

against the established government; that they in no way interfere or clash with any other Society or Corporation, however dignified or distinguished; for all which excellent qualifications, a reasonable person would be willing to pay their persons, their Lodges, their Constitutions, all due respect and honor.

But so it is, there are men of shallow capacities, blabbers of secrets, who, because they have lost or misused their own retentive faculties, envy and hate those who retain the gift of secrecy and fidelity; these mean wretches have of late studied a thousand practices to bring this worshipful Society into contempt and obloquy, and are egged on by some silly women, who (because for good reasons their sex are by the Constitutions judged incapable of Fellowship) are, therefore, nettled and seek revenge. These are the persons who trump up many foolish and idle signs, gestures, and practices, and vouch them for the very basis and ground-plot of Freemasonry. The enclosed is a sample of their malice, and which they pretend was left in writing by a Fellow Mason lately deceased; but, in very truth, is a senseless pasquinade, highly derogatory to the honor of the whole body, and each Worshipful Fellow, many of whom daily stand in presence of kings, and are clothed with titles, dignities and honors.

I shall not take upon me to vindicate the high reputation of the fraternity, their numerous Lodges stand in no need of props and buttresses for their support; neither will their members, by any arts or contrivances, be induced like fools and children to divulge the lessons and instructions given by their Masters and Wardens; but will have a constant eye to that memorable saying of wise King Solomon, in his time Grand Master of Masonry and architecture, and which pointed to Samson's fate aforementioned—a prating fool shall fall.

I am, &c.

When a Freemason is entered, after having given to all present of the fraternity a pair of men and women's gloves and leathern apron, he is to hear the * * * belonging to the Society read to him by the Master of the Lodge; then the Warden leads him to the Master and Fellows; to each of whom he is to say:—

I fain would a Fellow Mason be,
As all your Worshipps may plainly see.

After this, he swears to reveal no secrets of the Worshipful Fraternity, on pain of having his throat cut, and having a double porrion (portion?) of hell and damnation hereafter. Then he is blind-folded, and the ceremony of ——— is performed. After which he is to behold a thousand different postures and grimaces, all of which he must exactly imitate, or undergo the discipline till he does.

After this the word maughbin is whispered by the youngest Mason to the next, and so on, till it comes to the Master, who whispers it to the entered Mason, who must have his face in due order to receive it. Then the entered Mason says what follows:

An enter'd Mason I have been,
Boaz and Jachin I have seen;
A Fellow I was sworn most rare,
And know the Astler, Diamond and Square
I know the Master's part full well,
An honest Maughbin will not tell.

Then the Master says :

If a Master Mason you would be,
Observe you well the Rule of Three;
And what you want in Masonry,
Thy Mark and Maughbin makes thee free.

When you would enter a Lodge you must knock three times at the door, and they'll challenge you.

Q.—Are you a Freemason?

A.—Yes, indeed, that I am.

Q.—How shall I know it?

A.—By signs and tokens—(Hebrew characters)—from my entrance into the kitchen, and from thence to the hall.

Q.—What is the first point of your entrance?

A.—Hear and conceal, on pain of having my throat cut or tongue pull'd out.