

mighty crash, and the old man's life-work lay a confused heap of debris on the ground. And Wolverton? Strong hands were lifting the wheel that had fallen over him.

"It is nothing," he said, with a white face, as they helped him to rise. "An arm broken; I think, that is all. Let me go into the barn, and send Ryder to me."

Glen Hazlethorne entered with him.

"My right hand is free," said Grange, holding it out, and the two men clasped hands, as friends and brothers once more.

While the arm was being set, old Peter entered, bowed and dejected, looking years older than before.

"Mr. Clamp," said Grange, "your life has not been in vain; some failures are grander than success, and you have done more to-day than you know."

But the old man's heart was broken, and no words could comfort him.—*Voice of Masonry.*

CONCERNING FREEMASONRY AND ITS SECRETS.

THE following asks questions we often asked before becoming a member of the Masonic Brotherhood or fraternity. To the letter, and the replies to its questions, we invite attention, as we answer the truth and a disposition to give correct information.

CHICAGO, 5th August, 1876.

M. M. Pomroy:

DEAR SIR,—Having read with pleasure and profit your answers to queries on various topics in the "Quiet Home Corner" column of your journal, and feeling assured of your willingness and ability to reply to any question respectfully asked, I assume the liberty of putting a few in reference to a matter that is now being forced, by able lecturers in this and other States, on the attention of the people. I allude to Free Masonry, which is being publicly discussed and exposed in different parts of the country. I know you are a Mason, and particularly well qualified for answering (satisfactorily, I hope) the questions I'm about to ask.

1. Is Free Masonry based (as is claimed) on the teachings of the Christian Bible, and if so, where in that Book is absolute oath-bound secretism laid down as a foundation for any organization whatever?

2. Has a Lodge or Grand Lodge any more than an assumed right to administer an oath?

3. Is it right or just to obligate a man by an oath to keep inviolate (under the severest penalties) secrets without giving him an opportunity of judging of the nature of these, and see whether he could conscientiously accept them? By answering the foregoing queries you will place a seeker after the truth under many obligations.

Truly yours,

L. G. A.

Free Masonry is not a religious order, but the result of efforts to establish a Great Brotherhood. At the building of Solomon's Temple armies of men were employed. They were men skilled in their various crafts. To have been a workman on that temple was considered a good certificate or recommendation on which to travel in search of work. The enterprise gave birth to a necessity for *good workmen* to organize, as poor workmen who could not hold situations were in the habit of going about the country claiming to have been employed in responsible positions on the temple. They were botch tradesmen, and by their pretensions received work from other parties which they did not do well, and thus wronged the one who gave them confidence, and brought discredit on the thousands who were of the best workmen and engaged on the grandest edifice ever built by human hands. Thus arose the necessity for an organization of excellence which was suggested by the builders of the Temple. It gave then and there the result—

A Brotherhood of Masons, who were free men, builders, duly empowered to make contracts for themselves. Free Masons, accepted in the Brotherhood as they were good Masons, builders. Signs, grips and passwords, whereby they came to know each other, and thus able to talk of the plans of the Temple, which were by order of King Solomon kept secret.

These architects, free men, free and accepted Masons, were given the plans, designs and models of the Temple, as they came from the wise men who were the planners thereof.

The room where the plans were lodged or kept under guard, was the Lodge room. To this room, those who had the signs, grips and passwords had free access at all