

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

MASONIC RECORD.

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"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.50 per annum
in advance.

VOL. XX.

PORT HOPE, ONT., JUNE 15, 1886.

No. 6.

MASONIC JEWELLERY.

We are sometimes surprised, and frequently amused, at the variety of designs in the line of Masonic jewellery displayed about the persons of our brethren. So great is the variety, that one might be led to think that the jeweller had exerted all his skill in reproducing the emblems of the craft. Every conceivable shape and form are called into requisition to satisfy the demands of purchasers; from the tiny slipper bearing the square and compass, to the more expensive Maltese cross of the Knight Templar, or the double eagle of the Scottish Rite.

The frequency with which we come in contact with persons wearing this class of jewellery has particularly attracted our attention, and led us to enquire, why so lavish a display of these emblems? Of what practical use are they, and what purpose do they serve?

We note in our observations, that those who have long been members of the fraternity, and those who have been honored by their brethren with high official station, are loth to wear these emblems in public. On the other hand, newly-initiated members are quick to patronize the jewellery-store. We have seen a brother raised to the sublime degree on an evening, and the next morning appearing with a square and compass on his breast, and even known of a case where a brother just exalted to the Royal Arch

procured a jewel to be worn when he was admitted to membership in the Commandery.

The manner in which this class of jewellery is worn is oftentimes amusing. Some display conspicuously on the vest, others a huge pendant hanging from the watch chain, while we frequently see brethren from the rural districts quietly sporting a square and compass on their necktie or scarf, and but a few days since observed a mammoth keystone dangling from the waistcoat of an individual; all with the evident intention of attracting attention.

We confess that we are not adverse to seeing a neat Masonic charm when not worn too conspicuously, but this would also be true if it were any other class of jewellery. We know of cases where the wearing of these emblems has been of benefit to a person, but that they are constantly put to abuse there can be no reason for doubt. The wearing of them does not signify that the person is a Mason; any one can purchase them. Nearly every Masonic fraud wears these emblems in some shape or another, and the story of the Dutchman who did business "on the square," by the aid of a large square and compass on his person, each time fleecing those who patronized him, is not an old one. Ambitious storekeepers who cater for Masonic trade, are free to make use of these emblems.