

THAT MUCH-MOOTED QUESTION AGAIN.

An article in relation to the much-mooted question as to which is the correct word—"compass" or "compasses"—is a question that has troubled me in my dreams and waking hours ever since I began to study Masonic symbolism and to endeavor to find out the correct pronunciation and meaning of words contained in the Masonic vocabulary. I had heard "compass" and "compasses" used in the same breath, and the most diligent inquiry has so far failed to elicit any further light on the subject. I have also heard used the word "scissors," and frequently a "pair of scissors," but never "scissorses" or a "pair of scissorses," and as a compass is made of two-pointed branches, the same as a pair of scissors, I am as a loss to determine exactly where I am at. My present dilemma reminds me of the tailor and the tailor's goose. He wanted two of them and, when he sat down to write an order for them, he said: "Send me two tailor's geese." That didn't sound just right, and so he changed it to read: "Send me two tailor's geesees." That looked worse than the other, and so he made up his mind that neither way of wording the order would do. After scratching his head a few minutes, he seized a pen and sheet of paper and wrote: "Send me a tailor's goose, and—dang it, send me another!" Even that unique way of getting out of it has still left the question unsettled in my mind, and it seems to be as far from solution as ever. But the tailor got out of it to his own satisfaction—much after the way that Lincoln, when a young captain of militia, got his company on the other side of the fence, one day when out drilling them. They were marching in platoons and he wanted to get the boys through the gate, but when he had arrived there he couldn't think how to give the order to get them in proper line, so they could march through, and so he said: "Halt—break ranks—and in two

minutes, assemble on the other side of the fence!"—*Arise in Masonic Admiration.*

THE LEVEL.

The chief glory of Masonry is that it levels all the barriers that intervene between individuals and communities, and brings together upon a plane of common equality persons of the most diverse opinions, occupations and interests. Overleaping all the boundaries of selfishness and exclusiveness, overruling all social and class distinctions, breaking down all the partitions of bigotry and intolerance, it unites in common work and common object the good and true of all pursuits, opinions and languages. The lodge can never become the exclusive creature of any social, political or religious class or sect, because it is the joint possession of the best representatives of all classes and conditions. Here upon the level—the symbol of equality—the rich and poor, the high and low, the titled prince and the sturdy yeoman, forget all differences of rank and station, unite their best endeavor for the highest good of each and all. Here the best representatives of the various church creeds, and the most diverse theological sentiments stand side by side without a single test between them! Here the leaders of opposite parties and rival factions forget their intrigues, and catching the spirit of royal sympathy and philanthropy breathed from every lesson of the Fraternity, their hearts are melted into responsive love and fraternal peace. Here nobility of birth and blood is superseded by that higher nobility which is of disposition and life. Here the crown of royalty and the sceptre of authority belong to those most distinguished for virtue and honor. Here all languages are melted into words and symbols conveying the same meaning to all minds, and bearing the same significance in all circles. Of course, it is not assumed that these noble and honorable aims are never lost sight of