

the Craft in its primitive beauty and grandeur. Upon this we have constructed a fable, or a legend, the latter, metaphysicians tell us, being a fabrication three times removed. Call it what you will, it contains material for thought.

After repeated visitations by Solomon and the two Hiram to various jurisdictions, they at last reached Canada, stopping at Owen Sound in July. As soon as they passed the sacred portals the disappointed look that had overshadowed their countenances was replaced with beaming smiles, and joyfulness was visible in every feature of their noble faces. Hiram of Tyre was the first to break the silence, when he said :—"Behold, O King Solomon, beloved Grand Master, here are some of our ancient brethren who assisted at the building of the temple. There is the tribe of M's from Hamilton, Murray, Mason, McLennan and Mitchell; Klotz, from Preston; Sargent and Malone, from Toronto; Moffat, Hungerford and Dewar, from London; Harding, from Stratford; Robertson, from Collingwood; Burritt, from Pembroke; Gunn, from Walkerton; Hegler, from Ingersoll, and others whose faces I do not remember." Then says Abiff :—"Hiram, O majestic Solomon, speaketh truly, as I also recognize all these ancient brethren." Solomon, looking up from the gilt-edged note-book given him by Sheba's queen, said :—"Truly, ye Hiram, my noble deputies and assistants, mine eyes seeth as yours do. These are indeed the same old and venerable brethren that helped us long ago in the building of our famous structure. Their faces are indeed familiar, although their heads are either crowned with grey hairs, or as smooth as if rubbed with sand paper. You, Hiram of Tyre, summon our patriarchal co-workers to meet with us at High Twelve. And you, Abiff, depute some trusty craftsmen to steady the steps

of those whose limbs are weak with age; but above all things, pay deference to Klotz' pipe, which has gradually lengthened as the centuries have rolled by."

The brethren met as arranged for, and after paying their respects to Solomon and the Hiram, exchanged Masonic experiences. The chief subject discussed, however, was Dr. Hammond's Elixir of Life, and the chances of prolonging their retention of youth by its use were discussed. The three ancient brethren enjoyed the discussion, although they were not participants in it. The meeting was brought to a close by Hiram of Tyre exclaiming :—"Old men shall see visions," Solomon saying :—"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity," Abiff meanwhile doing the bowing-out act most graciously.

GRAND LODGE BENEVOLENCE.

As the distribution of the Benevolent Fund of Grand Lodge is a matter that has attracted much attention, indeed much more than the members of the Board of General Purposes are aware of, we herewith print the rules and regulations respecting grants of benevolence. We do this for two reasons; first, for the information of the Craft generally, and, secondly, to prove, if possible, the truthfulness of THE CRAFTSMAN'S recent remarks, that the regulations are hedged in with too many formalities. We might very properly be asked to submit a simpler and yet equally safe form, and be unable to do so, as we have not read the regulations studiously. A rapid glance through them, however, leads to the opinion that they contain about as many saving clauses as an insurance policy. The regulations are as follows:—

1.—All applications for relief must