

squares, angles and perpendiculars. There are three steps; three principal and three inferior officers, the Master and Wardens, the Deacons and Inner Guard; three moral duties, to God, our neighbor, and ourselves; three theological virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity, and three divine qualities inculcated in the points.

The pillars that support the Lodge, Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, equally with the chief officers, are three in number and placed triangularly.

We have three greater and three lesser lights; three working tools in each degree; three qualifications for the service of an apprentice, symbolized by chalk, charcoal, and clay; a ladder with three principal steps; three ornaments, the Mosaic pavement, the blazing star, and the tessellated border; three articles of furniture, and three movable and three unmovable jewels.

The reports are three fold, as are also the principal orders of architecture, Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.

There are three grand offerings commemorated in the system of Freemasonry—the offering of Isaac on Mount Moriah—the sacrifice of David, and the offerings of Solomon on the same mountain. The entered apprentice's acquirements are threefold—secrecy, morality and good fellowship—there were three places where the materials for the Temple were prepared—the quarry, the forest and the plain—and three sources whence the knowledge of operative Masonry is derived. We find three Grand Masters; three officiating fellow crafts, three decorations to the pillars at the porch of the Temple emblematical of peace, unity and plenty; three different ways of opening a Lodge; three ways of preparing a brother; three obligations; three signs; three words; three tokens, and three ways to advance.

We have also three important human senses—hearing, seeing, and

feeling; three principal tenets—brotherly love, relief and truth; three lectures, three knocks, referring to youth, manhood and old age; three ways of wearing an apron, and three should compose each committee and board of trial.

The length of Solomon's Temple was three times its breadth; it contained three Courts, and the body of the Temple consisted of three parts—the portico, the sanctuary, and the most holy place. There were three curtains, each of three colours; three orders of priests, and three keepers of the door. The golden candlestick had three branches on each side, and there were three stones in each row of the high priest's breast plate. The oxen, which supported the molten sea, were arranged in threes, and the vessel was made of sufficient capacity to contain three thousand baths. To this holy place the Jews were commanded to assemble three times a year at the three grand festivals.

Again we find threefold *expressions* pervading the Masonic ritual, as for instance: Freedom, Fervency and Zeal—Secresy, Fidelity and Obedience—Truth, Honor and Virtue—Duty Honor and Gratitude—Friendship, Peace and Concord—To, at and from—Off, at and on—and so on.

In the emblem of the equilateral triangle we find also a representation of the Trinity, which is as old as the Pyramids, and I notice in the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland that Lodge No. 833 is called "Triune Lodge" with the motto, "Tria juncta in uno."

Pursuing the matter further we find that, as the number three is sacred among Masons, the number nine or three times three is scarcely less so.

The Pythagoreans, remarking that this number had the power of always reproducing itself by multiplication, considered it an emblem of matter, which, though continually changing its form, is never annihilated.