

Now, Jamieson, in his Scottish Dictionary, gives us the following meanings of the word :

"COWAN, s., 1. A term of contempt ; applied to one who does the work of a Mason, but who has not been regularly bred.

"2. Also use to denote one who builds dry walls, otherwise denominated a *dry-diker*.

"3. One unacquainted with the secrets of Freemasonry."

And he gives the following examples as his authority.

"A boat carpenter, joiner, *cowan*, (or builder of stone without mortar,) get 1s at the *minimum*, and good maintenance.' P. Morven, Argyle's Statistic. Acct., x, 267, N.

"Cowans, masons who build dry stone dikes or walls.' P. Halkirk, Carthn, Statiste. Acct., xix, 24, N.

In the "Rob Roy" of Scott the word is used by Allan Inverach, who says, "She does not value a Cawmil mair as a *cowan*."

The word has, therefore, I think, come to the English Fraternity directly from the Operative Masons of Scotland, among whom it was used to denote a pretender, in the exact sense of the first meaning of Jamieson. In fact, the Scotch Operative Masons employed it as a title of contempt, just as the printers of the present day call an unworthy member of their craft a *rat*, or the stone-cutters a *seab*.

There is no word that has given Masonic scholars more trouble than this in tracing its derivation. Many years ago I sought to find its root in the Greek *kuon*, a dog, and referred to the fact that in the early ages of the Church, when the mysteries of the new religion were communicated only to initiates under the veil of secrecy, Infidels were called "dogs," a term probably suggested by such passages as Matthew, vii, 6 :) Give not that which is holy to dogs ;" or Philipp., (iii, 2 :) "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." This derivation has been adopted by Oliver and many other writers, and although I am not now inclined to insist upon it, I still think it a very probable one, which may serve until a better one shall be proposed. Jamieson's derivations are from the old Swedish *kujon*, *kuzhjuh*, a silly fellow, and the French *coion*, *coyon*, a coward, a base fellow. No matter how we get the word, it seems always to convey an idea of contempt. The attempt to derive it from the *chouans* of the French revolution is manifestly absurd, for it has shown that the word was in use long before the French revolution was even meditated.—*Mackey's Freemason*.

A PROPER MASONIC APPRECIATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER OF CANDIDATES FOR INITIATION.

Under this heading we intend to speak of Freemasons in "words that have the bark on," (as old Bro. Andrew Jackson, P. G. M. of Tennessee, once said), and we want it to be distinctly understood, that if any of our readers feel that they do not want to read that sort of language, they had better leave off right here. All who do not wish to remain until the work is done, have leave to depart, because we don't want it disturbed while in progress.

Relative to the proposition of candidates for the mysteries, and the manner of reporting on, and voting for them, we have noticed so many inconsistencies that we intend to speak plainly about it, and in alluding to this matter at this time, we do not confine ourselves alone to Freemasons, but to several other organizations we belong to, for we find the