

square and compasses and the letter G wrought in diamonds where the seal is usually set. Removing the cigar from his lips, Torrington blew out a cloud of smoke, and as it rose lazily toward the ceiling he settled himself more comfortably in his chair, as if preparing to at last gratify our curiosity. We involuntarily followed his example, and when he had obtained the easiest position possible the Colonel began as follows:—It is true, as I have often told you gentlemen, this little circlet of gold has no history or mystery in and of itself, yet it is a constant reminder of a little incident in my life that was not entirely devoid of interest when it transpired, and although the telling of it may dissipate much of the romance which you have woven about it and possibly bring down your animadversions on my head for the part I performed, yet I am confident that under like circumstances you would have done the same. As you are all familiar with these emblems and the Fraternity which they represent, it is unnecessary to say more by way of preface. It would perhaps be an interesting item of information could we know the motives which induce men to apply for admission to the Masonic fraternity. Some doubtless to gratify a laudable curiosity, others perhaps because they imagine they see in it an unobstructed path to political preferment; others to success in trade; many because it is popular; and some to judge by their subsequent action because they think they shall honor it by enrolling their names among the Craftsmen. But be the motives whatever they may, all discover, sooner or later, that if but true to its teachings they can but be better men. Of my own motive I can certainly speak, for I must confess that long before I reached man's estate I had formed a desire to become a Free and Accepted Mason, not because I knew anything about the internal workings of the Institution, but simply because I was favorably impressed with the

character of the men who composed the Lodge in my native town. They being men of influence and moral worth in the community, I knew that by associating with them I could but be benefitted both morally and intellectually, at any rate I was satisfied that I should not be contaminated, and accordingly soon after leaving college, I applied for the degrees in my native place and was accepted. Being young and enthusiastic I became zealously interested in the Institution. In 1857, I went abroad to see something of the world before settling down to the practice of my profession. In my travels I embraced every opportunity that offered to visit Lodges and improve myself in Masonic lore, not forgetting however, that he who would be a Mason in the largest sense, while cultivating the virtue of friendship, morality and brotherly love, must also cultivate the gifts the Divine Master has implanted in his being, alike for his enjoyment as well as for the benefit of his fellow-men.

While passing through an art gallery one day in Florence with a party of Americans we encountered,—as some of the party said,—my double. So striking was the resemblance that on two or three subsequent occasions very ludicrous mistakes were made by the ladies accompanying me, so that the gentleman, who was an Englishman, and wrapped in that mantle of reserve so common to Englishmen when travelling—was obliged to make their acquaintance while being apologized to. I, of course, having been the innocent cause of their blunders was presented to the gentleman in due form, and Yankee-like gave him my hand and with it a certain grip which he immediately returned. You have seen the mist roll away under the sun of a summer's morning, revealing the heretofore hidden beauties of the landscape, or perchance have noticed a gleam of sunshine chasing the shadows over hill and vale; if so you can in a measure comprehend the