier words, that the letter killeth but the spirit giveth life. On March 6th, 1797, there is this creditable record: "That as Bro. P. M. Danby has been so obliging as to take the trouble to visit this Lodge, and instructing the members thereof in the lectures of three first degrees of Masonry, therefore this Lodge is in duty bound to make Bro. P. M. Danby a present, in consequence of the services he has rendered this Lodge, and that the sum of forty dollars with the thanks of this Lodge be presented to Bro. P. M. Danby. The aforesaid motion was unanimously agreed to by the rest of the brethren present. Therefore the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, and the rest of the brethren of Lodge No. 10, return their hearty and sincere thanks to Bro. Danby for his brotherly love and masterly instructions given to this Lodge, hopes Bro. Danby will accept of the small sum of forty dollars from this Lodge as an acknowledgement of their thanks, brotherly love, and affection to him." Seventeen officers and brethren were present at this communication, the largest attendance up to that time, except once, when the attendance was as large and a noble act of charity was consummated. Our early brethren met in force to do good. On July 29th, 1797, the minutes open and proceed thus:—"At the request of Bro. Daniel Springer, a few of the members of Lodge No. 10, met at their Lodge room in Barton, on Wednesday the 29th July, A.D. 1797, A.L. 5797, for the benefit of a lecture. Lodge opened in the Master's degree, when it was motioned by Bro. Junior Warden, *pro tem*, J. Smith, that as Mr. Andrew Westbrook, who had been balloted for on the last regular Lodge night, was then in waiting whether the brethren present were not duly qualified and invested with power to initiate Mr. Westbrook, the question being put 'tis the unanimous opinion of the brethren present that they are invested with that power, and accordingly that Lodge closed and Lodge opened in the apprentice degree, when Mr. Andrew Westbrook was brought forward and initiated in the first degree of Masonry. Lodge called from labor to refreshment at half-past eight, Lodge called from refreshment to labor at 9 o'clock, Lodge closed at half-past nine in perfect harmony. Expenses of the night 16s." Neither the Worshipful Master nor Past Master was present at this meeting. The

Senior Warden and Junior Warden were present. Bro. Ryckman is recorded as Worshipful Master, *pro tem*. He does not appear up to this time to have sat in the East. Besides these there were present four brethren and one visitor. Whether the lecture was delivered for the benefit of which the brethren met is not recorded. Nov. 13th, 1801, I find this motion: "That every Master Mason shall repeat his Master's obligation the next Lodge night."

But our early brethren were not by any means perfect in the work as we understand it now. The Lodge was opened and closed, and business transacted in any and every degree. The Lodge was raised from the first to the third, and was lowered from the third to the first, without taking the second by the way. There was no system in this. The convenience of the moment, or the caprice of the officers or brethren, was alone consulted. "Brother Daniel Springer, who was going to travel," was passed and raised in one night, June 8, 1796. On January 1st, 1798, the minutes inform us that the "Lodge closed in the Fellow-craft's degree in perfect harmony;" but the hour is not recorded, and this is the first time that the record is so precise as to inform us in which degree the Lodge is closed. Up to this time the degree in which the Lodge closed is left to inference. Bro. R. Land signs as Secretary, for the first time, to this exceptionally precise record. Perhaps he was illustrating the proverb about new brooms. At any rate he never descends to such precision again. March 3rd, 1798, "The petitions of Burch and Eaton were withdrawn at their request." Brother George King, whose petition was received January 13th, 1804, was balloted for, and initiated eleven days afterwards at an Emergency, January 24th, 1804. Brother Wire was balloted for the same night that his petition was received, November 9th, 1804. At an Emergency, November 26th, 1804, seventeen days afterwards, he was initiated, and on January 11th, 1805, he was passed and raised at one and the same meeting, because "he expected to take a long journey." On January 9th, 1807, I read: "That as the Lodge did not meet at the night of election for officers, owing to badness of the weather, the election on St. John's Day being neglected for unknown reasons, that the officers remain in office for the ensuing six months." Here an election and installation are passed over; and, as if to complete the round of error, and to be perfectly regular and continuous in irregularity, no record is made of any installation in June or December of the same year.

*To be continued.*

THE TEMPLE was erected without the sound of any instrument of iron, the stones and timbers having previously been fitted for their respective places with exact nicety. So in a Lodge of Masons, no harsh or discordant sound should ever be heard. Unity of sentiment and feeling should prevent every harsh word, and brotherly love flow like the waters of life from heart to heart.

A MASON is a firm believer in the Deity, and puts his trust in him for all the needs of soul and body,—for this world, and that which is to come. "Faith in God, and hope in immortality," are two essential articles in the Masonic creed; to which is added charity toward all mankind.