

parts, Freemasonry is a science worthy of its originators, worthy of its initiates in all ages of the world, worthy of the devotion of a Washington, a Franklin, a LaFayette, a Marshall, and a Dallas, and worthy of its unexampled career, surviving as it has the downfall of dynasties and nations.

Even after a brother ceases to regard merely the *tout ensemble* of Masonry and comes to look closer at the peculiar features which distinguish it, he may be enchanted with some one feature, and practically disregard the rest. Some of these do not require that emphasis be laid upon them in order to win for them admiration. Who need call attention to the banquet? It is superficial, it speaks for itself. So of kindred features. Nearly all young brethren are diligent attendants at their Lodge, but unless they are students of Freemasonry, delvers in the quarries, seekers after Light, in the course of a few years they lose their primary enthusiasm, become irregular in their attendance, and possibly drift into the throng of the indifferent, the suspended-for-non-payment-of dues, and the non-affiliates. Unless a Brother sees more than the *tout ensemble*, five years in the Craft may measure the length of his active Masonic life.

What an example did Brother Benjamin Franklin, and the freemasons of Philadelphia in the year 1732 who were members of the St. John's Lodge of that day, set us in this regard! In the report of the Committee, dated June 5, 1732, which we printed for the first time in the *Keystone* of last week, these Brethren manifested a laudable desire to become acquainted, not merely with Freemasonry as a whole, but also with it in some of its most important parts. Those Masons of one hundred and fifty-three years ago, in the "city of Brotherly Love," in this, as in other respects, were models for us, and for Freemasons through all time. They wished not only to admire the shell, but to profit by the kernel of Masonry.

In substance they said this:—Freemasonry is founded upon Geometry and Architecture, and therefore ignorance of these is "very unbecoming a man who bears the worthy name and character of Mason." How exceedingly true! But these ancient brethren did not stop with the enunciation of this truth. Ben. Franklin was nothing if not practical. This Committee recommended that the whole cash then in the treasury of the Lodge "be laid out in the best books of Architecture, suitable Mathematical instruments, etc." They wished the members of St. John's Lodge to be, not merely superficial Masons, but that everyone should enjoy and profit by all that was in Masonry. What was true then in this regard is true now, and will continue true to the end of time. We shall mention but two parts of Masonry which will abundantly repay the study of any Brother, and these are, this very science of Architecture, upon which Bro. Ben. Franklin and his associate brethren laid so much stress; and the eternal moral truths of Masonry, which are so forcibly and continuously taught in the course of its work, and in which every initiate should feel the deepest interest. The physical man dies and is buried, but the spiritual man shall live forever. Immortality is ours. Momentous truth! The Freemason who is not conscious of this, who is unimpressed by it, who does not act as though he were the custodian of a Divine spark which may hereafter glow with the splendour of a sun, fails to apprehend one of the greatest and most glorious truths of Masonry.—*Keystone*.

VISITING BRETHREN.

The proper treatment of visiting brethren should be insisted on by the Master of every Lodge. How frequently do we find that a visitor has been detained in the committee room, the victim of a "sharp" committee, until the session of the Lodge is concluded, the lights extinguished, and