

And could you grasp the secrets
 The thrice-great Hermes taught?
 And dare you wield the working tools
 With which great Moses wrought?
 Which made the river roll with blood,
 The mountains shake with fire,
 And opened up the solid earth
 When Korah dared his ire?

But, Craftsmen, we were promised
 That when our time was served,
 If all our work was duly wrought
 And we had well deserved.
 The Senior Warden in the West
 Should pay our wages due,
 And we should have the mystic word
 And rank with Masters true.

In sooth, you shall, good Brother,
 Go! travel toward the sun;
 This life is your apprenticeship,
 And when your task is done,
 In the Oriental Lodge above
 For your reward prepare.
 The word is blazing in the East,
 And you will find it there.

—*Masonic Token.*

THE MASTER'S GAVEL.

Perhaps no Masonic appliance or symbol is possessed of such deep and absorbing interest to the craft as the Master's mallet or gavel. Its name is derived from its shape, which is that of the gable or gavel end of a house. It comes from the German giebel or gipful, gable or peak. Mackay says that its true force is that of the stone-masons hammer, having a cutting edge that it may be used to break off the corners of rough stones. No Masonic emblem can lay claim to an antiquity so remote. So early as the year 1462 its use as a Masonic symbol was clearly recognized. It was also used as a religious symbol in the middle ages, and was made use of to establish proprietary rights over land and water. This was done by throwing the mallet at full swing, and all the ground traversed was immediately acknowledged as the possession of the person casting the hammer. In very early stages the mallet was used as a signal, by which Gothic courts were convened. When the Judge ordered a tribunal to assemble, a mallet was carried round, and the people, seeing the emblem of judicial authority, instantly

repaired to the appointed place. Grimm informs us that the hammer-stroke, with which the auctioneer concludes a sale is derived from this custom. In northern mythology, Thor, the strongest of the Norse gods, was always represented with a mallet called Mioner, which possessed most wonderful properties and virtues. When belted with the megin-jardir, or girdle of prowess, and armed with his hammer, the god was irresistible. It will thus be seen that as an emblem of authority the mallet has been handed down through successive ages to our own day, and when, in the hands of the Master of a Masonic Lodge, it sounds the decision of any question, the blow is merely the re-echo of a power which has been current for centuries. At the installation of the Master of a lodge he is presented with this implement of labor, and informed that it is an emblem of power, and the outward symbol of his authority over the lodge, and of the tenure by which he holds his office. Without it he is impotent to rule and govern the assembled brethren. When it is wielded with skill the Freemason within hearing of its knock at once bows with alacrity to the emblem of might. The lodge is convened by its blow, which signifies that the Master has assumed the duties of his office and calls to order and submission; and, as when Thor lost his mallet, a portion of his divine strength was gone, so when the Master lays his mallet or gavel aside, his authority is at an end.—*San Francisco Call.*

ORIGIN OF FREEMASONRY.

Bro. A. T. Freed, of the *Hamilton Spectator*, is the author of the following remarks on Freemasonry:—"The origin of the order is shrouded in mystery. Quite possibly it is a survival of some ancient 'mystery,' preserving ceremonies of old pagan worship as they are preserved in the ritual and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. More probably it is the continuation of a trade union of real builders, formed in the middle ages for mutual protection,