

Feeling tremors which no mortal woman ever
 felt before.
 Suddenly the lightning flashing, showed a
 shape that toward me dashing,
 From his coat the raindrops splashing, entered
 in at my front door,
 Without sign of recognition, took his stand
 upon the floor,
 A goat it was, and nothing more.
 Such a poor bedraggled Billy, that I could re-
 main but illy,
 Having from my fright recovered, laughing at
 the mien he bore.
 Not a sound or movement made he, on my
 best rug silent stayed he,
 Till I really was afraid he would stand there
 forevermore.
 While the water from him tickling, running
 on my hardwood floor,
 Spoiled my rug forevermore.
 "Billy," said I, "beast uncanny, don't stand
 like some ancient granny,
 In an attitude which never any goat assumed
 before.
 Did some mishap sad befall you, did some de-
 mon mad enthrall you,
 That uninvited you install you, where you
 ne'er have been before?
 Do you mean to stay here always? Tell me,
 tell me, I implore."
 Quoth the goat, "Forevermore."
 This reply with sorrow spoken, with streaming
 eyes and accents broken,
 Filled me with a consternation, which I had
 not felt before,
 "Tell me, sirrah most respected, why appear
 you thus dejected,
 Have you mayhap been ejected from some
 home you had before
 From some happy home you had in hopeful,
 happy days of yore?"
 "Yes," the goat replied, "and more."
 "I was reared among my brothers in the hills
 with many others.
 We were reared for noble purpose, so said they
 who looked us o'er.
 Destined were we to take part in sacred rites
 of Masons' art in
 Giving members their first start in mysteries
 ne'er known before.
 In deep mysteries of ancient and accepted Ma-
 sons' lore.
 This to do forevermore.
 'Twas a grievous change when lately, I was
 placed in chambers stately,
 Taken from my childhood's quarters where I'd
 always lived before.
 True they gave me kindly greeting when they
 heard my lonesome bleating
 And at every lodge's meeting, there were
 things to eat galore.
 Yet this was no compensation for my comrades
 loved of yore,
 And I missed them evermore.
 But to-night the worst befell me, lady kind I'd
 have you tell me
 If in my place you could muster courage to
 return there more.
 They a third degree were giving, to your hus-
 band as I'm living,
 And he had to ride me whizzing, round and
 round about the floor.
 While some brothers jeered and shouted,
 others did but wildly roar.
 Screamed and yelled and nothing more.
 When I could not stand it longer, and the
 cries waxed loud and stronger,
 They led me where an opening wide yawned
 deep and dark beneath the floor.
 I must jump across this chasm, with my bur-
 den in a spasm,
 Scared almost to protoplasm, at sight of
 water 'neath the floor.
 His tremendous weight, oh lady, his tremen-
 dous weight I bore;
 But I'll do it nevermore.
 Just when I was madly leaping, my rider scarce
 his balance keeping,
 Clutching with both hands my windpipe,
 robbed me of my breath in store.
 In the ice-cold water splashing went steed and
 rider helpless flashing,
 The frightened Masons forward dashing, their
 brother quickly hauled ashore.
 And the horror stricken Tyler, leaving without
 guard the door,
 I escaped forevermore.
 Down the frightful stairs I stumbled, down in-
 into the street I tumbled;
 Stunned and bruised, my pride offended, every
 limb and muscle sore.
 Up the hill I hastened running, till I saw your
 light was burning
 And my footsteps toward it turning, rested
 gladly at your door;
 For my intuition told me, here was sympathy
 in store,
 And I'll leave you nevermore."
 Gaunt his goatship still is standing, by the
 stairway near the landing,
 Visible to me his form is, motionless before the
 door.
 Every lodge-night he keeps droning, echoing
 my inward groaning
 And together we make moaning, cherishing
 our grievance sore;
 Victims of the lodges' sessions, keep repeating
 o'er and o'er,
 "Nevermore, nevermore!"
 —*The Freemason and Fez.*

"How burdensome? Some Masons
 think one dollar a year a heavy burden
 to be borne when paying it for the sup-
 port of a Masonic Home, but very often
 these brethren would think nothing of
 spending much more than that many