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Q. What is the use of that sign ?

A. That I may know a Brother in distress.

N. G. Thus terminates the Lecture of the Royal Blue Degree, in which, among other things, has been rehearsed the appropriate manner of proving members of our Order, when they are personally unknown to us. Friendship, its leading subject, is truly a noble sentiment, and one that well deserves the exalted rank which Odd Fellowship assigns to it. Heathen nations even have not been strangers to its cultivation. That the Greeks held in high honor the formation of ties of particular friendship among their braves and warriors, is attested by their mythology as well as their history. The noblest of their poets, whose immortal verse is still the chief wonder of all literature, thought incomplete the character of Achilles himself, until adorned with a devoted attachment to a cotemporary chieftan. Among many of the States of Sparta, every generous character that the youths were encouraged by the law and by public precept to form betimes some honorable individual attachments, and to signalize through life, not only at home, but in the dangers of the field, their mutual fidelity to the chosen brother of their career as citizens or soldiers. A like practice, though to a less extent, prevailed with the Romans. Among that people the friendship of some of the most learned and distinguished citizens was publicly honored and celebrated. But what in con-