

union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, and once in each year for many years they were rehearsed in a lodge in London as a matter of curiosity. After the union of the two Grand Lodges, a new system was devised by the Rev. Dr. Hemming, who was delegated by the Grand Lodge for this purpose, and these are said to be the lectures in use at the present time, though they may have undergone changes. America received a great deal of its work through Thomas Smith Webb, who visited England and received the work from Preston, hence the phrase, the "Webb-Preston work or lectures." Jeremy L. Cross was a pupil of Webb, and his lectures were considered the standard for many years, and in Connecticut at one time were the recognized form, he being Grand Lecturer for two years. These scraps of information are gathered from reliable sources, and prove that the work and lectures of to-day are the result of many years' experience and study; and any Mason who believes they have been handed down in all their ancient purity from the days of King Solomon to the present, simply displays a vast amount of ignorance. It is folly, therefore, to lay so much stress upon the forms, at the same time ignoring the underlying sentiment.—*Bro. Jos. K. Wheeler, of Connecticut.*

ONE BLACK BALL.

We do not deny the right of a Grand Lodge to make such alterations in the old regulations as it may deem advisable, provided they do not attack a Landmark. We are aware how difficult it is to define all the Landmarks of Masonry, yet we greatly inclined to think that the provision which gives to one black ball the power to exclude should be esteemed as such. Article VI, of the old regulations, requires unanimity for election, and is exceedingly sensitive upon the subject. For it goes on to say:—"Nor is this inherent privilege subject to a dispensation; because the members of a lodge are the best judges of it; and because if a turbulent member should be imposed on them it might spoil their harmony, or hinder the freedom of their communication, or even break and disperse the lodge, which ought to be avoided by all true and faithful brethren." Is not this the making of an "innovation in the body of Masonry" by this Grand Lodge? There are not wanting writers of great ability

and standing in the Masonic world who do class this requirement of unanimity in the ballot as a Landmark. Witness, Mackay, Lockwood, McCorkle, and perhaps others. We fear this is a very bad move. Then, after election, what becomes of an objector, or will it be necessary for two to object to receive attention? This is the worst cheapening of Masonry of which we have ever yet heard.—*Bro. P. J. Pillans, of Alabama.*

THE WORKING TOOLS.

BY THE LATE P. G. M., BRO. ROB. MORRIS.

Let us be true—each working Toolⁿ
The Master places in our care
Imparts a stern but wholesome rule
To all who work and journey here;
The Architect divine has used
The Plumb, the Level and the Square.

Let us be wise; the Level see!
How certain is the doom of man!
So humble should Freemasons be,
Who work within this narrow span;
No room for pride and vanity—
Let wisdom rule out every plan.

Let us be just; behold the square!
Its pattern deviates no part
From that which, in the Master's care,
Tries all the angles of the heart.
O sacred implement divine—
Blest emblem of Masonic Art.

Let us be true; the unerring plumb,
Dropped from the unseen Master's hand,
Rich fraught with truthfulness has come
To bid us rightly walk and stand;
That the All-seeing Eye of God
May bless us from the heavenly land,

Dear friend, whose generous heart I know,
Whose virtues shine so far abroad—
Long may you linger here below,
To share what friendship may afford!
Long may the Level, Plumb and Square
Speak forth through you the works of God.

The following reference to the Roman Eagle, is from an ancient Bible encyclopædia:—"Xenophon and other ancient historians inform us that the Golden Eagle with extended wings was the ensign of the Persian monarchs long before it was adopted by the Romans, and it is very probable that the Persians borrowed the symbol from the ancient Assyrians, in whose banners it waved till imperial Babylon bowed her head to the yoke of Cyrus."