

Master's Lord, and of being made a brother, and then a fellow craft in due time." Surely, this regulation, even in early days, would not have been considered sufficient to exclude from initiation, a man with a glass eye, one who had lost a portion of the second finger of his right hand, or one who had a cataract in his eye! So long as any defect of a physical character was not such as to render a candidate "incapable of learning the art, of serving his Master, or of being made a brother," he was not ineligible for initiation. But I go further and ask, why the many curious rules in these extracts are omitted, but the one as to "physical perfection" retained? A fellow craft, by these old charges, was eligible for election as a Warden, or even a Grand Master; all the tools used by the operative Masons had to be approved by the Grand Lodge, all the candidates must have had honest parents, have served his full time, according to the custom of his country, before being a fellow craft. All Masons must meekly receive their wages, and not leave their Masters until the work is finished. And there are also other curious rules, which no Grand Lodge could possibly observe at the present time. It is evident, therefore, that they were not intended other than as an abridged account of the old operative charges, and the Grand Lodge of England, from 1723, has never accepted them in any other sense. Therefore, I also say, "Away with it."

W. J. HUGHAN.

FIRST AMONG HIS EQUALS.

The following letter concerning him who stands at the head of the roll of Craftsmen, will be read with interest:—

PORT LAVACCA, TEXAS,
June 10, 1884.]

STEPHEN BERRY, Esq., Portland, Me.

Dear Sir and Bro.:—On the 1st inst., by invitation, I dined with

Capt. Sylvanus Hatch,—who upon that day celebrated his ninety-sixth birthday, surrounded by his descendants to the fourth generation. He showed me his certificate of membership in Solomon Lodge, No. 1, Savannah, Georgia, issued June 6, 1809, thus making him a Mason of twenty-five years' standing. He is in fine health, never having been confined to his bed for one day from sickness since he was a man; talks fluently of scenes transpiring in those early days; also of the war of 1812. Was an Adjutant under Gen. Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. Came to Texas in 1828, where he has resided since. Speaks in glowing terms of the Texas War for Independence, and the many lively incidents connected therewith. Though his hearing is a little defective and his sight rather dim, yet he talks well and enjoys a joke as well as his juniors. Wishes me to convey his thanks to you for your laborious researches in Masonry, and for placing his name at the head of the list of Masonic Elders.

Thanking you for your excellent little token, and wishing you all the success you may desire, I remain as ever,
Fraternally thine,

J. M. BICKFORD.

Judge Garland, of Lynchburg, Va., (No. 8,) was ninety-two years old in June. He is blind, but his intellect is still clear.

We have a long list of candidates for a place in the List of the Twenty Elders, two of which, Benedict Aldrich, of Providence, R. I., initiated May 20, 1814, and John Armstrong, of Guernsey, England, initiated early in 1815, will find places. Bro. Aldrich is reported by Grand Secretary Edwin Baker; he will stand No. 16. Bro. Armstrong was reported by the London Freemason; he will stand No. 18.—*Ed.*

A man was tried in Dublin for polygamy. He was the possessor of five wives. The verdict returned was "insane with regard to his matrimonial engagements," and he was consigned to the asylum.