

us a better idea of ourselves, taught us the rewards of fidelity to a trust and placed our names among men of honor and respectability.

Our position is enviable, serviceable to mankind and fraternity, and as such we are taught.

How proudly the old Roman soldier was wont to say:—"I am a citizen of Rome."

The expression in itself carried respect, pride and consideration, and it remains with us to keep before us the ancient landmarks, with its ennobling principles, but if such there be who cannot square his conduct and keep between the points of the compass a brother's honor and word and an unsullied character, it were better that he turn and flee.

To be a Mason in its truest sense is a greater acquisition than that claimed by the Roman citizen, whose allegiance was but to his proud republic, which alone claimed him. Our allegiance knows no bounds as to area, no objects but those of religion, fidelity, peace, submission to our own and all good laws, consequently to those of our sovereign in particular.

Hoping that my brief and introductory dissertation may develop light and further study, and that my time will enable me to give you sketches of articles relating to our landmarks, origin of Masonry, Masonic persecutions, &c., I thank you, fraternally, for your attention, and hope as the Masonic Poet Laureate, the immortal Burns, wrote, that:—

"Within this dear mansion may wayward contention,
And withering envy ne'er enter,
May secrecy round be the mystical bond
And brotherly love be the center."

THE grave of the first Grand Master of Vermont, Bro. Noah Smith, is to be marked by a monumental stone, at Milton, Vt. The Grand Lodge of Vermont has appropriated \$100 for the purpose.

WHO ARE ENTITLED TO RECOGNITION?

In his last report on Correspondence to the Grand Lodge of Illinois, Bro. Guerney (since deceased) presents some thoughts relative to the recognition of Grand Lodges instituted by Supreme Councils of the Scottish Rite, which we present in this connection as worthy of the consideration of all Master Masons.

The primary of all departures from the rights and equalities of the Institution had their origin about the middle of the preceding century. The progenitors of our race were guilty of disobedience. They were not content with the benignity of the Creator: neither have Masons been satisfied with the original plan of the Fraternity, but in many instances have assumed the right of interpolation of degrees and orders, and with such interpolation arises the demand that some of their systems, long tolerated by Masons, should now command the recognition of governing bodies of the Craft as being duly constituted Masonic organizations, with Masonic powers. From this position we have invariably dissented. We can not admit that a constitutional Grand Lodge can be aught else than the sequence of Lodges deriving their powers from a body authorized by law of the primal Grand Body to confer the degrees of E. A., F. C. and M. M. This is a law of the Institution, and from which there can not be an authorized recession. An acknowledged authority, Bro. Drummond says, in his report to his Grand Chapter (1883), and to be found in our report to the Grand Chapter of Illinois, 1884, on pages 12 and 13: "The Grand Lodge can not surrender the power of authorizing or controlling the making of Masons to an independent body. If the Grand Lodge of Free and Accept-