

Everywhere the earth is hallowed;  
 Temples rise on every side;  
 In the forest, in the city!  
 And their priest is daily toll!

Let no one, then, scorn industrial pursuits. God *works* through the eternities, and labor, therefore, is divine and holy. Freemasonry, consequently, constantly warns its children against the degrading effects of the vice of indolence, and exhorts them to co-operate with the Creator in making the physical world around them more beautiful and perfect, in establishing order and justice in the earth, and overcoming the Kingdom of Evil, and upraising the Empire of Justice and Truth, of Virtue and Love.

THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS, GUARDED BY THE TYLER'S SWORD.—This emblem will convince the Mason of the policy of preserving inviolably the important secrets which are committed to his breast. "Be ye afraid of the sword, that ye may know there is a judgment." It refers particularly to the first obligation of Freemasonry, where the duty of *secrecy* is enjoined in the most solemn manner. It is not through frivolity, or for any idle purpose that the principle of secrecy has been adopted as a leading feature of our system; but because all the great productive and regenerating forces of Nature are secret and invisible, and are seen only in their results. In profoundest darkness and secrecy the Spirit of Beauty works at the roots of the rose-tree, producing that wondrous loveliness and fragrance which ravish our senses. But lay profane hands upon that secrecy, invade that domain of mystery and darkness, by exposing the roots to the sun and human gaze, and the rose withers, its glory has departed forever. Thus Masonry performs its labors in mystery and silence, but the results of its workings are seen in that remarkable efflorescence of humanitarian virtues which so distinguish this age. Let the Freemason, then, preserve the secrecy of the institution in its most perfect integri-

ty—remembering that "for faithful silence there is a sure reward."

THE SWORD POINTING TO THE NAKED HEART.—This may remind us that, although Mercy delay the descending stroke of Justice, there is a day appointed, in which justice will be amply avenged, unless Mercy shall secure us in the ark of her retreat. The sword of Almighty vengeance is always drawn to punish iniquity.

"There is an eye through blackest night  
 A vigil ever keeps,  
 A vision of unerring light,  
 O'er lowly vale, o'er giddy height,  
 THE EYE that never sleeps."

Here is recognized that great law of Retribution which stretches through all worlds, and from the responsibility of which no man can escape. The symbol of the *All-Seeing Eye* reads a terrible lesson to the plotters of iniquity, and especially to those whose crimes are against Humanity. It tells them that although they execute their wicked purposes in the profound darkness of *low-twelve*, where mortal eyes cannot observe them, there is an eye from whose scrutiny they cannot flee, and which sees all their shameful deeds as clearly in the deepest midnight as in the splendor of noonday. Yet, this lesson is too often forgotten, and the sons of violence go forward in their mad career, stabbing the innocent, and trampling on the good, saying in their hearts, "How doth God know? Can He judge through the dark cloud?" And they will not be persuaded that Eternal Justice rules, till its thunders smite them to the earth, and its lightnings are consuming them. This law of Justice is inexorable and certain as fate. Sooner or later, in this world or the next, will injured innocence, outraged honor, and crucified virtue come forth to an exalted recompense, crowned with immortal glory, while successful crime, though clothed in purple and seated in the high places of power, shall be hurled down "to shame and everlasting contempt."

THE ARK AND ANCHOR.—As the traditional Ark afforded safety and