

THE LIBERAL ARTS.

The seven liberal arts and sciences so beautifully inculcated in the second, or Fellow Crafts degree, are,—Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy.

"Grammar is the science that teaches us to express our ideas in appropriate words, which we may afterwards beautify and adorn by Rhetoric,—while Logic instructs us how to think and reason with propriety, and to make language subordinate to thought. Arithmetic which is the science of computing by numbers, is absolutely essential, not only to a thorough knowledge of all mathematical science, but also to a proper pursuit of our daily avocations. Geometry, or the application of arithmetic to sensible quantities, is of all sciences the most important, since by it we are enabled to measure and survey the globe which we inhabit. Its principles extend to other spheres; and, occupied in the contemplation and measurement of the sun, moon, and other heavenly bodies, constitutes the science of Astronomy; and lastly, when our minds are filled, and our thoughts enlarged by the contemplation of all the wonders which these sciences open to our view, Music comes forward to soften our hearts and cultivate our affections by its soothing influences."

THE NATURAL SCIENCES.

The Freemason is not only under obligation diligently to study these liberal arts and sciences which tend so effectually to cultivate and adorn the mind, but he is specially directed to follow the good example of the

best and wisest brethren of the most ancient days, by thoroughly investigating the wonderful works of Nature.

Herein he will find unlimited subjects for the most profound study and contemplation,—and he may learn therefrom unnumbered lessons of incalculable practical value to himself and fellows.

In pursuing towards perfectness, these truly Masonic researches, he will be led to contemplate with profound awe and reverence,—what we may not inaptly term the

MIRACLES OF NATURE.

Among a multitude of such, he will note with rapturous delight, the transformation of the "sap" of the vine into the luscious "juice of the grape,"—of the few handfuls of grain sown in the well prepared soil, multiplied into the heaping bin-ful of the ripe garnered corn;—of the almost uncountable progeny from the spawn of a single fish,—of a host of other like wondrous and beneficent transmutations,—and above all he will ponder with rapture the truly miraculous transformation by natural processes, of the putrifying, unsightly and offensively odorous plant-food put in the soil, into the healthful and even delicious products of grain and fruit as food for man and beast,—and with pleasurable joy and delight he will contemplate the painting of the flowers of the garden and of the field with more than rainbow tints of beauty, to please the eye and gladden the heart of man.

These are some thoughts for the thoughtful Freemason,—and such are some of the subjects of study and contemplation to which his attention has been duly and forcibly directed, and in which it is his bounden duty to make continual progress.