

THE THREE STEPS.

YOUTH.

In rosy morn of life's fair day,
Our eager footsteps lightly tread
In search of Wisdom's pleasant way,
By works of buried sages led.

Those finger-boards on Truth's high road
We closely scan, and lightly feel
The passing hours, ambition's goad,
While changing fancied life for real.

MANHOOD.

Our youthful hours are pass'd too soon,
When the warm meridian sun—
Fit emblem of our lives the noon—
Proclaims our earnest work begun,

From our trestle-board—Divine light—
Our hearts, the ashlers fresh and rough,
Are modeled ashlers smooth and bright,
And are prov'd by the line of truth.

Actions are but the chisel's dent,
Forming the ashler with beauty;
The chisel works till life is spent,
Forced by the mallet of Duty.

As Fellow-crafts, by deeds of love,
We recommend our art sublime;
In helping others mount above,
Ourselves the mystic ladder climb.

AGE.

In age—as like the setting sun—
Our hopes enlarge, as swiftly now
The sands of life are almost run.
And 'neath the weight of years we bow.

In happy contemplation then
Our few remaining days we live,
And feel those quiet joys no pen
Can tell—ripe age can only give.

Our work, complete, shall pass the square,
And be in the new Temple lain,
When we with confidence repair,
The wages of our lives to claim.

As living stones, approved by Him,
To New Jerusalem taken,
Our souls, now purg'd of guilty sin,
Form that spirit-house in Heaven.

—*Masonic Jewel.*

OF WHAT USE IS MASONRY TO THE LADIES?

THE question is often asked "Of what use is Masonry to the ladies, as it separates man and wife to some extent by giving the man certain secrets and duties which the wife cannot share?" Ladies, you are connected with Masonry by ties far more intimate and tender than you are aware of or even than I can inform you. The widow and orphan daughter of a Mason take the place of husband and father in the affection of the Lodge. If their characters are unjustly assailed, the Brethren are in duty bound to defend them; if they are in want or distress for the necessities of life, the brethren will divide their means with them. How many widows have been provided