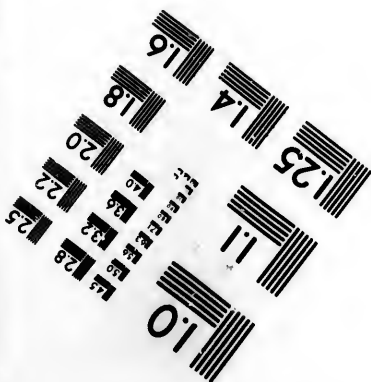
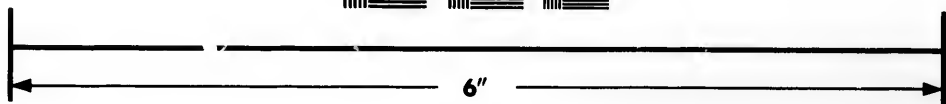
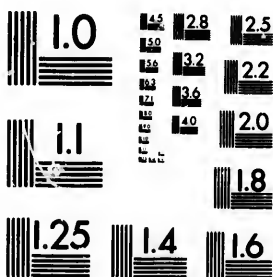


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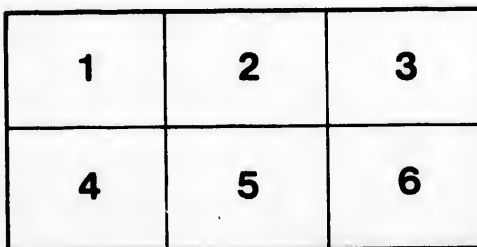
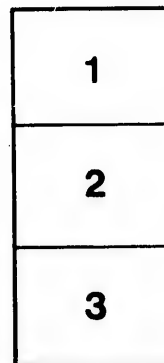
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BY-LAWS AND RULES OF ORDER

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Merritt Lodge,

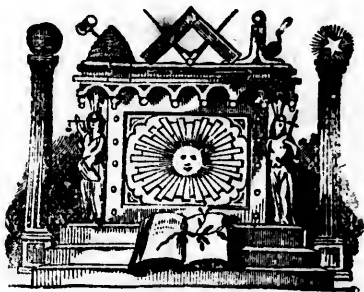
No. 168,

Of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons,

WELLAND, ONT.

INSTITUTED BY DISPENSATION NOV. 14, A.L. 5864 AND CONSTITUTED
BY WARRANT OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA,
JULY 18, A.L. 5865.

Also, a List of Officers and Members for 1865-66.



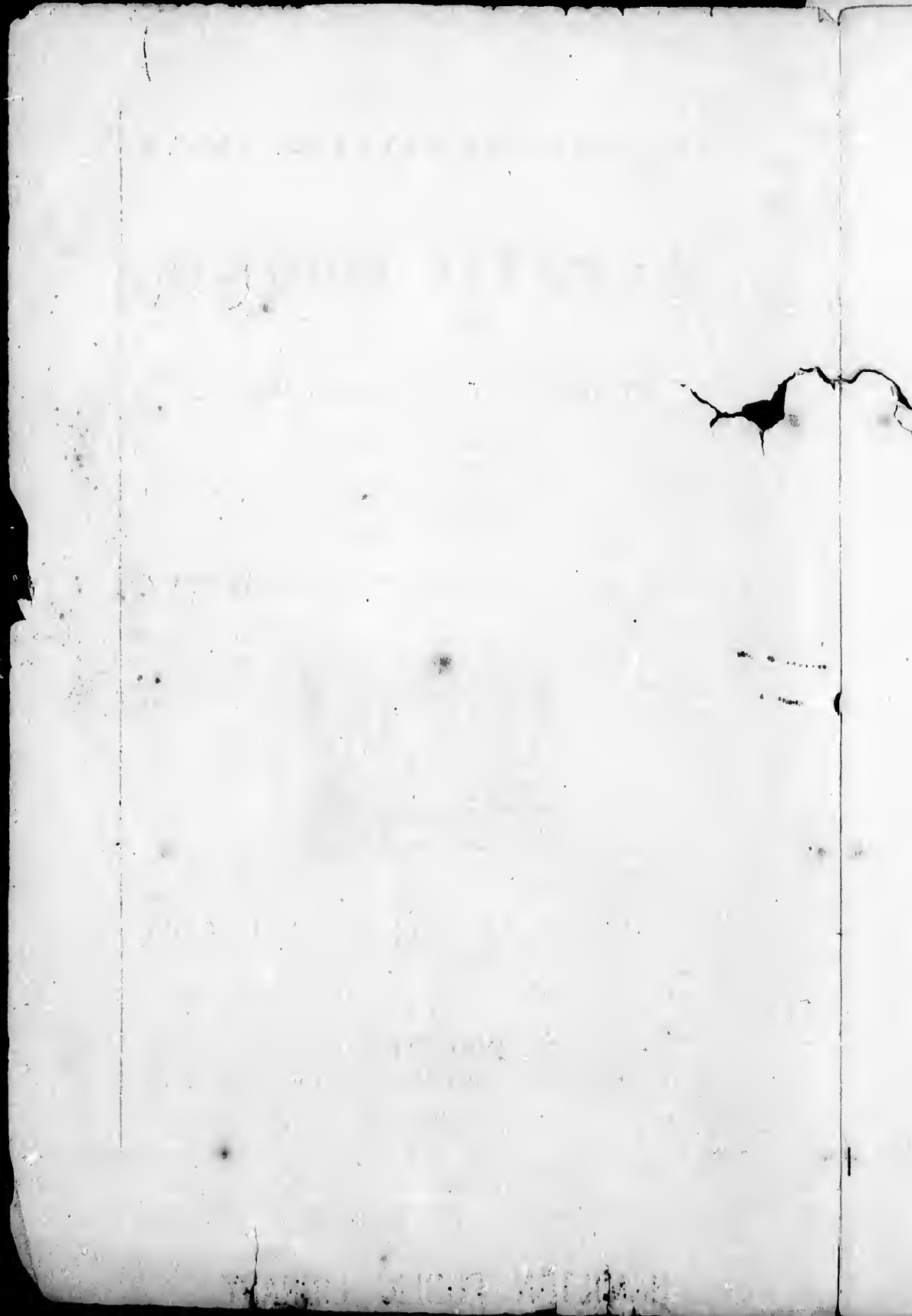
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BY-LAWS.

PREAMBLE.

WITHOUT Laws and Regulations no body of men can long subsist, either with comfort to themselves or with reputation among others, and order being a characteristic highly esteemed by the Masonic Fraternity, the Members of MERRITT LODGE, No. 168, Welland, Ont., have agreed to and adopt the following By-Laws, as a matured system calculated as well to obtain that end as to cement a lasting friendship among the Brethren, to preserve decorum and harmony in the Lodge, and further to aid in carrying out the principles of the Ancient Craft wherever the influence of this Lodge may be felt.

Duty to Grand Lodge.

I.—This Lodge fully acknowledges the supremacy of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, and will at all times pay respect and obedience to its Laws, Rules, Orders and Regulations.

Regular Meetings.

II.—The Regular Meetings of this Lodge shall be held in the Masonic Hall, in the Village of Welland, on the Monday immediately before the Full Moon in each month, except when the Moon falls on Monday, when it shall be held on that day, and also on the Festivals of St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist (or should they fall on a Sunday, then on the following day), at such hour as the Worshipful Master shall appoint, of which the Members shall be duly notified.

Emergency Meetings.

III.—Emergency Meetings may be held as provided by the Book of Constitution; but should a Lodge of Emergency be called at the solicitation of a Brother, for his own benefit or advancement, all the expenses of the Meeting shall be defrayed by him.

Election of Officers.

IV.—The Elective Officers of this Lodge shall be annually elected at the Regular Meeting immediately preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist; and on the day of that Festival (or, should it fall on Sunday, then on the following day) —the election of the Master being first confirmed—all the Officers, elective and appointed, shall be installed and invested.

Duties of Officers.

THE MASTER.

V.—§1.—Beyond the Ancient Charges and Regulations, and the duties laid down by the Book of Constitution, the Master is responsible for the safe keeping of the Warrant and other Lodge Records, Books and Papers; and, with the Wardens, holds all the Furniture, Jewels, Paraphernalia, and other property of the Lodge in trust for the Members, and shall see to the efficient Insurance of the same against loss by Fire. He shall also sign all orders on the Treasurer for ordinary expenses of the Lodge, and be *ex-officio* a member of all Committees.

THE SENIOR WARDEN.

§2.—Beyond the regular duties appertaining to this office, the Senior Warden shall, under the Master, especially see to the safe and proper keeping of the Jewels, Paraphernalia and Furniture of the Lodge, and shall examine the inventory of the same immediately before entering into office. He shall be assisted by the Stewards.

THE JUNIOR WARDEN.

§3.—Beyond the regular duties appertaining to this office, the Junior Warden shall attend to the necessary arrangements for Refreshments on all ordinary occasions, and is *ex-officio* Chief of the Stewards.

THE CHAPLAIN.

§4.—The duties of this Officer speak for themselves, and it is very desirable to have his punctual and regular attendance at the opening and closing of the Lodge, as well as at the performance of our rites and ceremonies.

THE TREASURER.

§5.—The Treasurer shall receive all Monies of the Lodge, and pay out the same upon the Master's cheque, duly signed by the Master and Secretary. He shall keep a Book, in which his Receipts and Disbursements shall be regularly entered, so as to exhibit at one view the balance in his hands at every Regular Meeting; and should the balance at any time amount to more than One Hundred Dollars, he shall give special notice thereof to the Lodge. The account with the Grand Lodge shall be kept separate and distinct, and the Grand Lodge Dues handed by him to the Master for transmission to the Grand Secretary. His accounts and vouchers shall be annually submitted to the Audit Committee, at least one week previous to the Festival of St. John the Evangelist; and the balance in his hands shall be transferred to his successor in office on that day, unless the Lodge shall then otherwise direct.

THE SECRETARY.

§6.—The Secretary shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the Lodge, and preserve in proper order all papers and documents relating thereto. He shall keep a correct Register of the Members and their respective accounts with the Lodge. He shall sign all authorized Certificates, and affix the Lodge Seal thereto; issue all necessary Notices and Summonses for Meetings, &c., and countersign all Orders and Charges of the Master. He shall prepare all Returns required by the Grand Lodge, and notify the first-named Brother of every Committee of his appointment, the names of his associates, and the nature of their duties. He may receive monies for the Treasurer, transferring the amount to him without deduction, before the next Regular Meeting; and shall generally discharge all other duties appertaining to the office of Secretary.

THE DEACONS.

§7.—The Deacons shall attend the Master and Wardens, to assist in opening the Lodge at the time appointed, and in the ceremonies and preparation of Candidates, and otherwise as the Master and Wardens may direct.

THE DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES.

§8.—The Director of Ceremonies shall see that the Lodge is properly prepared; that all Brethren appear in Lodge in the Clothing prescribed by the Book of Constitution; and, to the best of his ability, see that every Brother, when in Lodge, or at Refreshment, is placed according to his station.

THE STEWARDS.

§9.—The Stewards, under the direction of the Senior Warden, shall see to the safety and careful keeping of the Jewels, Paraphernalia and Furniture of the Lodge; and under the Junior Warden, shall have the arrangement and ordering of Refreshments.

THE INNER GUARD.

§10.—The Inner Guard shall attend each Meeting punctually, at the hour named in the Summons; to guard the interior of the Lodge at its opening; to receive Visitors, examine all Candidates for admission, and give directions to the Tyler.

THE TYLER'S DUTIES AND FEES.

§11.—The Tyler shall attend punctually, and diligently watch the exterior of the Lodge and see that all Candidates for admission are properly prepared. He shall deliver, when required, all Summonses and other notices to the Members. He shall see that the Furniture and Ornaments of the Lodge are kept in good order, and perform all such other duties as may be directed by the Lodge or its Officers; for which he shall be paid a salary, to be regulated from time to time by vote of the Lodge.

Attendance.

VI.—To secure that regularity so highly necessary for the good government of a Lodge, it is expected that every Officer will attend punctually at the hour named in the Summons, under a penalty of censure by the Master, unless exonerated by some reasonable excuse or cause of absence.

Clothing.

VII.—Brethren shall at all times appear, when in Lodge, in proper Masonic Clothing, as prescribed by the Book of Constitution.

Discussion.

VIII.—Every Brother, when speaking, shall rise and address himself to the Master; and no Brother shall speak twice to the same question, unless in explanation, or the mover in reply. No motion shall be entertained, unless it be made in writing and duly seconded.

Visitors.

IX.—No Visitor shall speak to any question without leave of the Master; nor shall he, on any occasion, be allowed to vote.

During his continuance in the Lodge he shall be subject to its By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

Initiation and Joining Fees.

X.—The Fee upon Initiation shall be Twenty Dollars, which shall be in payment of the three Degrees in Craft Free-masonry, and the Grand Lodge Fees for Registration and Certificate. The Fee for a Joining Member shall be Three Dollars, to include the Fee for Registration; but should he require a Grand Lodge Certificate, he must pay an additional sum of Two Dollars. In every instance the Member who proposes a Candidate is responsible for the whole Fee, which must be paid at the time of Initiation or admission.

Conferring Degrees, &c.

XI.—Any Brother, who is not a Member of some other Lodge, may be Passed or Raised in this Lodge, after being regularly admitted a Member thereof by ballot, for the sum of Five Dollars for each Degree, provided he produces satisfactory proof of having been Initiated and Passed, as the case may be, in a regular Lodge. The proposer is responsible for the Fee, which must be paid before the Degree is conferred.

The Ballot.

XII.—No person shall be Initiated in, and no Brother shall be admitted a Member of this Lodge, if on the Ballot being taken Two Black Balls appear against him; but to prevent mistakes, the Master may direct the Ballot to be forthwith retaken a second time, which shall be final. In case of rejection, the Secretary shall apprise the Grand Secretary of such rejection.

Non-Attendance after Ballot.

XIII.—Should a Candidate, who has been approved for Initiation, not attend for that purpose within Six Months after being notified by the Secretary of the Lodge, he must be again proposed and a fresh Ballot taken before he can be Initiated.

Re-Admission of Members.

XIV.—Should any Member retire from the Lodge, or cause his name to be erased from the Books, or be excluded for any cause except non-payment of Dues, he shall not be re-admitted without a Ballot and Joining Fee, as fixed by By-Law No. IX.

Withdrawal of Members.

XV.—Any Member desirous of withdrawing from this Lodge, shall signify the same at a Regular Meeting, either personally or in writing, to the Secretary; and if in good standing and his Dues are all paid, upon his resignation being accepted, a Certificate to that effect shall be furnished him, if required, by the Secretary, under the Lodge Seal.

Honorary Members.

XVI.—No Brother shall become an Honorary Member of this Lodge, until he has been regularly proposed and seconded at one Regular Meeting, and his name inserted in the Summons for the next Regular Meeting, at which he must be elected by an unanimous vote by Ballot.

Monthly Dues.

XVII.—The Annual Subscription of each Member shall be Three Dollars, payable to the Secretary on the Regular Meeting immediately preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist.

Arrears.

XVIII.—Any Member who neglects payment for Six Months' shall be notified by the Secretary, and again at the end of the ensuing Three Months; and any Member who shall remain in arrear and become indebted for One Year's Dues, may, after special notice from the Secretary and due trial, be excluded until all arrears are paid; and the signing by him of these By-Laws is hereby declared to be an acknowledgment by each Member that he considers these Dues a debt due by him to the Lodge.

Grand Lodge Fees.

XIX.—The Master, being responsible for the Grand Lodge Fees, shall forward the same to the Grand Secretary as soon as possible after the Festivals of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, respectively.

Committees.

XX.—The Master, on the day of his installation, shall appoint four Brethren a Committee, whose duty it shall be to audit the Treasurer's accounts and all accounts before they are presented to the Lodge, and certify to their correctness; and at all times maintain a general supervision over the finances and property

of the Lodge. He shall also appoint all such other Committees as may be from time to time necessary; they shall choose their Chairman, and may require the attendance of Members of the Lodge, to give such information as such Committee may deem essential. They shall enter their proceedings in a Book, and report through the Master to the Lodge. The Audit Committee shall make an annual report on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist.

Property, Jewels, &c.

XXI.—The Books, Papers, Jewels, Paraphernalia and Furniture of every kind belonging to the Lodge, being at all times vested in the Master and Wardens for the time being, they are responsible for the same. They shall be annually examined previous to the installation of the Officers elect, and an inventory of them shall be kept in the Minute Book of the Lodge. The Master shall annually insure the property of the Lodge for such sum as the Lodge shall direct.

Disposal of Funds, &c.

XXII.—No part of the funds of this Lodge shall be expended, without the approbation of a majority of its Members; neither shall the Furniture, Jewels, Paraphernalia and other property of the Lodge be sold, alienated, or in any way disposed of, except by the unanimous consent of the Members.

Alteration of By-Laws.

XXIII.—No alteration shall be made in these By-Laws unless by a notice of motion given at a Regular Meeting, which shall be duly entered on the Minutes and inserted in the Summons for the next Regular Meeting, when the proposed alteration shall come on for discussion; and on a resolution, regularly moved and seconded, being passed in favor thereof by two-thirds of the Members present, it shall become law, when sanctioned by the Grand Master.

Signing By-Laws, &c.

XXIV.—These By-Laws, when fairly written in a Book, shall be signed by the Master and Secretary, and have the Seal of the Lodge affixed. Every Brother is also to sign them, as a declaration of submission thereto, and one copy shall be delivered to each Member free of expense; but should he require another copy, he shall pay Twenty-five Cents for the same towards the general funds of the Lodge.

The foregoing By-laws were read and adopted at the Regular Meeting held on Monday, March 6th, A.L. 5865.

A. G. HILL,
W. M.

L. D. RAYMOND,
Secretary.

Approved and confirmed.

GRAND MASTER'S OFFICE,
Kingston, 22nd September, 1865. }

W. B. SIMPSON, G. M.



Rules and Regulations.

MERRITT LODGE shall be governed by the following Rules and Regulations, after being opened in due form :

RULES OF ORDER.

- 1.—Reading and confirming Minutes of previous Regular Meeting, and Emergencies, if any.
- 2.—Receiving Correspondence and passing Accounts.
- 3.—Receiving Reports of all Committees.
- 4.—Receiving Petitions and appointing Committees.
- 5.—Balloting.
- 6.—General Business.
- 7.—Work.
- 8.—No new business shall be entered upon after Ten O'clock at night.
- 9.—When a Member intends to speak or submit a motion, he shall respectfully address the Worshipful Master, confine himself to the question, and observe due order and decorum.
- 10.—On a point of order being raised while a Brother is speaking, he shall at once take his seat. The Worshipful Master shall thereupon decide the question without debate, when, having been set right, the Brother may proceed.

REGULATIONS.

- 11.—If any Member shall be twice called to order by the Worshipful Master for transgressing the By-Laws or these Rules, and shall be guilty of a third offence at the same Meeting, the Worshipful Master may command him to leave the Lodge for that Meeting.
- 12.—No Member shall disclose or make known, by any means whatever, out of this Lodge, any of the proceedings, decisions, or business of any kind transacted within the same, to any person not a Member ; and no Member shall in open Lodge, either at labor or refreshment, make use of any profane, irreverent, or improper expressions or sentiments, or introduce any conversation or remark tending to cause a difference of opinion on national, political, or religious subjects, under the penalty of being censured or excluded from Membership. On the initia-

tion of every Candidate and the admission of every Member, the Worshipful Master shall cause this Rule to be read to him.

13.—Should a Member of this Lodge have a charge of un-masonic conduct to prefer against any Brother, it shall be his duty to commit the same to writing, and transmit two clear copies to the Secretary, one of which shall be read in open Lodge at its next Regular Meeting, and the other furnished to the accused Brother by the Secretary, with a notice of the time and place when and where such charge shall be investigated. On such charge being read in open Lodge, a Committee of not less than three Master Masons (one of whom shall be a Past Master), shall be appointed to investigate the case, to hear all evidence (which shall be committed to writing), and to report thereon to the Lodge at the succeeding Regular Meeting, at which the Member so charged shall be summoned to be present, when the Lodge shall take such action in the matter, and inflict such punishment, in case of non-acquittal, as a majority of the Brethren present may deem just and expedient. All evidence must have a direct bearing on the offence charged.



Working Tools.

Entered Apprentice.

The Working Tools of an ENTERED APPRENTICE MASON are—the Twenty-four Inch Guage, the Common Gavel and the Chisel.

The Twenty-four Inch Guage is the first instrument put into the hands of the Workman, to enable him to measure and ascertain the size and extent of the work he is about to engage in, thus to compute the time and labor it may cost.

The Common Gavel is an important instrument of labor, and highly esteemed as an implement of Art. Though recognized by various Artists under different appellations, it is yet admitted by them all that no work of manual skill can be completed without it.

The Chisel is a small instrument, though solid in its form, and of such exquisite temper as fully to compensate for the diminutiveness of its size. It is calculated to make an impression on the hardest substance, and the mightiest structures have been indebted to its aid. But as we are not all Operative, but rather Free and Accepted or Speculative Masons, we apply these Tools to our morals in this sense :

From the Twenty-four Inch Guage we derive a lesson of daily admonition and instruction ; for as it is divided into twenty-four parts, it recalls to our minds the division of the day into twenty-four hours, and directs us to apportionate them to their proper objects, namely : Prayer, Labor, Refreshment and Sleep.

From the Common Gavel we learn, that skill without exertion is of little avail—that labor is the lot of man : for the heart may conceive and the head devise in vain, if the hand be not prompt to execute the design.

From the Chisel we learn that perseverance is necessary to establish perfection ; that the rude material receives its fine polish but from repeated efforts alone ; that nothing short of indefatigable exertion can induce the habit of virtue, enlighten the mind, and render the soul pure.

From the whole we deduce this moral, that knowledge, grounded on accuracy, aided by labor, and prompted by perseverance, will finally overcome all difficulties, raise ignorance from despair, and establish happiness in the paths of science.

Fellow Craft.

The Working Tools of a FELLOW CRAFT MASON are—the Square, Level and Plumb.

The Square is to try and adjust all rectangular corners of buildings, and assist in bringing rude matter into due form. The Level is to lay levels and prove horizontals; and the Plumb is to try and adjust all uprights, while fixing them on their proper bases. But as we are not all Operative but rather Free and Accepted or Speculative Masons, we apply these Tools to our morals. In this sense the Square teaches morality, the Level equality, and the Plumb justness and uprightness of life and actions. Thus, by Square conduct, Level steps, and Upright intentions, we hope to ascend to those immortal mansions whence all goodness emanates.

Master.

The Working Tools of a MASTER MASON are—all the Tools of the Craft, indiscriminately, but we select especially the Skirret, Pencil and Compasses.

The Skirret is an implement which acts on a centre pin, whence a line is drawn to mark out the ground for the foundation of an intended structure. With the Pencil the skillful Artist delineates the building in a draught or plan, for the direction and guidance of the Workmen; and the Compasses enable him with accuracy and precision to ascertain and determine the limits and proportions of its several parts. But as we are not all Operative but rather Free and Accepted or Speculative Masons, we apply these Tools to our morals. In this sense the Skirret points out to us that straight and undeviating line of conduct marked out for our pursuit in the volume of the Sacred Law. The Pencil points out to us that all our words and actions are not only observed but recorded by the Most High, to whom we must give an account of our actions through life; and the Compasses remind us of His unerring and impartial justice, for having defined for our instruction the limits of good and evil; He will reward or punish us according as we have obeyed or disregarded His Divine command.

Thus, the Working Tools of a Master Mason direct us to bear in mind and act according to the laws of our Divine Creator, so that when we are summoned from this sublunary abode, we may ascend to that Grand Lodge above, where the World's Great Architect lives and reigns for evermore.

So Mote it Be.

OFFICERS OF MERRITT LODGE, 1865-66.

W. Bro. ANDREW G. HILL,	.....	<i>P. M.</i>
W. " JAMES BRIDGES,	.....	<i>W. M.</i>
" MOSES BETTS,	.....	<i>S. W.</i>
" J. W. SCHOOLEY,	.....	<i>J. W.</i>
" LORENZO D. RAYMOND,	.....	<i>Treasurer.</i>
" G. C. RANDALL,	.....	<i>Secretary.</i>
" HIRAM DUNN,	.....	<i>S. D.</i>
" HUGH A. ROSE,	.....	<i>J. D.</i>
" WILLIAM N. GARDEN,	.....	<i>I. G.</i>
" JACOB RYAN,	.....	<i>Tyler.</i>

Members in Good Standing--June 24, 1866.

Abbey, John P.	Minnis, Matthias
Baxter, James A.	Minnis, Henry
Betts, Moses	Perine, Robert
Beatty, William L.	Ross, Henry T.
Bridges, James	Ryan, Jacob
Dunn, Hiram	Rose, Hugh A.
Garden, William N.	Randall, George C.
Graham, J. A.	Raymond, Lorenzo D.
Hopkins, Samuel	Smith, Edwin
Hill, Andrew G.	Schooley, J. W.
Loesch, Charles	Wright, James

Petitioners for Warrant.

A. G. Hill, W. M.	J. Wright, Treasurer.
James Bridges, S. W.	L. D. Raymond, Secretary.
M. Betts, J. W.	H. Dunn, S. D.
G. Holcomb, J. D.	Jacob Ryan, I. G.
C. Loesch, Tyler.	Edwin Sr.ath.
	Henry T. Ross.

