

that the *Gentleman's Magazine* from its start devoted some pages each month to obituary notices of prominent men and women. But the next day happened to be what we call here "first day," and the public library was closed. I knew, however, that P. G. M. Dr. Winslow Lewis owned a set of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. To be short, on the next morning I found in the vol. of 1739, that our Dr. James Anderson, died on May 28th, 1739. Anderson could not, therefore, have written in 1754. Subsequently I received a letter from Bro. Hervey, that not a particle of evidence could he find any where to sustain Dr. Oliver's story about that prayer. Some years after the above finds, I happened to compare the Dublin Constitution of 1730, (reprinted by the Rev. Cox) with Anderson's Constitution of 1723, I found that from beginning to end, the Dublin Constitution was copied word for word from Anderson's Constitution, but with exceptions. First, the Dublin Constitution had a Junior and Senior Deacon, but the English Constitution had no deacons; and second, at the end of the Charges there was a prayer, and Anderson's Constitution had no prayer, and on reading the said prayer, I suspected that it was the Pocket Companion prayer of 1756. And it was so. When I brought Coxe's Constitution back to the Masonic Temple, and told Bro. Nickerson of my new find, and after satisfying himself that I was right, he wrote at the side of the prayer in Mackey's Cyclopaedia, "This prayer was originally printed in the Dublin Constitution in 1730," and wrote the same words in Oliver's "Revelation of a Square" at the bottom of the page where the prayer was printed.

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I remain, yours fraternally,

JACOB NORTON.

Boston, April 22nd, 1890.

Every elective officer in the Grand Lodge of Virginia stands the test of a secret ballot taken in his absence from the lodge room,



V. W. BRO. GEORGE TAIT.

THE FELLOW CRAFT DEGREE.

LECTURE BY V. W. BRO. G. TAIT, BEFORE
STEVENSON LODGE.

At the last regular meeting of Stevenson Lodge 218, held in the Masonic Temple, Toronto Street, there was a very large attendance, W. Bro. J. Baird, W. M. presided, and associated with him in the East were a great many city masters. The principal attraction was a lecture on the Symbolism and Allegory of the Fellow Craft degree, by V. W. Bro. Geo. Tait. In the course of his lecture, V. W. Bro. Tait said: "I thought to-night it would be of interest to you to deal with the 2nd or Fellow Craft degree, and although the historical side of the question would not be without interest to many, yet I recognize the fact that what is most needed and perhaps most desired is an intelligent conception of what our degrees mean rather than how they developed and gradually assumed their present shape. The Fellow Craft is a degree to which many masons and masters of lodges attach very little importance. It is looked upon as a mere stepping stone between the 1st and 3rd degrees, which are more attractive as working degrees. Still the allegory of the 2nd presents so much for contemplation and study that it would furnish material for several interesting lectures, and put to the test the