

change which came over this gentleman. Instantly the reserve gave place to genial good nature, and the before distant Briton became one of the most companionable of good fellows. But the ladies couldn't understand it, and often privately importuned me for an explanation of the method of accomplishing such a wonderful feat. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that our acquaintance so singularly made soon ripened into intimacy, and that whenever an excursion was planned or a pic-nic held he was always one of the party, and the ladies said an invaluable acquisition. But our season of pleasuring was short and the time for separation soon came. The ladies with their escort were to visit France, Switzerland and Germany, thence to England and then home. I intended to take a run into Spain, with an early return to Italy, and possibly afterwards a ramble through Germany, while our English friend, who was of the Royal Engineers, was en route for Jerusalem, where certain investigations were being made among the ruins in that locality, he having been sent out to relieve the engineer in charge, who was to return home on the former's arrival at the scene of his labors.

I have intimated that Chester—which by the way I had forgotten to mention was his name—was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and if possible a more zealous Mason than myself, hence there was not only his professional interest in the work before him, but a desire to examine for himself, and to verify if possible, the truth of the tradition of the Craft. To say that I shared that desire would but feebly express my feelings, and when he suggested that I change my programme of travel and accompany him to the supposed site of King Solomon's Temple, it required no urging to induce me to do so. A score of years ago facilities for travel were not what they are to-day even in the new world, hence some little time was consumed in reaching our destination,

but we finally arrived without having encountered more than ordinary obstacles which travellers in those days were sure to meet. But what was the chagrin of Chester, to say nothing of my disappointment, to find that the authorities had refused to permit the prosecution of the work undertaken by the English company. Already many of the workmen had returned to England, and others were getting ready to leave when we arrived. Chester induced them to remain a short time longer, and immediately set about getting permission to proceed with the work. That this was no easy task to accomplish may be imagined when I tell you that nearly a month elapsed before such permission could be obtained, and even then the work proceeded but slowly so jealous were the natives of every movement of the company engaged in the enterprise. But it is not my object to tell you of the results, suffice it to say they were of a satisfactory nature, and confirmed beyond dispute many of the traditions of the Fraternity.

Like many other members of the Craft, Chester, though proud of its antiquity, tenacious of its traditions, and charmed with those beauties which appealed to his æsthetic nature was somewhat skeptical of its practical advantages. Much as the heretic gazes upon the pomp and splendor of papal ceremonies, or a citizen of a republic on the time-honored customs at courts of kings, queens or emperors, admiring their regal grandeur but doubting their efficacy, I fear did Chester look upon our ancient Institution. I readily saw why he should take this view of the matter. Reared as he had been in a country where traditions are revered, and more attention paid to forms and ceremonies, and a good pedigree honored even more than wealth, and having so-called noble blood in his veins, and constantly associating with the better class of his countrymen at home and travellers abroad, and never having seen the