

prove the mere profession of these holy principles, and not near so much profession as there should be. In a lodge not long ago a certain well qualified brother was elected Master. Immediately two brothers who had been leaders at one time, and who happened to be on the side of the minority, asked to be dropped from the roll. Meeting upon the level? Acting with brotherly love? Leaving the fraternity because they could not have their way? Is that the tie that binds so closely? Theory should never be at variance with practice. He learns his lessons poorly, who forgets out of the lodge that he has obligations devolving upon him which his very living in the world demands that he fulfill. It is not enough to say to a hungry brother, go and be fed, and yet not tell him where to go or provide a means for feeding. The theory of this "Level" business is grand beyond the power of words to express, and if practice went hand in hand with theory, as it should, then would we all be happier and better.—*N. Y. Dispatch.*

THE SEAL OF THE STATES.

INVENTED BY AN ENGLISHMAN.

The great seal of the United States is of peculiar interest from the fact that it is possibly the only one in the world that was designed for a government by the subject of an opposing government, says the *New York Herald*. We owe our coat of arms to Sir John Prestwich, a baronet of the West of England, who was a warm friend of America, and an accomplished antiquarian. His admiration for Washington undoubtedly influenced his design, as the Washington arms are rather similar to our seal. Originally the selection of a seal was left to a committee appointed by Congress, and composed of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, and they employed a French West Indian named Du Sinitero, not only to furnish designs but to sketch such designs as were sug-

gested by themselves. In one of his drawings the artist displayed on a shield the armorial ensigns of the several nations from whence America had been peopled, embracing those of England, Scotland, France, Germany and Holland.

After several other committees had vainly tried to perfect a seal which should meet the approval of Congress, Charles Thomson, its secretary, several years later received from John Adams, then in London, an exceedingly simple and appropriate device suggested by Sir John Prestwich. It consisted of an escutcheon bearing thirteen perpendicular stripes, white and red, with chief blue, and spangled with thirteen stars, and, to give it great consequence, he proposed placing it on the breast of an American eagle without supporters, as emblematic of self-reliance. At last this met with general approval and out of Congress, and was adopted in June, 1782. So it is manifest, although the fact is not extensively known, that we are indebted for our national arms to a titled aristocrat of the country with which we were then at war. It was cut in brass soon after it had been decided upon, and it is found on a commission dated September 16, 1782, granting full power and authority to Washington to arrange with the British for prisoners of war. This seal continued in use for fifty-nine years. The present seal differs from it only in detail of execution. The design of the reverse has a pyramid, over which there is an eye in a triangle. For some reason this side of the seal was not cut then, nor has it been cut since, but has been allowed to go unnoticed officially until the present day. The second seal was cut in 1841, Daniel Webster then being Secretary of State. This one was continued in use up to 1885, when the seal now in use was cut.

In the Near Future.—Lawyer: "I now offer in evidence a photograph of the broken heart of the plaintiff, taken by the Röntgen process." Judge: "Admitted. Let it be marked 'Exhibit X.'"