

and surpassing interest. Its Rites and Ceremonies mean far more than a careless observer may see.

Masonic History presents a grand exhibition of human nature. The sensations we feel in trying to trace it to its origin are elevated and delightful, and although they may at times be tinged with melancholy reflections, they are constantly rendered sublime by the magnificence of the objects and aims invariably held in view.

Menzel, the German historiap, tells us that "the aim of the Masonic Society was the erection of the Invisible Temple of Humanity and its Allegorical Symbols, the Trowel, the Square and the Apron were borrowed from the tools used in common masonry."

The Lodge typifies the World. It is Blue because the sky arches above it. The Mosaic Pavement symbolizes the Lights and Shades of human life. The Three Degrees have been compared to the different stages of the "Pilgrim's Progress." The First degree represents the pilgrim leaving the City of Destruction, the Second degree leads him through the House of the Interpreter, and the Third degree brings him into the full hope of a glorious Resurrection, where his burden falls off and rolls into the sepulchre below. We should then look through the forms of masonry to the *substance*, and through the symbols we should contemplate their high and sacred allusions.

Goethe, the Great German poet, the man of large brain and deep feeling, beautifully sets forth the typical character of Masonry :—

" The Masons' ways are a type of existence,
And his persistence is as the days are
Of men in this world.

The future hides in it good hap or sorrow,
We press through it—naught there abides in it
Daunting us onward.

And solemn before us, veiled, the dark portal,
Goal of all mortal, stars silent rest o'er us,
Graves under us silent.

While earnest thou gazest, comes boding of terror,
Comes phantasm and error, perplexes the bravest,
With doubt and misgiving.

But heard are the voices, heard are the sages,
Of the world and the ages. Choose well ! Your choice is
Brief and yet endless.

Here eyes do regard you in eternity's stillness ;
Here is all fullness, ye brave, to reward you ;
Work, and despair not."

All which is fraternally submitted,

HENRY ROBERTSON,

Chairman.

Collingwood, Ontario,

July 3rd, 1890.