

"Thus the song, the toast, the jest, and merry laugh passed away the time till midnight was announced from the neighbouring church clock; and then hats, swords, and canes were in requisition, for the party was broken up at once by the Master's 'right word and point of a Mason—Adieu.' The Lodge prospered under his judicious management.

"While embodying these transactions in your imagination, I must caution you," said the Master's Jewel, which I found to be rather facetiously inclined, "not to raise up before your mind's eye an assembly of Brethren habited in the costume to which you have been habituated; for if you, sir, in your present dress, had made your appearance among them, you would have created shouts of more extatic laughter than either punning or crambo. No, sir, you must see them as they actually were, if you would form a true idea of the scene. They wore square-cut coats and long-flapped waistcoats with pockets in the waist; the coats had long hanging cuffs, and the skirts were stiffened out with buckram and wire, to show the hilt of the sword. They had lace neckcloths and ruffles; blue or red silk stockings, with gold or silver clocks, drawn over the breeches to meet the pocket-flaps of the waist-coat, and gartered below the knee; square-toed and short-quartered shoes, with high red heels and small silver buckles. Then they had on various kinds of wigs, and small three-cornered hats laced with gold or silver, and trimmed with feathers; all formal, clean, and spruce, and in every respect a striking contrast to the fashionable costume of the present day." The Square then proceeded with its revelations.

"My next move was to the breast of a very showy and self-sufficient gentleman,—a man of ample fortune, but very superficial, and famous for nothing but his versatility and want of firmness. He seldom knew his own mind on any given subject whether in religion or politics, for eight and forty hours together. To-day he was a Whig, to-morrow a Tory, and the next something very different from both. In religion he was sometimes high church, sometimes low church, but more frequently neither one nor the other. In a word, he was unanimously pronounced a universal genius! I have known many universal geniuses in time, though, to speak my mind freely, I never knew one who, for the ordinary purposes of life, was worth his weight in straw; but, for the government of a Lodge, a little sound judgment and plain common sense is worth all the sparkling genius that ever wrote poetry or invented theories. He was exceedingly fond of trying philosophical and political experiments; and having stuffed his head full of scraps and remnants of ancient republics, and oligarchies and aristocracies, and monarchies, and the laws of Solon, and Lycurgus, and Charondas, and the imaginary commonwealth of Plato, and the pandects of Justinian, and a thousand other fragments of venerable antiquity, he was for ever bent upon introducing some one or other of them into use; so that between one contradictory measure and another, he entangled the government of the Lodge in more knots during his administration than half-a-dozen successors could have untied.

"He had been a Junior Warden under Dr. Desaguliers; but that discerning Brother entertained some doubts whether his pretensions were sterling, and, therefore, hesitated to promote him to a higher and more responsible office. His imperfections soon manifested

themselves, and the Brethren who placed him in the chair lived to repent of their choice. He formed several magnificent schemes for the advancement of Masonry, but did not possess sufficient stability to carry them into effect; like the Dutch mountebank who took a run of three miles to leap over a hill, but changing his mind during this preliminary step, when he arrived at its foot, he sat quietly down and declared himself unable to accomplish the feat. Or like the Uperephanos of Brathwait,

"He still thought,
That the world without him would be brought to nought,
For when the dogge-stars faded, he used to cry,
'No other Atlas has the world but I.
I am only Her, supports the state;
Cemets divisions, shuts up Janus' gate;
Improves the public frame, chalks out the way
How princes should command—subjects obey—
Nought passes my discovery, for my sense
Extends itself to all intelligence.'"

"This wonderful man piqued himself on his oratorical powers, and frequently wearied the patience of the Brethren by his dull and unmeaning harangues on the most trifling subjects. I remember on one occasion some topic was under discussion—I think it was on the propriety of masonic processions—which had been a fruitful subject of ridicule to the wits of London. A great difference of opinion prevailed amongst the Craft on this question, and our Lodge was so nicely balanced in point of numbers, pro and con, that any Master of common understanding would have found no difficulty in turning the scale in favour of his own views, on which side soever it might be. In this exigency what did our sapient Master do? Why, he made a speech, in which he took a view of the arguments on both sides of the question, and proceeding carefully by the strictest rules of logic, and a display of the soundest erudition, but all to no purpose, he balanced them so equally that every Brother in the Lodge congratulated himself that his opinions would be triumphant; and when the Master sat down, I heard him whisper to a Brother on his right hand, 'Now do you know, from what I have said, which side of the question my own opinion favours?'—'Indeed, I confess myself at a loss to determine.'—'Then I have accomplished my point,' replied this sapient officer, 'for my ambition was to make a speech which should please both parties.' And when the question was put to the vote, he found himself in a minority. Not very complimentary to his tact and judgment, was it?

"Our politic Master was, at this time, building a handsome mansion at the west end of the town, and when it was nearly completed, he boasted one evening, in a set speech, of the pure Augustan style in which his dining-room was to be finished and decorated, in all the antique splendour that Gothic architecture could furnish. It was to be a perfect gem; and in the peroration of his speech, he announced his intention of opening it with a grand masonic dinner, to which he invited all the members then present. The announcement was, of course, received with cheers. Amidst the acclamations of the Lodge he sat down, and a Brother whispered in his ear, 'When do you think it will be finished?'—'Never for that purpose,' replied the Master.

"This erudite chief had concocted a notable scheme for distinguishing his year of office as a remarkable epoch, which had caused him more anxiety to bring into a disposable form, than any other subject he was ever known to entertain. It was an invention peculiarly his own, and he plumed himself upon it with more than common pride. In introducing it to the notice of the Lodge, his opening speech was flowery and rhetorical.

He denominated his plan a grand panacea which would obviate all objections to Masonry, and create a universal sensation in its favour. 'The idea,' he said, 'is novel, pleasing, and practicable; it has never entered the head of mortal Mason, and I am the only individual who has been inspired with the vast design. My star is in the ascendant, and I do not doubt but a niche in the temple of fame is reserved for me, as the author of a magnificent project, which will render Freemasonry the envy of all other social institutions.'

"He went on in this style for a considerable length of time, the Brethren waiting with commendable patience for the development of his proposal. And what do you think it was? You cannot guess, and so I may as well tell you at once; it was a MASONIC BALL!!! The Brethren were taken by surprise at this unexpected announcement, so alien to the genuine principles of Masonry, and scarcely knew what to say. After they had recollected themselves by a pause of a few minute's duration, the absurdity of the proposal struck them as so perfectly ridiculous, that, though from motives of decorum and respect for the Chair, they endeavoured to stifle their sense of the ludicrous, the effort was unsuccessful, and they gave vent to their feelings by a loud and universal peal of laughter, which they found it impossible to restrain.

(To be continued.)

We publish below, at the request of numerous subscribers, the time and place of meeting of the various Lodges in this city:—

St Paul's Lodge, No. 614, R. E., meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, from Nov. 1 to May 1, inclusive, at St. Lawrence Hall, Great St. James Street.

Elgin Lodge, R. S., No. 348, meets 1st Monday of each month, at the Masonic Chambers, 304 Notre Dame Street.

St. George's Lodge, R. E., No. 643, meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, at the Masonic Chambers, 304 Notre Dame Street.

St. Lawrence Lodge R. E. No. 923, meets 1st Tuesday of every month, at the Masonic Chambers, 304 Notre Dame Street.

Antiquity Lodge, R. C., No. 06, meets 1st Thursday of every month, at the Masonic Hall, corner Place d'Armes and Notre Dame Street.

Zetland Lodge, R. C., No. 21 meets 2nd Thursday of each month, Masonic Hall, corner Place d'Armes and Notre Dame Street.

St. George's Lodge, R. C. No. 19, meets 3rd Thursday of each month, at the Masonic Hall, corner Place d'Armes and Notre Dame Street.

Kilwinning Lodge, under dispensation, G. L. C. meets 2nd Monday of each month, at the Bonaventure Building, Victoria Square.

St. George's Lodge, Mark Masters, R. E., No. 643, meets 2nd Thursday in the months of March, September and December, at the Masonic Chambers, 304 Notre Dame Street.

St. Paul's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 514, R. E., meets 3rd Thursday in the months of January, April, July and October, at the St. Lawrence Hall, Great St. James Street.

Victoria Royal Arch Chapter, R. E., No. 643, meets 4th Wednesday in February, May, August, and November, in the Masonic Chambers, 304 Notre Dame Street.

A wag passing through a country town, observed a fellow placed in the stocks. "My friend" said he "I advise you by all means to sell out." "I should have no objection your honour," he replied drily, "but at present they seem much too low."