

FREEMASONRY.

Freemasonry in all ages of the world, has been considered something beyond a mere simple institution. Moving, ages of the past, rolling on as they have, sweeping almost every tangible thing into oblivion, have left us this glorious institution. Centuries of the past, hoary headed and venerable, in the great family of time, look down upon it, from days farther off than the Pyramids or any existing nation of men. Masonry, whitened by the frosts of ages, comes down to us bearing upon its grim countenance, and furrowed brow, the relics of antiquity. It has lived while kings and conquerors have passed away, and thrones and sceptres have crumbled into dust. While cities once renowned for their greatness, magnificence and splendor, have had "Ichabod" written upon them by the finger of time; and empires, rocked and crushed, have split into fragments and disappeared. Masonry, like some mighty tree, has spread its roots from the centre to the circumference of our globe. There now it stands, the great, the lasting monument from man's creation to the present time. And why, it may be asked, has Masonry withstood the rude shock of ages, emerging through the obscurity of centuries, she now stands forth in all the brilliancy and lustre of her natal day! The answer is simple. It is the heaven born character of her nature, the august angelic principles of her formation. Were Masonry based on other than pure and moral principle, it could not, in this enlightened age, sustain itself for a single hour. Her morality is her life. The bickerings and cavils of able and learned enemies, and the persecutions of Emperors and States, have attacked her principles, and threatened her very existence. But they have signally failed. Against her mysterious and secret proceedings have these been mostly directed. It would seem as though the Creator had intended that which is most veiled or most hidden, either in the moral character or the material creation, should be the most beautiful, either to brighten our inspiration after it, or to soften its lustre from our gaze. So with masonry. The mysterious veil in which Masonry is shrouded but awakens in the mind an earnest desire to become acquainted with her sublime and hidden truths. The scorner and the scoffer, indeed many, attempt to deride some of the types and figures which have descended from ancient craft Masonry, but in this he either displays his ignorance of what he abuses, or evinces utter disregard of all sincerity and truth. He is like the boy playing with bubbles, which to him seem the conglomerations of soap and water, whilst the philosopher, even in these brilliant globular forms traces the path of the rainbow, and the germ of a lofty science. Faith, Hope and Charity, are the pillars which support its superstructure. Before it flee Atheism and every species of infidelity. As the first requisite for admission to its mysteries is an unwavering belief in the G. A. O. T. U. Her sublime teachings are eminently fitted to raise us above the fleeting and transitory world, and to urge us to seek an entrance into that Grand Lodge above, where with thoughts and feelings, having but one centre, one circumference, we shall all unite in singing the praises of the Great I Am.

THE GIRL OF THE PERIOD.

It is right that she should have her say. We have published so much against her that we are bound in honor now to do something in her defence. We quote from an exchange, and heartily endorse every word that is said:—

"The subject of the Girl of the period being pretty well exhausted by this time there is room for some inquiry about the habits of her brother, this young gentleman having been shamefully neglected. The heaviest charge brought against the lady in question has been the money she costs; her Grecian bend, panier, chignon, and shadowy bonnet being only accessories to fill up the picture. Now we are ready to admit that her furbelows are expensive luxuries. No doubt she tugs hard at her father's purse-strings. But what is Adolphus, the prospective head of the family, doing all the while? As figures are supposed never to lie, they may answer the question.

Adolphus, we will say, is a pearl of the best society, not given to excesses, and being simply a good fellow among his comrades. Of course he smokes, plays billiards, and scorns teetotalism. With cigars at a quarter of a dollar each, a dozen a day for himself and friends is a moderate allowance—total three dollars a day. With billiards at fifty cents a game, and the accompanying liquors, he would not be likely to spend less than five dollars every time he indulged in this pre-eminently healthful exercise; and the "drinks," which cement modern friendship, at every chance meeting, will fill up the remainder of the ten dollars per diem expended in these innocent pleasures. Dress, dinners, fast horses, and amusements, will certainly double this sum, and supply any blanks in the first calculation, making an expenditure of over seven thousand dollars a year for our fashionable youth—an estimate by no means over drawn. If, in addition, Adolphus is addicted to betting, gambling, and kindred vices, there is no limit to his prodigality, any more than to the diamonds, laces, or Camel's-hair shawls which are needed to eke out the meagre thousand a year wherewith his sister can barely clothe herself.

There is another class of modern women who might find comfort in comparing the cost of their wardrobe with that of their brothers—we mean those who are content to dress plainly and respectably. A gentleman of this class cannot buy a complete dress suit for less than two hundred dollars. A black silk walking suit, made at home or by a reasonable dress-maker, together with bonnet, gaiters, and all toilet accessories, can be had for half that sum. Neither of these estimates include winter wrappings; but the overcoat will be found to cost more than the cloak. Take into consideration, moreover, the fact that a large proportion of men spend from a dollar a day upward in tobacco, cigars, liquors, billiards, and other strictly masculine extravagances, and women's expenditure for their personal wants will be sadly dwarfed by the comparison. The difference between tweedledum and tweedledee is not so great after all.

A Lady gives the following receipt for producing the Grecian Bend:—On rising in the morning, before breakfast, take, on an empty stomach, one pint of green chesnuts, two large ripe apples, half a pound of raw cabbage, and a quarter of a pound of honey; a little milk and vinegar will add to the effect. The bend, in the most approved form, will appear in about half an hour.

STONEWALL JACKSON' PROPOSES NIGHT ATTACK WITH NAKED TROOPS.

A writer for the *Savannah News* says that Mr. Pollard had good ground for the assertion that Jackson once recommended a night attack by assailants stripped naked and armed with bowie-knives. He adds:

The occasion was after the battle of Fredericksburg, Va. On the 11th of Dec., 1862, the Federals occupying the northern bank of the Rappahannock, opened fire upon the town with 149 pieces of artillery. A majority of the inhabitants left when the bombardment commenced. Early in the morning the enemy attempted to swing a pontoon laden with soldiers across. A few well directed shots broke the bridge, and the boats floated down the river, the men to be drowned, or killed by the rifles of Barksdale's Mississippians. At night a successful attempt to cross was made below the city, and in a few moments the town was occupied. The 12th was spent in making preparations for the battle on the 13th, the result of which is well known. By dark the enemy's troops to the number of 60,000, torn, bleeding and disorganized, were crowded in town. While thus situated, the Confederate chiefs held a council. Gen. Lee thought the enemy would make another attack, not believing that they were so broken up as was afterwards ascertained. To this opinion Gen. Jackson disagreed, and suggested that the artillery of the First and Second Corps should be collected directly in front of the town and a heavy fire be opened upon it, and that the men of his corps be stripped to the waist to distinguish them from the enemy, and under cover of the artillery fire force their way into the town, and bayonet all who were not similarly attired. His corps was on the right and Longstreet's on the left. The men of the latter corps were not to be stripped, but were to protect the artillery and prevent the enemy from escaping up the river and the fords, for there was only one pontoon which would not have afforded egress for one fifth of the multitude, and the bridges would have been secured. It had been asserted by officers high in authority that the suggestion was adopted, and that Jackson especially stipulated that his troops should only use the bayonet, but the signal for the bombardment was never given, the orders came to retire to the breastworks, as the proposed attack had been given up by Gen. Lee, who feared that the inhabitants remaining in the town would suffer with the enemy.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Gen. Grant will have control of 53,000 officers and officers, whose annual compensation amounts to \$30,000,000.

The International Military Commission, called by the Emperor Alexander to draw up a convention for the mitigation of the Horrors of War, is now sitting in St. Petersburg.

The O'Donoghue met his constituents at Tralee on the 28th ult. He defended his opposition to Fenianism as being a conspiracy of a wild and mischievous character. He declared that he shrank from the Fenian programme, and abhorred many of its views as anti-Irish, and would resist it to the last drop of his blood. He proclaimed his full approval of Mr. Gladstone's policy.