

Yet I would not woo her away from the green fields and beautiful avenues, bordered by never dying flowers, of which she had such blissful views for weeks before she entered them.

Thus my loved are passing from me

But the truer life draws nigher,
Every year;
And its Morning-star climbs higher,
Every year;
Earth's hold on me grows slighter.
And the heavy burden lighter.
And the Dawn Immortal brighter,
Every year.

The Masonic Eclectic. G. H. RANEY.

The Working Tools of Freemasonry.

Second Series—The Compasses.

NO. III.

BY G. F., JR.

We now come to the Working Tools of the virtual Past Master's Degree. They are the Square, the Compasses, the Rule, the Line and the Gavel. We shall in this article only allude to the "Square, which teaches us to regulate our actions by rule and line, and to harmonize our conduct by the principles of morality and virtue." Here the Mason is taught, in a very few words, the very essence of Freemasonry. First, "to regulate our actions by rule and line." What material for thought there is in that one little sentence! The man who does that must be an honest, upright, noble man, obeying the moral law and living up to the principles of his religion.

No man that so lives can be a bad man. He must be one that his fellow men will look up to with reverence and respect. He will be one that will be kind and charitable to all, whether Masons or otherwise, and strive to bring the young under the influence of religion, and to save by every means in his power those of more mature years who are pursuing a downward course.

We assert, therefore, that the Square in this degree symbolizes much that is useful, and teaches the

neophyte a noble lesson. It implants in his mind in a few terse words very much of importance, if he will only remember and live up to them. Of course, many do not. Clergymen and members of Churches, who have apparently led exemplary lives for years, have fallen when temptation overtook them. We, as Masons, can only teach our neophytes and brethren by living ourselves according to the lessons taught us within our tyled doors.

The Square, secondly, teaches us another important lesson, viz., to not only regulate our actions by rule and line, but to harmonize our conduct by the principles of morality and virtue; in a word, this little implement figuratively reminds us of that which we do during our journey through life, and prepares us to a certain extent to be ready to cross the dark and turbid waters of death, when summoned by the Grand Master before His Heavenly throne, to give an account of our actions here below.

The longer and more thoroughly a Mason studies Freemasonry, the greater will appear the beauties of its marvellous symbolism. Take it in every degree, and view it from every standpoint, and in bold relief stand out its noble lessons on honor, virtue and truth. It purifies the character of the bad, it exalts the mind of the good, and enriches the intellect and ennobles the life of both. When we consider how very, very much the lessons of the working tools teach us, and remember the glorious explanation given regarding the Square alone, it is not surprising that the faithful Hiramite should exult in the study of the symbolism and hidden meaning of the traditions of the Craft.

The Prince of Wales and Freemasonry.

The following extract from our Grand Master's speech at Swansea, fitly commented on by our contemporary the *Standard* last week, will not only interest our readers, as an evidence of that active sympathy dis-