

### DUTY TO THE LODGE.

In these days, when so many Masons are running after the plumed chapeau of the Knight Templar, the mystic letters of the Scotch Rite, or the numerals of the Memphis, it is pre-eminently necessary that members of lodges should exert themselves to keep alive the interest of the Craft in their real Masonic homes. Too little attention is too often paid to the pure and beautiful symbolism of Ancient Craft or Symbolic Masonry. In some cases, the work is slovenly done; in others, there is a coldness about the ceremonial,—a formality, that leaves no impression, or if any, an unfavorable one, upon the mind of the candidate.

There is no language more beautiful, no ceremonial more sublime, no esoteric conception more pregnant with holy thought and divine precept, than that inculcated, taught, illustrated and symbolized in "the tragedy." The treacherous blow, the unswerving fidelity, the death and the resurrection, convey a lesson that can never be forgotten.

It is true, it is not complete, but that is remedied by subsequent study in the Royal Arch and the higher degrees. Still, the student of our mysteries should not rush on to the neglect of his duties to the lodge. Let him first master them, and when perfect, advance.

It is a glorious and profound study; that mysterious and awful scene depicted by the tradition at the building of the first temple. The Mason should realize it, to appreciate, and should note that, within itself, lies the SECRET of Freemasonry. At a

first glance, it may appear a mere tale,—a myth, to be placed among the other marvellous traditions of ancient mythology. It is, of course, the story of the Orisis of the Egyptian mysteries, and has been taught in a different language in all the weird and mystic ceremonials of the ancients. Still, the death of the Builder stands forth as the casket that contains the marvellous gem that has, from time immemorial, held men together as brothers in thought, word and deed.

Let brethren, then, strive to build up their lodges,—make them truly Masonic homes for themselves and their visitors. Let them not forget that the first three degrees are the Masonry for which our fathers fought, suffered, and, in many instances, died a martyr's death. It is a glorious heritage, handed down to us by those who grew old "in God's service." Let us emulate them, and strive to become masters of our Royal Art.

Always recollect, brethren, that high degreeism is second to Symbolic Masonry; that parades, showy uniforms, handsome jewels, high sounding titles and mystic numbers, are naught, without a thorough groundwork, and that can only be obtained in the lodge.

THE appointment of R. E. Sir Kt. James A. Henderson as Grand Representative of the Grand Encampment of the United States near the National Great Priory of Canada, is a selection that will meet with general satisfaction from the Canadian freres. We heartily congratulate Dr. H. upon the distinguished honor.