

As there is but one Masonry, it is asked, why have it divided and sub-divided into so many degrees? Freemasonry is a moral science. It introduces the mind to the sublime lessons of symbols, and as it is a life-long study there must be the first lesson of design; and but few, comparatively speaking, go into a thorough investigation of the first degree. Men are initiated, and step by step they need to have communicated to them lessons of truth. And as the degrees are illustrative of the stages of life, it requires time, experience, patience and perseverance to learn the true meaning of the sublime wisdom displayed in the designs of the tracing-board. The successive steps are so many degrees which bring additional rays of moral light. These degrees are given to the neophyte, and as he makes proficiency he is allowed to go on at due periods. There is too much haste manifested by most who are introduced to the mysteries of the fraternity. There is a great anxiety to get through. It would be much better for the institution if more time was spent, not only to learn the esoteric lessons of Masonry, but to know what the esoteric means in the exoteric. There is not anything but its symbolic meaning, and that is the most beneficial and needful to the student.

---

## AT REST.

---

**BRO. JAMES F. WRIGHT**, late Secretary Vienna Lodge No. 237, Vienna, aged 49. He was buried at Tilsonburg with Masonic ceremonies; the brethren of Vienna and King Hiram Lodges paying a tribute of respect to his memory by attending the funeral.

**CHARLES SCHNIEDER**, Grand Tyler of the Masons of Pennsylvania, died in Philadelphia at the age of 29. His father and grandfather held the same position, in all for 75 years.

We are deeply pained by learning of the death of **R. W. Bro. CHARLES W. MOORE**, of Boston, Mass., Corresponding Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and editor of the *Freemason's Monthly Magazine*, the oldest Masonic periodical in the United States. He died on Friday evening last, of pneumonia. On the Wednesday evening previous, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts conferred upon him the rank of Past Grand Master.—*Keystone*.

The Craft in Nova Scotia has suffered a severe loss in the death of the **HON. ALEXANDER KLITH**, the Grand Master of that Province, which took place on the 14th ultimo. He was President of the Legislative Council, and was, at the time of his death, 78 years of age. His funeral took place on the 17th. The procession was of immense length, no less than thirteen Lodges being represented, together with Chapter, Consistory and Temple. The civil procession was headed by Lieutenant-Governor Haly, and comprised Judges of the Supreme Court, Members of the Legislative Council, Senate, House of Commons and House of Assembly.

The coffin having been lowered into the grave, the **Rev. G. M. Grant**, of St. Matthew's Church, with which deceased was connected, conducted the short burial service usually held at the grave by the Church of Scotland ministers, *i. e.*, a brief address appropriate to the occasion and a prayer. This over, **Rev. J. B. Richardson**, of Dartmouth, Grand Chaplain, read the beautiful and impressive Masonic burial service, the Masons responding and giving the usual grand honors. This closed the proceedings. The Masons re-formed in procession, headed by the bands, now playing lively airs, and marched to Masons' Hall, where they dispersed.

On September 24, 1873, there died in Dubuque, Iowa, an esteemed Brother who had been a Mason for 80 years. Brother **DAVID STILES** was born in Woodbury, Conn., May 21, 1766, and made a Mason in 1787, at Toronto, Canada. He voted at the election of President Washington. His father was President of Yale College from 1777 to 1795. In 1833 he was landlord of a hotel in the then village of Chicago, and one of twenty-eight voters who organized a local government there. An incident in his Masonic history, narrated by the Iowa correspondent of *Light in Masonry* for November, illustrates the intolerant spirit of Anti-Masonry forty years ago. A member of the Lodge to which Bro. Stiles belonged was accidentally killed. His Brethren made preparations to bury him with Masonic honors. The local Anti-Masonic leaders, intent upon preventing this, stole the body of the deceased before its interment from the house of his widow and children, and concealed it in a vacant building, a mile distant. The Masons promptly went in search of the body, and having found it, returned it to his family, and afterwards deposited it in a hallowed grave, with the last affectionate rites of Masonry. The Brethren thus achieved a moral triumph, and rebuked the illegal, inhuman and sacrilegious act of the fiends who would have robbed a distressed widow and children of the body of him whom, for so many years, they had revered and loved as a husband and father.