

The Column of Beauty

Lecture Delivered in
Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1 G.R.B.C.
6th September, 1917



IN the Charge to the Brethren, usually delivered after the ceremony of the Installation of Officers, the lessons of Freemasonry are described as being "*chiefly* veiled in Allegory and illustrated by Symbols." Here the word "*chiefly*" is not used without intention. It seems to indicate that Allegory and Symbolism are the *principal* vehicles for the conveyance to the Initiated of the most important Masonic truths—truths which it is the duty of every Freemason to try to discover and understand.

It must be granted that many symbols are explained in the course of our ceremonies; but the explanations of some of them are necessarily incomplete, and others receive merely passing mention. A great deal is left to the assiduous study of each individual Freemason, who is responsible, in proportion to his ability, for the elucidation of whatever seems to him dark and doubtful. He ought, therefore, to study carefully every act in our ceremonies, and every symbol in our Lodge Room, for the purpose not only of "improving himself in Masonry" (which is one of the objects of our presence here), but also of adding, as far as in him lies, to our general store of knowledge. It is probable that he may, thus, be able to take a step nearer to the Truth, and guide his brethren forward, it may be only a