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THE CRAFTSMAN,

AND

CANADIAN MASONIC RECORD.

Bro. J. J. MASON,
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No. 8.

THE LAST OF THE PROSERPINE.

IN TWO PARTS.—PART I.

'HILLOA! mister,' exclaimed a husky voice in my ear; 'jest help me to a cigar-light, will you—this coon has lost his fuses.'

My reverie, as I stood moodily at the edge of the rickty landing-stage at Grand Gulf, kicking over maple-chips into the coffee coloured flood of the Mississippi, as it seethed and swirled beneath, was roughly interrupted by this unceremonious address, and I turned, perhaps with some impatience of manner, towards the speaker. The recognition, as our eyes met, was instant and mutual.

'Why, Mainwaring, you here—of all locations! Nothing new—no counter-orders, eh? such was the greeting of my former acquaintance.

"Surely, Gregg," I returned with a smile, 'I might be as much astonished to the full at meeting you here, as you could possibly be at seeing me. I thought you were in China.'

Mr. or Captain Gregg laughed a little awkwardly as he seated himself on a log that had rolled from the wood-pile that stood ready for the supply of passing steamers, and bade the negro porter who carried his slender baggage set down the bag and valise at his feet. 'Yes, I ought to have been there. Gospel true that, mister. But—you know my old enemy, the bosom-serpent, as I may say,' he continued in a tone that was half-jesting and half-apologetic—'in fact, I did too much of this,' and he lifted the hollow of his hand to his lips, and went through the pantomime of drinking; 'it was my watch, one moonlight night, when the first mate came on deck, and found the sails a shiver, the ship out of her course, and the helmsman taking a social pannikin of grog with your humble servant, while a lad was at the wheel. It wasn't discipline, I know that; but I give you my word, Britisher, that if they had met my excuses in a gentlemanly spirit, I'd have kept as sober as a judge, and as bright as a beagle, all the rest of the voyage. They chose to clap me in irons. Then, when they liberated me, there was a muss, and the first-mate, that I blamed more than the skipper—you remember the sour old Aberdeen man—got an ugly knock with my brass knuckle-

duster. So the long and short of it is that the second officer of the good ship *Benjamin Franklin* was set ashore at Rio to make his way back to the States as he could. And here I am.'

'I am sorry for it,' said I gently; 'for a better seaman seldom trod a plank, and if it were not for that unlucky habit to which you have alluded, you would have found the berth a good one, and your employers kind and liberal.'

Gregg's manner changed at once. 'You are a good fellow, Mainwaring,' he said, 'and I am—what you please. I tried to swagger out of it, but I do assure you I felt ashamed of myself, for abusing your kindness as I did, when first I set eyes on you here, than I have done since I ran away from school, up yonder in Rhode Island. Yes, old chap, you helped to pay for my outfit, and it was your recommendation that got me made second-mate of yonder three-master, and I was a black-guard to kick over the traces after you had done so much to help me out of the mire. Never mind; it will be all the same one hundred years hence;' and with another abrupt transition of manner, he drew a shining little flask from his pocket, and swallowed a considerable portion of the raw spirits which it contained, and then turned away his handsome reckless face, his bloodshot eyes, and streaming dark hair, towards the river, and hummed a tune, to which he beat time with one sun-burned hand on the mossy logs beside him.

A word of explanation as to the relative positions of Paul Merrion Gregg and myself, Alfred Mainwaring. The former was one of those young fellows, clever, audacious, well educated, but not over-burdened by scruples, of whom so many are sent forth from the populous hives of Northern Atlantic States. Of his parentage and early history I knew little, but from hints that he sometimes let drop, I conjectured him to be a truant member of a respectable and well-to-do family in his native place. Good manners he had done his best to discard, but his ability was undoubted, and his courage no less so. He had thrice risen to the command of small vessels employed in the coasting-trade, and had been a New Orleans pilot, mate and afterwards Captain of more than one Mississippi steamer, book-keeper in a store, bar-keeper at a great hotel, overseer of a plantation, and engineer of a Mexican mine, all of which situations he had forfeited through sheer misconduct.

Intemperance, wilful disobedience of orders, and the unchecked whimsicality of his capricious nature, were the chief faults of this born Bohemian, since, lax as were his principles, he had never, so far as I know, been taxed with actual dishonesty. But these drawbacks were too heavy to be got over, even in the case of a man of such dauntless resolution and readiness as Gregg possessed. There is no country in which a clever and helpful young fellow can, when American born, get so many new chances of mending his past errors by a fresh start in life as in the States, but at last every channel of employment had appeared to be closed to this born Bohemian. My own introduction to him was on this wise. Having foolishly ventured, through the promptings of idle curiosity, into one of those gambling dens which are the disgrace of New Orleans, a 'muss,' or affray, had been got up by the hangers on of the establishment, for the purpose of hustling and robbing the English stranger, who declined to be plundered by the more pacific means of marked cards and loaded dice. Beset by bullies armed with sling-shot and sharp knife, it would have fared but ill with me but for my finding an unexpected ally in Gregg, who came chivalrously to the rescue, and

thanks to whose experience in such brawls I escaped with only a few bruises as keepsakes, by which to remember the adventure. This good turn I had done my best, when opportunity served, to repay, and it had indeed been through my intercession that Gregg had been allowed to ship as second officer on that voyage that had so prematurely terminated.

As for myself, Alfred Mainwaring, I was at that time six-and-twenty years of age, and probably Gregg's junior by a twelvemonth. I had been four years in America, and had spent two of them in the counting-house of a respectable and wealthy mercantile firm at Memphis, some hundreds of miles higher up the Mississippi. The house was known as that of Harman Brothers, but there was in reality but one member of it who bore that name, the sole interest having lapsed to Mr. Anthony Harman, nephew of the original heads of the firm, and himself an elderly man, and a widower with one child. This was a daughter, Alice Harman, who returned from completing her education at an English school, about a year after I first entered into her father's employ. And then—and then it was the old story, were two young people, thrown much into one another's society, and with many tastes and sympathies in common, find acquaintance ripen into friendship, and friendship warm into love, almost before those principally concerned are aware of the transaction. Mr Harman was not a very vigilant parent, and indeed American manners permit so much liberty to young people that the old-fashioned lynx-eyed supervision, of which so much still exists in Europe, is practically unknown. He never, accordingly, threw the slightest obstacle in the way of my intimacy with Miss Harman, nor did he notice the preference which she accorded me; but when I ventured to ask his consent to our engagement, the anger and irritation that he showed would have done credit to the hard-headed father of the days of Mrs. Radcliff's romances.

Mr. Anthony Harman was not, usually, of a choleric disposition. He was, especially for a Southerner, a well-read man, had travelled much in Europe, and was proud of the polish which he had acquired during years of residence in the cities of the Old World. To myself he had been hospitable and polite, and to Alice he was an indulgent, if not an affectionate father; but at the suggestion that his daughter should marry 'beneath her' in espousing a poor man, he grew literally furious, and all the old prejudices of the Southern slave-owner, dormant hitherto, blazed up into fierce vitality.

'Marry Alice!' he exclaimed angrily. 'A daughter of mine, and the heiress of Harman Brothers, whose signature is as good as bank-paper on the New Orleans Exchange, throw herself away on a beggar! By heavens, sir, she shall be a beggar herself, like the poor white trash starving about the township, if she demeans herself by speaking to you again—to my clerk, sir.—What's that you say, sir, about being a gentleman? as if I were to blame for your effete old British customs of primogeniture, or that the acres have gone to your eldest brother. You may go back to England, Mr. Mainwaring, and call yourself a gentleman, but you are a mean white here; and I find I've been cherishing a viper beside my hearth in fostering you beneath this roof of mine.'

For this unwarrantable language, wrung from him at the first outbreak of his wrath, Mr Harman presently made some apology; but that we should be friends henceforth, or that I should continue so to be his clerk, was clearly impossible. Oddly enough, the old man, his first

anger spent, would willingly have retained me with him, on condition, of course, that I should renounce, and that Alice should forget, what he was pleased to style my absurd pretensions.

"The girl is only a child—not twenty yet," he said, twisting the heavy links of his watch-chain; "and she has plenty of time before her. She will get over this nonsensical fancy (and indeed it was no more, though I admit that you acted honorably, Alfred, in coming so frankly to me to make the avowal of this—folly), and marry—hem! hem! some suitable person—no hurry, though; and if you will give me your word to think no more of this—Ah, well, if you refuse to be reasonable, part we must, and I am sorry for it, Mainwaring, for as a clerk and friend, you pleased me very well—but as a son-in-law, never!"

I believe the old man did really like me. I was useful to him in his affairs, and he had a high opinion of my business capacity, while out of office-hours we had many a pleasant conversation together; but till the announcement that Alice and I were lovers, I had only seen the smooth side of my employer's nature. That he was a very proud man, I partly knew, but I had underrated, it would seem, the strength of those prejudices which planters and merchants, the purse-proud aristocracy of a slave-holding community, entertain with reference to the "poor" or "mean" whites around them.

All over America the man with dollars is prone to regard the man without dollars as a being inferior to himself; and this feeling, strong even in speculative New York, where fortunes can be built up or overthrown like so many card-castles, is doubly powerful in the territorial families who share among them the lands of the fertile South. The Harman's were not only merchants, but extensive land-owners as well, although their estates, injured by war and by the withdrawal of enforced black labor, were not in a flourishing state. Under these circumstances, old Mr. Anthony, when he heard that a subordinate of his own aspired to the hand of Miss Harman, was nearly as indignant at my presumption as a feudal baron could have been, had some suitor of humble origin presented himself, with empty hands, to ask for a noble bride.

All this had taken place three months previously, and I had left Memphis with a heavy heart and scanty hopes to cheer me in the future. The memory of Alice's tearful adieu haunted me none the less sadly because I had so little reason to deem that the course of our true love would ever falsify the proverb by running smoothly. I was poor, and had no particular prospects of bettering my position. Some pittance almost too small to be thought worthy the attention of a Chancellor of the Exchequer levying income-tax, I had over and above my earnings, but that was all, for I was one of the several cadets of a numerous family sent out to push our fortunes, as best we might; while the old hall of weather-stained red brick, and the old trees in what was called the park, and the mortgaged acres, had passed to our elder brother, who had sundry olive branches of his own to provide for. I had industrious habits and a robust constitution, and was not one to bewail that circumstances debarred me from eating the bread of idleness. Work honestly done and fairly paid for is, after all, a healthy tonic for mind and body, and I should never have grumbled at my condition in life, had it not been made the pretext for my being separated from Alice.

I paced to an fro, looking out from time to time for the smoke of the coming steamer; and my reflections were none of the pleasantest. Would Alice learn to forget me? Would time and absence gradually

efface the image of her lost lover, and some more eligible suitor finally supplant me in her affections? She was not one likely to forget, or to give her heart and take it back again at the bidding of caprice; and I could have placed full reliance on her constancy had my own prospects been less hopeful than they were. Had Alice been poor, and less tenderly nurtured, in that land of abundance, have been hope that ours might be a life of at least moderate comfort and prosperity. But the dear girl had been hitherto known what it was to have a wish ungratified that money could realize, and it would have been selfish on my part to expose her to the hardships of poverty; while, even if she had been capable of direct disobedience to her father's commands, I felt assured that Mr. Harman, would never relent, or extend a helping hand to one who had defied his authority. As matters stood, a continued sojourn in America had become distasteful to me; and although fully sensible that there is much truth in the old proverb which condemns a rolling stone, I had determined on tempting fortune in that part of the world where riches are amassed and health jeopardised with, perhaps, greater rapidity than anywhere else. I had distant connections in China, on whose aid I could in some degree rely, and had obtained for the outward voyage, the temporary post of supercargo on board a fine ship, the *Star of the South*, bound from New Orleans to California and Shanghai. My kit was ready. In one short week the clipper was to sail, and my business up the river, such as it was had been all transacted. Some few hundred dollars I had contrived to save, and these had been out at interest in a Vicksburg bank, the manager of which had invited me to spend a couple of days at his villa near Grand Gulf, and had driven me over, with the money safe in my pocket, to the landing-wharf of the latter town, at the termination of my visit. I had but to return to New Orleans, bid farewell to the few kind friends who dwelt in that city, and then leave America, perhaps for ever.

I had almost forgotten the presence of my not over-reputable acquaintance, Captain Gregg, when I found myself opposite to him as I walked slowly to and fro, and observed that his eyes were fixed on me with rather a singular expression. It was early as yet, in the day, but he had evidently been drinking a good deal; and, curiously enough, the repeated doses of alcohol which he had swallowed seemed to have at length produced the effect of steadying his nerves. His hand no longer shook, and the unwholesome flush on his bronzed cheek had passed away.

'Going up river, are you not?' he asked abruptly. 'I see the steamer rounding the point yonder—the *Empire City*, by her colours—fine boat, and sure to have a band on board of her.'

'No,' I answered; 'my way lies down stream; I take the first steamer for New Orleans, and, if I am not mistaken, they are signalling her now.'

An exclamation of mingled pain and anger, half curse, half moan, broke from Gregg's lips as I spoke, and then he jumped up from the log on which he had been seated, and took one or two hasty strides backwards and forwards on the quay. 'No, no! hang it, no!' I heard him mutter to himself as he passed me. 'If it had been any other living soul, I'd have cared no more than for the empty shuck of a cotton-pod, but this too much to stand.' He grew calmer after a moment or two, and then came up and laid his muscular brown hand on my sleeve. 'Mainwaring, he said, 'I'll take it kind of you if you

will go back into the town to the hotel, or anywhere, and put off your sailing till the afternoon. The *Sunflower* comes by at about two, or three at latest, and'—

'But why,' said I, interrupting his hesitating speech, 'am I to wait till then; or what earthly benefit, Gregg, could I confer upon yourself by simply upsetting all my arrangements, and arriving several hours later than is necessary? If you can give me any reason'—

'Ah,' rejoined my nautical acquaintance, insensibly resuming his old quaint recklessness of manner and diction, 'that's jest what I can't do. There's a saying I have heard among Texan trappers, that a nod's as good as a wink to a blind mustang.'

I could not help laughing at having this scrap of ancestral philosophy presented to me in transatlantic garb; and as I contemplated Gregg, whose momentary embarrassment seemed to be at an end, I conjectured that—unless, indeed, he were the agent of an opposition packet-company—his objection to my pursuing my southward journey by the first available boat was the mere whim of a liquor-soddened brain. Presently, up came the two steamers, almost simultaneously. The upwardbound boat, the *Empire City*, as Gregg had opined, was the first to come snorting and splashing up to the landing-stage. A fine steamer she was; very full of passengers, for in that season of sultry heat most of the Upper Ten Thousand of the South are glad to take flight from New Orleans; and, with her snow-white awning and gay flags flaunting in the warm breeze, the lively music of her German band ringing blithely out, and the flutter of muslin and many-coloured silk on her hurricane-deck, she looked a floating temple of pleasure.

The upward-bound boat having taken in her wood and provisions, and such goods as were awaiting transmission towards the North, dashed merrily off again, the bubbling water spurting upwards like a fountain as her sharp prow cut razor-like through the strong rush of the tawny river. Then, before the echoes of the last air of Offenbach's had died away, I saw close to us the thin blue line of wood-smoke that streamed behind the down-going steamer. She was heavily laden, and deep in the water; but even with the advantage of the Mississippi current her progress was not very swift, and there were but few passengers visible, though this, during the hottest month of summer, was not surprising in a boat going South. The steamer was gaudily painted, and was further embellished with a splendid figure-head, bright with gold-leaf and colored, and her funnels, and awning, and flags, were of the newest and most brilliant; but I thought that her engines worked slowly, and that there was something lumbering and clumsy in her way of getting through the water.

'Do you know that boat?' I asked of Gregg.

'The *Proserpine*,' he replied, half sullenly, half defiantly, as I fancied.

'The *Proserpine*!' I answered incredulously. 'Surely not! Why, she was an old boat, worn out, and given up as incurable and useless. Who in his senses would have dragged her out of dock again, and furnished her up? It seems as bad as painting some venerable grandmother into the semblance of a girl of sixteen.'

'She belongs now to Harman Brothers, said Gregg, with his eyes fixed on the ground.

I heard this announcement with the utmost surprise. My former employer's firm had been always averse to that wild game of speculation that reaches its apogee west of the Atlantic. Safe, prudent traf-

fickers, content with moderate gains, Harman Brothers had prided themselves on their avoidance of gambling investments and adventurous hazards. They had held their own by adherence to their own old system, while colossal fortunes had grown and collapsed all around them. And now Mr. Anthony Harman was, if my informant spoke truly, the owner of so rickety a craft as the superannuated *Proserpine*, and had freighted her with a heavy, and no doubt a costly cargo.

'I only hope,' said I, half jokingly, 'that the captain does not match the boat?'

'I command the *Proserpine*,' retorted Gregg, with a strange look in his haggard eyes, a strange ring in his hoarse voice.

I started as this declaration reached my ears. There was something very odd about the whole transaction. Here was a vessel which, to my knowledge, had been laid aside as unfit for service, pressed into activity once more, and bedizened like some antique bride whose Honiton lace and orange blossoms contrast painfully with the wrinkles and grizzled locks of the wearer. She was now the property, of all people, of Harman Brothers! I was about to take my passage in her, and that in spite of the apparently motiveless dissuasions of the very man who was to be her captain. The very fact that Paul, so recently and disgracefully dismissed from his post as second-mate of a China-bound merchantman, should suddenly be intrusted with so responsible a position as that of skipper of a Mississippi first-class passenger-steamer, seemed to me not the least surprising of this tissue of incidents. To be sure, he had previously discharged the same duties, but that was before his fatal habit of intemperance had gained so complete a mastery over him, and before his reputation as a reliable man had sunk so low. Mr. Harman must have strangely altered, I bethought me, when he entrusts valuable possessions to the care of Paul Merrion Gregg and to the frail planks of the *Proserpine*.

The boat now came panting up; and as the bell rang, and the porters and stevedores, white and black, began to thrust out planks, over which the neat white kegs bearing the brand of some Northern manufacturer of biscuits, whisky, or conserve of apples, the hams, sugar casks, and logs of wood, might be carried on board, there was somewhat more of bustle than had hitherto prevailed on the somewhat lonely quay. I was in act of stepping across the gangway, when Gregg, who had followed me, touched me on the shoulder. 'Mainwaring,' he said, very earnestly, 'I feel kinder soft towards the one man who has never turned his back yet on a scampish never-do-well like P. M. G.—toward the friend who has striven to save me from ruin. Keep clear of this ship. Ask no questions, but wait for the next vessel; and never blab, when it's over, that I advised you as I have done.'

For an instant I hesitated. Gregg's words were an enigma to me, but there was something in his tone that impressed me in spite of myself, and I might perhaps have retired, had not a pert boat clerk, with the strong nasal accent of New Jersey, at this instant exclaimed: 'Wall, stranger, are you for New Orleans, or are you not? Faint heart, I guess, never won fair lady; but if you don't make your mind up pretty slick, the paddles will save you the trouble.' And indeed the wild snorting of the steam-pipes, and the suppressed throbbing of the vessel's sides as her engines began to work, gave token of immediate departure. Half mechanically, I went on board. Gregg brushed past

me. The planks were withdrawn, and off we went on our way down stream.

"Mr Jowlet, the pilot, had the barky in charge so far as Grand Gulf," a grinning mulatto waiter, whose teeth were whiter than his napkin, informed me in answer to my inquiry; "and when he goes ashore, we pick up our skipper, Cap'en Gregg." The latter was already installed in command, and I observed that, as he gave his orders in a loud and clear voice, all traces of excitement had vanished from his face and bearing, and that he seemed merely to be the careful and experienced mariner to whom every reach and shoal of the Father of Waters was intimately known. He showed no desire to resume his conversation with myself, and, in fact, appeared to have forgotten his late incomprehensible warning. But what was my amazement when, among the groups of passengers on the lofty hurricane-deck of the steamer, I recognized old Mr. Harman, with his daughter beside him! The old man, a stately figure yet, tall and erect, and scrupulously well dressed, reddened as he caught sight of me, and, with a cold bow, turned away, leading Alice with him towards another part of the deck. My own gaze had been riveted on the face that I loved best of all in the world, and I had noticed that a bright gleam of joy had crossed it as our eyes met, to be clouded the instant after, as, drooping her eyes and averting her head she allowed her father to conduct her from the neighborhood of the spot where I stood.

Here then was a new source of embarrassment. This unlucky rencontre might not unnaturally lead to misconstruction. Mr. Harman might well believe that I had purposely followed his movements; while even to Alice my conduct, in wilfully throwing myself in her way, and in perhaps thereby arousing the angry suspicions of her father, must appear cruel and inconsiderate. Should I disembark at the next stopping place, and there await the *Sunflower*, by which I might pursue my solitary way to New Orleans? No, surely; for such a step would argue that I felt myself to be in the wrong; that I acknowledged my own unworthiness to pretend to the hand of a rich man's daughter; that I shrank from the displeasure of my former employer. No; up to this time my conduct had been openly and manly, and I resolved that for the future I would act as I had hitherto done. It was enough that I had not infringed the laws of hospitality, or used my influence over Alice so as to tempt her to set at nought the just authority of her only surviving parent. I need not slink off, like a culprit, because by pure accident she and I were passengers by the same steamer. No intrusion from me was to be feared. I should not even place myself in Miss Harman's path; and yet—and yet—all the while that I thus reasoned with myself I knew it was the chance of again looking on the dear face that I loved so well that pleaded with me to remain on board. Passengers in an American river-steamer, with their common meals, common saloons, and the breezy promenade of the hurricane-deck, are thrown very much together, and I should have more than one opportunity of seeing her to whom I was forbidden to speak.

The mulatto waiter, or under-steward of whom I have already made mention, was, like most of his color, given to chatter, and unreservedly communicative about himself and others. His name, he told me, was Lysander, to which classical prefix he had chosen to add the patronymic of Randolph, having been a 'boy' on Colonel Norman Randolph's estate before the war, during which he had played the part of a contraband, and had much to tell of the hardships and semi-starvation endured by

runaway slaves on the other side of the Federal lines. He had been in the pantry of one of our West Indian mail-packets, and had visited England, and acquired a sort of Anglomania, which I have noticed before in creole blacks, who have been charmed to find their dark skin rather in the light of a passport to English sympathies than a badge of inferiority. As a Britisher, he took me under his cordial protection, waited on me with patronising kindness, and whispered in my ear the names of those dishes of the long bill of fare which were, in his opinion the choicest tit-bits of what was, I own, a very sumptuous dinner. I was not hungry, however, and Lysander presently grew tired of recommending some "bootiful fis," caught in a lake among the rocky hills of Tennessee, and brought in ice to the river-bank, or collops of "black tail venison, shot in big Swamp, Arkansaw State," and allowed me to dream away my time as I listed. Alice looked very beautiful, I thought but sadder and more womanly than before, a thought paler too. She was very silent, and never looked towards me, nor did her father, who conversed, with, as it appeared to me, more than usual volubility, with some fellow-travellers who knew him. I could not help fancying that Mr. Harman's seemingly high spirits were no index to his real state of mind, and the same might be said of Gregg, who was full of boastfulness and merriment at the other end of the table, but who carefully avoided catching my eye.

Deep in the afternoon, my mulatto friend Lysander brought me a crumpled letter, ill folded and hastily written, but heedfully sealed with black wax, "from Massa Cap'en Gregg." It contained merely these words: 'Do you remember a passage in a French book you lent me, where a coon got a note with this in it: "Fly—fly—fly!" three times repeated? He didn't take the hint—more fool he! The boat stops at Vidalia, and there is a good inn there:—P. M. G.'

I sat staring for some time at this extraordinary document. It certainly implied a warning, but of what evil could it bid me beware?

(Conclusion next month.)

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES.

BY ALBERT G. MACKEY, M. D.

By an ancient usage of the Craft, the Book of the Law is always spread open in the Lodge. There is in this, as in everything else that is Masonic, an appropriate symbolism. The Book of the Law is the Great Light of Masonry. To close it would be to intercept the rays of divine light which emanate from it, and hence it is spread open, to indicate that the lodge is not in darkness, but under the influence of its illuminating power. Masons in this respect obey the suggestion of the Divine Founder of the Christian religion—"neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." A closed book, a sealed book, indicates that its contents are secret; and a book or roll folded up was the symbol, says Wemyss, of a law abrogated, or of a thing of no further use. Hence, as the reverse of all this, the Book of the Law is opened in our Lodges, to teach us that its contents are to be studied, that the law which it inculcates is still in force, and is to be "the rule and guide of our conduct."

But the Book of the Law is not opened at random. In each degree there are appropriate passages, whose allusion to the design of the degree, or to some part of its ritual, makes it expedient that the book should be opened upon those passages.

Masonic usage has not always been constant, nor is it now universal in relation to what particular passage shall be unfolded in each degree. The custom in this country, at least since the publication of Webb's Monitor, has been very uniform, and is as follows:

In the first degree the Bible is opened at Psalm cxxxiii, an eloquent description of the beauty of brotherly love, and hence most appropriate as the illustration of a society whose existence is dependent on that noble principle. In the second degree the passage adopted is Amos vii, 7, 8, in which the allusion is evidently to the plumb-line, an important emblem of that degree. In the third degree the Bible is opened at Ecclesiastes xii, 1-7, in which the description of old age and death is appropriately applied to the sacred object of this degree.

But, as has been said, the choice of these passages has not always been the same. At different periods various passages have been selected, but always with great appropriateness, as may be seen from the following brief sketch.

Formerly the Book of the Law was opened in the first degree at the 22d chapter of Genesis, which gives an account of Abraham's intended sacrifice of Isaac. As this event constituted the *first grand offering*, commemorated by our ancient brethren, by which the ground floor of the Apprentice's Lodge was consecrated, it seems to have been very appropriately selected as the passage for this degree. That part of the 28th chapter of Genesis which records the vision of Jacob's ladder was also, with equal appositeness, selected as the chapter for the first degree.

The following passage from 1 Kings, vi, 8, was, during one part of the last century, used in the second degree:

"The door of the middle chamber was in the right side of the house, and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third."

The appositeness of this passage to the Fellow-Crafts' degree will hardly be disputed.

At another time the following passage from II Chronicles, iii, 17, was selected for the second degree; its appropriateness will be equally evident:

"And he reared up the pillars before the Temple, one on the right hand, and one on the left; and he called the name of that on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz."

The words of Amos v, 25, 26, were sometimes adopted as the passage for the third degree:

"Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves."

The allusions in this paragraph are not so evident as the others. They refer to historical matters, which were once embodied in the ancient lectures of Freemasonry. In them the sacrifices of the Israelites to Moloch were fully described, and a tradition, belonging to the third degree, informs us that Hiram Abif did much to extirpate this idolatrous worship from the religious system of Tyre,

The 6th chapter of II Chronicles, which contains the prayer of King

Solomon at the dedication of the Temple, was also used at one time for the third degree. Perhaps, however, this was with less fitness than any other of the passages quoted, since the events commemorated in the third degree took place at a somewhat earlier period than the dedication. Such a passage might more appropriately be annexed to the ceremonies of the Most Excellent Master, as practised in this country.

At present the usage in England differs in respect to the choice of passages from that adopted in this country.

There the Bible is opened, in the first degree, at Ruth iv, 7:

"Now this was *the manner* in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things: a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor: and this was a testimony in Israel."

In the second degree the passage is opened at Judges xii, 6:

"Then said they unto him, Say now shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan. And there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand."

In the third degree the passage is opened at I Kings, vii, 13, 14:

"And King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow's son of the tribe Napthali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to King Solomon, and wrought all his work."

While from the force of habit, as well as from the extrinsic excellence of the passages themselves, the American Mason will, perhaps, prefer the selections made by our own Lodges, especially for the first and third degrees; he, at the same time, will not fail to admire the taste and ingenuity of our English brethren, in the selections that they have made. In the degree the passage from Judges is undoubtedly preferable to our own.

In conclusion it may be observed, that to give these passages their due Masonic importance it is essential that they should be covered by the square and compasses. The *Bible*, *Square*, and *Compasses* are significant symbols of Freemasonry. They are said to allude to the peculiar characteristics of our ancient Grand Masters. The Bible is emblematic of the wisdom of King Solomon: the square, of the power of Hiram; and the compasses, of the skill of the Chief Builder. Some Masonic writers have still further spiritualized these symbols, by supposing them to symbolize the wisdom, truth, and justice of the Grand Architect of the universe. In any view they become instructive and inseparably connected portions of the true Masonic ritual, which to be understood, must be studied together.

A more glorious victory cannot be gained over another man than this: That when the injury began on his part, the kindness should begin on yours. If both the ways were equally in our power, yet it is a much desirable conquest to overcome evil with good than with evil. By this we can only conquer our enemy, and may perhaps fail in that; but by the other we certainly conquer ourselves, and perhaps our enemy too, overcoming him in the noblest manner, and leading him gently till he be cool, and without force effectually subduing him to be our friend.

THE SECRET BALLOT.

EXTRACT FROM THE ADDRESS OF THOS. E. GARRETT, ESQ., M. W. GRAND MASTER, ORDERED TO BE PRINTED IN CIRCULAR FORM, BY THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI.

The secret ballot and acceptance by (almost) unanimous vote constitute the impregnable bulwark of the Masonic Order. These conditions are fundamental and unalterable, and without them Freemasonry could not exist at all. They are a positive prohibition of discord in their inception, and in theory they can produce nothing but harmony. In practice, however, they are not entirely exempt from the fate of other beautiful theories—that is, they sometimes make a partial failure.—Such isolated cases, while they prove the rule and demonstrate the truth they seem to deny, are exceedingly troublesome whenever they arise in a Lodge. They are entirely beyond the reach of law or discipline, for the reason that they take refuge behind the impregnable bulwark and abuse its sanctity, while the offence is palpable and the offender is safe. Now, since the ballot is secret, how do we know certainly there is an offender?

Every member of the Lodge exercises his right to vote and by the conditions, no member's vote can be called in question. We do not certainly know that any one abuses his principles at the ballot box, but we know that times come in the history of some Lodges, when for months, even years, a clear ballot is unknown. This proves either that the Lodge is surrounded altogether by bad material, or that somebody inside of it has determined not to be satisfied with any applicant who may present himself. In either case it is hard for the Lodge to bear its situation patiently, and resist the impulse to surrender its charter.

Some plain words on what may be termed "the abuses of the secret ballot" are needed. No mason of any experience will deny that these abuses exist; scarcely any one but has known some palpable instance of wrong perpetrated through the ballot-box. A sacred right to the many has apparently given a few the rights to do wrong, which admits of no redress. To remove the wrong would be to root up the right. In our immutable constitutions, the great Charter of Freemasonry itself was locked up for safety, and the key purposely thrown away and lost. Conceived and brought forth in truth, it admits of no change but growth and the natural development of its vital organism, and it was intrusted to pure hands. These conditions preserved, it is perfect, but, in its contact and struggle with human passions, its very perfections are some times distorted into blemishes and made the means of injustice. It is to be deeply regretted that there are those in the Order who are so far from being Masons as to seize on the ballot-box as an instrument of vengeance.

Humiliating as this admission is, it is nevertheless an honest confession, safer to make than to withhold, for it may be the beginning of repentance and reform. The evil is not wide-spread, nor is it contagious, but it roots itself like a cancer in the body of a Lodge where it exists, and slowly but surely wastes it away. Some of our Lodges are now suffering from it, and from the highest enjoyment of health, peace and prosperity, they have been plunged into the depths of weakness and despondency; their energy and activity are lost, and they lie torpid and languishing, as it were pulseless, on the bed of death.

All this, simply because one member, perhaps, has been disappoint-

in his aspirations for office; annoyed by the rejection of the petition of a personal friend or relative; or because some accused brother was not expelled. Forgetful of the high power he wields for good or evil; oblivious of his duties as a Mason, and even forswearing his honor as a man, he resorts to the revenge of the ballot-box, and hides himself behind its unquestionable right and inviolable secrecy. He strikes at the vitals of Masonic fellowship, and from that moment the Lodge is dead.

Instances have occurred in which this destroying spirit assumed a bolder attitude, and proclaimed, in the Lodge and out of it, in private and public, on the streets and highways, that no more work should be done in — Lodge, as every application would be blackballed—the dissatisfied Mason himself announcing that he would do the deed. In such cases there is speedy redress in charges of “gross, unmasonic conduct” and expulsion from the sanctuary so wantonly profaned.

There is some merit of hardihood, or even bravery, in the latter exhibition of rage, for it discloses an enemy who lays himself open to attack, and challenges combat. It is the covert foe from which the Lodge suffers most. He is truly a serpent in a dove's nest, and as he enjoys the revenges in secrecy, wherever he is, or whoever he may be, he is not likely to charge that the epithet above applies personally and particularly to him. He will know it himself, and keep it among his other Masonic secrets.

Let him keep the secret, and let him resolve henceforth to be a man and a Mason. Let him realize, if he never did before, the essential purity of the thing he has assailed and the solemnity of the privileges with which he has been trifling, and he will not have read these words in vain. He will thereafter use the secret ballot as contemplated in the design and structure of Freemasonry, the guard of purity, the key-note of harmony, and the soul of honor. He will feel himself free from the tyranny of petty spite, and once more, a reasonable, responsible, independent man. He will realize with a keen sensibility the truth in these words:

“’Tis pleasant to have a giant's strength,
But tyrannous to use it like a giant.”

A MASONIC INCIDENT.

The incident which we are about to relate occurred in New Haven, Connecticut, and of which we were a witness, before we were admitted to enjoy the great gifts of Masonry:

During the fall of the second year of the late civil war, we were passing down one of our principle thoroughfares, when we stepped into a store on business with the proprietor.

While conversing with the owner, a woman of thirty and a girl not over six years of age entered, and, after looking wistfully about a minute or two, timidly drew near to where we were standing; and as she extended her open, thin, white hand, we saw four pennies therein. She said as she did so, “I lease sir, will you give me another penny? I want to get a loaf of bread. I have four cents and I want a penny more.” While speaking she turned towards the proprietor of the store, who looked at her a second, and then said in a heartless manner: “Oh clear out! I cant be bothered with beggars.” With tears streaming down her cheeks, she turned to go out; the little child by her side, clinging to her dress, looked up into her mother's face, and lisping, as

children only speak, "Mamma, I want a cookie." We had been a silent spectator until now, and following the woman to the sidewalk, we stopped her, and invited her to step into the bakery adjoining, where we purchased her a large loaf of bread. With the usual distrust that pervades the human heart, we broke the loaf across our knee for fear she might pawn it for something to drink. We handed the woman the broken loaf, and as she grasped it, sank upon her knees; and if there ever was a prayer and thanksgiving that went up to the Throne above, it was the earnest words of this starving woman.

In the bakery there were several gentlemen, whose eyes were wet with tears unbidden. The poor woman was assisted to rise by one of the gentlemen, who extended his hand to help her. As she put forth her hand, on her finger was a gold ring, on which was engraved the letter "G." The gentleman looked at it a second or so, and then, turning to the owner of the bakery, asked him if he knew the woman. The baker said all he knew was that she lived just around the corner, and that her husband had enlisted in one of the three years' regiments, and had gone to the war. The gentleman ordered the baker to fill a basket with provisions, and take them to the home of the woman. The woman was too much overcome to express her gratitude, while the little child looked on with apparent astonishment. After finishing his orders to the baker, the gentleman took the little child by the hand, led her to a shoe store close by, and purchased a pair of shoes for the little feet, which were purple with cold. He then bade the woman good-bye, promising to come and see her that night, and, turning to us, asked us to accompany him. We consented and went. In a single room, without a carpet, we found the mother and two children: the little girl whom we saw in the afternoon, and a little boy, now over four years old, asleep close beside a wood fire.

We were all welcomed with tears falling down the cheeks of the lady, as she bade us enter and take seats. After thanking us and making excuses for her appearance, she told us her story. Her husband, an English bricklayer, came to this country early in the spring, but on arriving in this city he did not readily find work, and while out looking for something to do became disheartened, and enlisted for three years. He left the city in a week after enlistment, leaving his family nothing with which to purchase the necessaries of life. The few spare articles of furniture which the little broken-hearted family possessed and could do without see had pawned, until only two broken chairs and a table, a lounge and a stove, with a few dishes, formed the entire stock of her household furniture. Her husband had promised to send her some money, but she had not heard from him since he marched down Long Wharf off to the war. Her narrative was often interrupted by scalding tears, but there was such an earnestness in it, that both the visitors felt relieved when she had finished. Our friend then asked her where she got the ring that she wore upon her finger. She said that as she was leaving Liverpool her mother and sister came to see her off, and as she was about to step on board the ship, her father took the ring from his finger and put it into her hand, and told her always to wear it and if ever in distress, to show it to some one. She had worn it ever since, and had forgotten her father's advice. She slipped the ring from her finger and showed it to us, and after viewing it a short time, our companion inquired if her father was a Mason. She answered that he was, and Master of one of the Lodges in Liverpool. We were an interested

spectator during the whole scene. We looked at the letter "G," but to our eyes it had no meaning, and innocently enough we inquired of our companion what it meant. "What does it mean?" he repeated after us; "why, it means that woman is my brother's daughter, and it is my duty to help her." And we know that he was as good as his word. The dreary home was made happy, and the hearts of the lone one and her children were bound up with the silken cords of love and charity. Our companion interested himself in finding out where the husband was and it was not many months before remittances came regularly from the patriot in the gallant army to his family home.

The wife sent a letter home to her father, and to-day our brother (for we have learned the value of the letter "G") has in his possession a token and a letter of thanks, as rich in gratitude as words can make it, from the brother Mason who presides over a Lodge of the Craft in Liverpool. The husband served his time amid the canebrakes of Louisiana, and returned to his home to give thanks in person to him who cared for his wife and little ones in his absence. Thus, the simple letter "G" may teach all a lesson, and prompt us to works of love and charity that make the heart glad; for "it is more blessed to give than to receive."—*Loomis' Journal*.

MASONRY AND THE SEPOYS.—When the Sepoy rebellion broke out in India, the Rev. William Butler was stationed as a missionary at Bareilly, which place he left a few days before the massacre of the English in the town occurred. Subsequently he wrote a work entitled "The Land of the veda, being Personal Reminiscences of India," which was published in 1872 at New York. In this work (p. 257) we find the following interesting passage: "Every thing English in Bareilly—people, houses, furniture—was ruthlessly destroyed, all save the house which the English Officers had used as a Freemason's Lodge. The poor superstitious Sepoys understood that there was something *mysterious* transacted there, and it might not be safe or lucky to interfere with it in any way. So there it stood in its integrity when we returned to Bareilly, alone and unharmed amid the ruins of the English stations."

The spoils of the Temple were once thought worthy of forming the principal decoration of the most beautiful of Rome's triumphal arches and the Emperor Justinian's highest architectural ambition was that might surpass it. Its spoils are now spread before the world, to teach it that Freemasonry is not a myth, a tradition, but a reality; ancient and honorable, founded upon Truth as its corner-stone and Wisdom as its cap-stone. Verily, the stones of the Temple, even in their material shape, are still with us, while their parallels, the spiritual stones—the Brethren who are built into our Fraternity—are found in every clime, and on every sea and land.

General Canby, lately butchered by the treacherous Modocs, was a Mason, and his remains received every attention from the Craft, and were buried with the honors of the Order. He was a great and good man, and one of the best officers in the army. His death is deeply lamented by the whole country. We shall almost pity the miserable savages when the avenging soldiers overtake them.

THE THREE FOLD CORD.

[If one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a Threefold Cord is not quickly broken.—Ecclesiastes, IV., 12.]

In faith he hailed me with a mystic token,
 Although an alien to our tongue and land ;
 For well he knew how hardly could be broken
 The Threefold Cord that binds our brother band.
 He was a stranger in the land of strangers,
 And he was sick at heart and very old,
 Had braved the ocean with its untold dangers,
 And carried neither purse, nor scrip, nor gold.

Until he met me with Masonic greeting,
 I had not seen his wan and care-worn face ;
 But it was joy to know that I was meeting
 My peer, no matter what the time or place ;
 For we had toiled on Lebanon's hoary mountain :
 And he had wrought on Zeradatha's plain ;
 Together quaffed love's freely flowing fountain,
 Where he who drinks aright ne'er thirsts again !

His words to me were past my comprehending
 Till hand clasped hand and breast to breast we stood,
 Then every syllable at low breath bending,
 Proved each the other that his faith was good.
 And thus the stranger, at the hand of brothers,
 Found every need, yea, every want supplied ;
 We did to him as we would fain that others
 Should do to us—we watched him when he died ;

And then we buried him, with solemn prayer,
 With drooped acacia, and the voice of song ;
 And when his grave was found flower-decked with care,
 It only proved the Threefold Cord was strong !
 We left him with his God and Saviour there,
 And mingled with the motley, busy throng,
 With thankful hearts that we could claim a share
 With those to whom the Threefold Cord was strong.

—*Masonic Mirror.*

Rev. Dr. Thomas, who was with General Canby at the massacre, and shared the fate of his chief, was a Mason, and was buried with our solemn ceremonies.

Fraternity is the life-giving spirit of Free Masonry. It is that subtle essence which pervades all, and with a sort of magnetic attraction brings members closer together.

THE TEMPLAR ORDER.

In a recent issue we inserted an account which could not fail to be interesting to our masonic readers of the Installation of H. R. H., the Prince of Wales as Supreme Grand Master of the recent confederation, under the title of the "Convent General" of the Templar bodies of England, and Ireland, each nationality still retaining its organization for internal government under the title of a Great Priory presided over by a Great Prior. The Duke of Leinster holding this office in Ireland, the Earl of Limerick in England, that of Scotland being not yet matured. We now give from the English *Freemason* the list of officers of the Convent General as far as they have been made, and of those appointed at the Installation of "Grand Crosses and Commanders" by special gift of H. R. H. the Grand Master, among the former being the name of Colonel MacLeod Moore, the respected Head of the Order in Canada. The number of Grand Crosses being limited to 30, the honor is one to be highly prized.

GREAT OFFICERS.—Grand Master, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales; Seneschal, Lord Skelmersdale; Arch Chancellor, Judge Townshend; Great Constable, Lord Athlumney; Great Marshall, Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot; Arch Registrar, Sir Patrick MacC. de Colquhoun.

OFFICERS.—Vice-Arch Chancellor and Assistant Arch Registrar, William Tinkler; Sub-Marshal, J. Lambert Sim, Esq.; Standard Bearer, (Beauceant) General Dunne; Grand Masters' Banner Bearer, Viscount Newry; First Aid de Camp, Major General Docherty, C. B.; Second Aid de Camp, Captain W. C. Seymour; First Captain of Guards, M. C. Close, Esq.; Organist, W. Ganz.

GRAND CROSSES (England).—H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, the Emperor of Germany, H. M. King of Sweden, Crown Prince of Germany, Crown Prince of Denmark, Prince John of Glucksburg, William Stuart, Esq., of Aldenham Abbey, (Past Grand Master of the Temple,) the Earl of Limerick, Lord Skelmersdale, Lord Eliot, the Earl of Carnarvon, Colonel MacLeod Moore (Grand Prior of Canada,) the Rev. J. Huyshe, Colonel G. Vernon, Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, the Grand Master of The Temple in the United States.

GRAND CROSSES (Ireland).—His Grace the Duke of Leinster, Right Honorable Lord Athlumney, Sir E. Borough, Bart., R. W. Shekleton, Esq., Capt. G. Huband, R. B. de Burgh (J. P.), Right Honorable Major General Dunne, M. C. Close (Deputy Lieut.), Judge Townshend, Arthur Burke, Esq., Robert Warren, Esq.

COMMANDERS' CROSSES (Ireland).—J. Manning, Alderman city of Dublin, C. A. Cameron, M. D., E. D. Thorp, J. Flynn, J. Kingland, M. D., W. Allen, J. H. Goddard, P. Crampton Smyley, M. D., W. Allen, J. H. Goddard, D. Crosthwaite, L. L. D., John A. Baker.

COMMANDER'S CROSSES (England).—His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Prov. Prior of Nottingham; Hugh D. Sandeman, P. P. Bengal; Samuel Bryant, M. D., P. P. Gloucester and Bristol; the Right Honorable Lord Londesborough, P. P. Yorkshire N. and E.; George Harcourt, M. D., P. P. Surrey; Wm. J. Meynott, P. P.; Colonel Geo. Cornwall Leigh, P. P., Cheshire; the Honorable Captain Hood, M. P.,

P. P. Somerset; Sampson Loyd Foster, P. P. Stafford and Warwick; William B. Punshon, P. P. Northumberland; William Henry Wright, D. P. P. Lancashire; John Lambart Sim, Sub-Marshal; Charles Golden, Grand Treasurer; Wm. Tinekle, G. V. C.

RITUAL COMMISSIONERS (English).—Major Shodwell, H. Clarke, Sir Patrick MacC. de Colquhoun, Richard Woof, Ed. Homes, Dr. Hodge. (Irish).—Judge Townsend, R. W. Shekleton, R. B. de Burgh, Dr. Ringland, Major J. C. C. Townshend.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Conclave for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, under the Grand Conclave of the Religious and Military Orders of the Temple, and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta, was held at the Masonic Hall, Halifax, on the 8th inst. The following is a list of officer-bearers for the ensuing year:—

V. E. Frater the Hon. Alex. Keith, 18°, G. M. P. G. H. P., etc.—Provincial Grand Commander; V. E. Frater Stephen R. Sircom, 18°, P. G. M. G. H. P. E. C. Halifax, N. S.—Deputy Provincial Grand Commander; V. E. Frater Robert Marshall, 33°, P. E. C. P. E. C. St John, N. B.—Provincial Grand Prior; E. Frater John D. Nasl, P. E. C. P. G. W. Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Sub. Prior; Frater Rev. Henry Pryor Almon, A. M. 18°, Windsor, N. S.—Provincial Grand Prelate; E. Frater James Domville, M. P. 33°, P. E. C. St. John, N. N.; and E. Frater George T. Smithers, 18°, E. C. P. G. W. Halifax N. S.—Provincial Grand Captains; Frater Benjamin Curren, D. C. L. G. S. P. G. W. Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Chancellor; Frater Alfred D. Goodwin, 32°, St. John N. B.—Provincial Grand Registrar; Frater Arthur Fletcher 32°, Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Treasurer; Frater Charles Hanford, St. John, N. B.—Provincial Grand Chamberlain; Frater George Fraser, 32°, P. G. W. P. P. G. S. Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Expert; E. Frater David Ransom Munro, 33°, E. C. St. John, N. B.; and Frater John Milsem, 18°, Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Standard Bearers; Frater Hugh Williams Chisholm, 33°, St. John, N. B.—Provincial Grand Almoner; Frater Frederick W. Fishwick, 18°, Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Aide-de-camp; Frater John Melick, 18°, St. John, N. B.—Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies; Frater John Tracey, Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Captain of Lines; Frater Wm. N. Woodill, Halifax N. S.; and Frater Wm. F. MacCoy, Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Heralds; Frater Sames R. Jannet, Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Sword Bearer; Frater J. M. Taylor, 18°, Halifax, N. S.—Provincial Grand Equerry.

A. & A. RITE.—The annual meeting of Moore Rose Croix Chapter, Knight de H.R.D.M. for the election of Most-Wise Sovereign and Treas. took place last evening at its Asylum, Ritchies's Building, at St. John, N. B. on the 23rd April. There was a full attendance, Ill. Bro. D. R. Munro, 33°, was elected W. M. S., and Ill. Bro. W. H. Thorne, 32°, Treasurer. This branch of the Masonic Order in St. John, is becoming quite popular, a large number of the most influential members of the craft being connected with it.

MASONRY IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Our Brethren of the beautiful Isles of the Southern Seas support two Lodges, a Royal Arch Chapter and a Commandery of Knights Templar. The first Lodge was organized in 1842, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of France, and works the Scottish Rite. The second, Hawaiian Lodge, No. 21, was organized in 1852 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California, and of course works the York Rite. Both Lodges are in a flourishing condition, as are also the Chapter and Commandery. We have had also the pleasure of meeting several members of both Lodges, and found them Masons good and true. The late King was a member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery.—*San Francisco Masonic Mirror.*

NEW MASONIC HALL.

CEREMONIES OF LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

The corner-stone of the new Masonic Hall to be erected by York Lodge, No. 156, near the Prospect House, Eglinton, was laid on the 28th May by M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, Grand Master, with full Masonic ceremonies, and in presence of a large number of the Masonic body and ladies and gentlemen from Toronto and the vicinity of Eglinton.

The brethren assembled at their lodge room at Mr. Littlefield's Hotel, shortly after two o'clock, and after the opening of the Grand Lodge, marched in procession, headed by the Weston brass band, to the site of the new hall at Eglinton.

The following Brethren officiating as Grand Officers for the occasion, viz:

M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Col. Moore, as D. G. M.; James Bain, G. S. W., R. P. Stephens, G. J. W., Bro. Rufus Skinner, as G. Chap., R. W. Bro. Daniel Spry, as G. Treas., V. W. Bro. F. Draper, as G. Reg., R. W. Bro. Thos. B. Harris, G. Sec., V. W. Bro. J. F. Lash, G. S. D., W. Bro. F. G. Menet, as G. J. D., Bro. J. Fisher, as G. S. of W., Bro. Clayton, as G. D. of Cer., Bro. J. F. Ellis, as Asst. G. S., V. W. Bro. B. Saunders, G. S. B., V. W. Bro. J. Patterson, G. O., W. Bro. W. Jackes, as G. Pur., Bro. J. Nixon, G. Tyler, W. Bro. F. J. Blackwood, W. Hacher, J. Segsworth, Dr. Howson, E. Snider, J. Henderson, A. L. Wilson, Dr. Berryman, W. Norris, Grand Stewards.

The ceremony was commenced by the Grand Master delivering an address on the principles of the order and also referring to the ceremonies of the day, after which the Grand Chaplain implored the blessing of the G. A. O. T. U. Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. Harris, read the scroll, which, with a copy of the by-laws of York Lodge, No. 156, copies of the Toronto daily papers, the *Craftsman*, several silver coins, paper currency and photographs of the Grand Master and W. Bro. Norris, W. M. of York Lodge, were placed in a bottle and the same deposited in a cavity in the stone. On the scroll were the names of the reigning sovereign; His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, Governor General of Canada; Hon. W. P. Howland, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario; Sir John A. Macdonald Premier of the Dominion Government; Col. Wilson, L.L. D., G. M. of Canada; the Trustees of the Hall, Messrs. W. Tyrrell, President; W. Norris, Vice-President. A. L. Wilson, Secretary and Treasurer; Jno. McCarter, W. Jackes, J. K. Leslie, and R. Jones; the architect, Mr. W. Tyrrell, and the contractors, Messrs. Jas. Fisher and T. Longbotham. A brass plate bearing an inscription of the date and particulars of the laying of the stone was then placed over the orifice of the stone and covered with mortar. The W. M. of York Lodge presented the Grand Master with a beautiful silver trowel with which the mortar was spread preparatory to lowering the upper stone.

The Grand Master in accepting the trowel said he did so with pleasure, and that he would retain it as pleasing memorial of that interesting occasion.

The upper stone was then lowered into its place by three regular stops, the band playing "God save the Queen." The proper implements were then applied to the stone; the M. W. Grand Master finished the work and declared the stone well formed, well laid, true and trusty,

he concluded the ceremony by strewing of corn on the stone, and the pouring of wine and oil, as emblematical of peace and plenty.

The plans of the building, with implements applied to the stone, were handed over to the architect, Mr. Tyrrell, by the Grand Master, the band again playing "God save the Queen."

Three cheers were then given for the Queen.

The Grand Master said that on account of the delay which had taken place in commencing the proceedings, and a desire of several of those present to return home, he would not deliver a long address, but simply thank the brethren who were present for their attendance, and also the ladies who had graced the proceedings with their presence.

Three hearty cheers having been given for the Grand Master, the same were suitably acknowledged.

The procession was reformed and marched back to the Davisville Hotel, where a sumptuous repast had been prepared for the Brethren, reflecting much credit on the Brethren of York Lodge.

A number of Brethren having a long distance to travel the meeting was brought to a close, all feeling well satisfied with the days proceedings. *Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again!*

NEW LODGES.

Dispensations have been issued by direction of the M. W. Grand Master for opening the following new Lodges, viz:

"PRESTON," at the village of Preston, Ont., R. W. Bro. Otto Klotz, Worshipful Master, Bro. John Chapman, Senior Warden, and Bro. Levi Henry Erb, Junior Warden.

Meets on the Friday on or before full moon of every month.

"EDDY," at the village of Hull, Quebec, Bro. Ezra B. Eddy, Worshipful Master, Bro. Geo. H. Miller, Senior Warden, Bro. Joseph Hem-enway, Junior Warden.

Meets on the second Thursday of every month.

"VICTORIA," at the village of Centreville, Ont., Bro. Wm. Hy. Miller, Worshipful Master, Bro. Mathew Shannon, Senior Warden, and Bro. John S. Miller, Junior Warden.

Meets on the Thursday on or before full moon of every month.

"MOUNT OLIVET," at the village of Thorndale, Ont., Bro. Richard Mills, Worshipful Master, Pro. Moffit Forster, Senior Warden, and Bro. James Salmon, Junior Warden.

Meets on the Tuesday on or before full moon of every month.

The Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Canada will meet at the city of Montreal on Monday, the 7th day of July next, for the dispatch of such business as may come before it.

The Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. Masons of Canada will hold its Annual Communication in the QUEEN'S HALL, St. Catherine Street W., Montreal, commencing at High Twelve on Wednesday the 9th day of July, 1873.

UNITED ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE AND HOSPITAL,
FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND PRIOR,

LAPRAIRIE, 25th April, 1873.

To the Eminent Preceptors of the several Preceptorics under the Grand Priory of Canada :

EMINENT SIR KNIGHT,—The Statutes of the Convent General, enacted under the Conventions formed between the Orders of the Temple in England, Scotland and Ireland, and recently promulgated, having given rise to some misapprehension that material alterations had been made in the internal organization of the Order, I have considered it advisable briefly to point out the object of the changes now adopted, and to request you will, at as early a period as possible, make them known to the Members of the Order under your immediate jurisdiction, at the same time recommending a careful perusal of these Statutes.

The advisability of uniting the order of the Temple, in the British Empire, under one head, and assimilating the ritual and ordinances, has for some years past been under consideration, and a Committee was selected from the three National Grand Bodies to carry this into effect, in consequence of which a confederate body has been formed named the "Convent General," for the purpose of regulating the whole affairs of the Order, of which HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, is Supreme Head and Grand Master.

Beyond a change in the nomenclature, taken after a careful research from historical authority, no very material alterations have been made.

The changes are simply these :—

1. The existing Grand Masters in the Empire are to be termed Grand Priors, and Grand Conclaves or Encampments, Grand Priories; under and subordinate to one Grand Master, as in the early days of the Order, and one Supreme Governing Body, the Convent General.

2. The Term Great is adopted instead of Grand, the latter being a French word; and Grand in English is not Grand in French. Great is the proper translation of "Magnus" and "Magnus Supremus."

3. The Great Priories of each nationality, England, Scotland and Ireland, with their dependencies in the Colonies, retain their internal government and legislation, and appoint their provincial Priors, doing nothing inconsistent with the supreme statutes of the Convent General.

4. The title Masonic is not continued; the Order being purely Christian none but Christians can be admitted, consequently it cannot be considered strictly a Masonic body—Masonry, while inculcating the highest reverence for the Supreme Being, and the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, does not teach a belief in one particular creed, or unbelief in any. The connection with Masonry is, however, strengthened still more, as a candidate must now be two years a Master Mason, in addition to his qualification as a Royal Arch Mason.

5. The titles Eminent "Commander" and "Encampment" have been discontinued, and the original name, "Preceptor" and "Preceptor" substituted.

6. Past rank is abolished, substituting the chivalric dignities of "Grand Crosses" and "Commanders," limited in number and confined to Preceptors. These honors to be conferred by his Royal Highness the Grand Master, the Fountain of Grace and Dignity, as a reward to Knights who have served the Order.

7. A Preceptor holds a degree as well as rank, and will always retain his rank and privileges as long as he belongs to a Preceptory.

8. The abolition of past rank is not retrospective, as the rank and privileges are reserved to all those who now enjoy them.

9. The number of officers entitled to precedence has been reduced to seven, but others may be appointed at discretion, who do not, however, enjoy any precedence.

10. Equerries, or serving brethren, are not to receive the accolade, or use any but a brown habit, and shall not wear any insignia or jewel. The apron is altogether discontinued, and other alterations in the insignia will be regulated and promulgated.

11. From the number of instances of persons totally unfitted having obtained admission into the Order, the qualification of Candidates has been increased; a declaration is now required to be signed by every Candidate that he is of the full age of twenty-one years, and in addition to being a Royal Arch Mason, that he is a Master Mason of two year's standing, professing the doctrines of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, and willing to submit to the Statutes and Ordinances, present and future, of the Order.

Candidates' names and avocations, with full particulars of their eligibility, must be submitted to the Chief Provincial Authority, or Grand Prior, for his approval, and if he shall *not* within *seven* clear days after receipt of notice signify his disapproval, the names shall be submitted to Ballot, which Ballot must be unanimous, and no Candidate can be installed for a less sum than five guineas, or twenty-five dollars.

Preceptors should bear in mind, and impress it upon the members of their Preceptories, that the admission into the Templar Order is based on a foundation quite different to that on which admission in the Craft degrees rest; and no one should be admitted but those who, from their social position and conduct as Masons, are entitled to, and obtain the respect of the outer world.

Although the requirements for admission insisted upon in the early days of the Chivalric Order are no longer necessary, it does not follow that every Mason seeking admission is to be received; for whether we look upon ourselves as the legitimate representatives of the Ancient Order, or a revival during the last century in imitation of the Chivalry of the Temple under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, it has now attained, with the HEIR TO THE THRONE as its governing head, and under the special patronage of HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN, a high and firm footing as an Order, to belong to which should be considered an honor and a privilege.

Having thus drawn your attention to the late alterations adopted in the Order, I have to point out to you that as the statutes of the Convent General provide for the formation of Great or National Priories in any of the Colonies, or British possessions abroad, it has been considered expedient by the Committee appointed by me to inquire into the requirements of the Canadian Branch of the Order, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Priory of England, to recommend that a petition be sent to the Convent General, praying that the Grand Priory of the Dominion be now formed into a National Great Priory on the same footing as the other Great Priories under the Convent General.

I am, Sir Knight, in the bonds of the Order, faithfully yours,
V. D. + S. A.

‡ W. J. B. McLEOD MOORE, 33°

Grand Prior Dominion of Canada.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CRAFTSMAN."

DEAR SIR,—The November issue of your excellent publication contains a communication signed "Past Master," wherein base and unwarranted statements are preferred against the Lodge to which I belong. I am astonished that any one who claims the honor of being a member of our ancient and honorable institution, and who claims to have attained to the exalted position of Past Master could so far forget his dignity and honor as to make such gross and malignant misrepresentations as those contained in the epistle in question, affecting the standing and reputation of one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in Canada. The charter for the establishment of St. John's Lodge, No. 159, I. R., was obtained from the Grand Lodge of Ireland twenty-seven years ago, to which Lodge is also attached a Royal Arch Chapter and Encampment of High Knights.

The Charter was originally granted for West Hawksbury, in the County of Prescott, where the Lodge continued its working for many years under the control and management of the charter members who, by the way, were favored with an extensive patronage, as several of the oldest and most respectable masons in Montreal and Ottawa were initiated, passed and raised in this Lodge, while as many more came great distances to obtain higher degrees.

Time has told its melancholy tale and again reminded us that man is born to die, as many of the charter members have been summoned by the Great Architect of the Universe to the Grand Lodge above, where I trust they shine as the stars forever.

During the closing years of the protracted tenure of office of these truly honorable and excellent members of the Craft, there may have been irregularities in the working of the Lodge, which were in some degree reprehensible, and I have yet to learn that there is upon the face of the habitable globe a Lodge of Freemasons whose members are infallible.

About two years and a half ago, permission was obtained from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, under their corporate seal pursuant to constitution, to remove St. John's Lodge to the town of L'Orignal, in the same county, where the Lodge has continued its working in a manner which I venture to assert is not surpassed by any other Lodge. In all cases we endeavor to adhere strictly to the book of constitution of our mother Grand Lodge, and without egotism we cordially invite the closest and most rigid scrutiny on the part of the Grand Lodge of Canada or any other Grand Lodge, which could not otherwise result than in the full and complete establishment of the fact of the truly constitutional manner in which our lodge is conducted, and I can assure you on the word of a mason that this cannot be said of the two Canadian Lodges in our neighborhood. I consider it a great privilege to belong to the only Lodge in the Province of Ontario that still preserves its allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Ireland; and it will, I trust, always give us the most unbounded pleasure to extend that welcome and truly masonic friendship to our brethren of the several masonic lodges in the Dominion, which ought to characterize all true masons.

Will you have the kindness to send your valuable publication to our Lodge.

Yours fraternally,

PAST MASTER.

'Original, April 24th, 1873.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

At a communication of the Grand Lodge of England held on the 30th April, the Most Honorable the Marquess of Ripon was installed, for the fourth time, Grand Master of English Freemasons. Grand Lodge presented a very lively scene, there being about 300 brethren from different parts of the country, and a full dais of Past Grand Officers present in their gorgeous clothing.

Grand Lodge having been opened, Grand Secretary, Bro. John Hervey, read the minutes of last Quarterly communication which were then put and confirmed.

Sir Albert W. Woods (Garter) then proclaimed the Grand Master by his numerous titles, and led the salutations which were given in ancient Masonic style.

On the brethren resuming their seats, the Grand Master said: I beg to return you my hearty thanks for the kind reception which you have given me to-day, and for the marked proof of your confidence which you have accorded to me by this renewed election. I can assure you that I am very sensible not only of the high honor which that confidence confers upon me, but also of the great kindness and forbearance with which you have been pleased to judge of the course which I have pursued during the years that I have filled the great office of your Grand Master. I must in the first place offer you my apologies for my absence at the last Quarterly communication, which, however, arose, as you are well aware, from an imperative cause. It was my full intention to have been present on that occasion, and all my arrangements for the purpose had been made; but, as you know I was suddenly called away to the South of France by the very alarming illness which through an accident had happened to my son. I am very glad to say the cause of that anxiety which I then felt has been removed and I rejoice heartily to meet you again on this occasion. I rejoice also that it is now in my power to congratulate you very unfeignedly upon the prosperous condition of the Craft at the present time. Our lodges are increasing rapidly in number, and the enrolled members of the Craft are becoming more and more numerous, I had almost said, every day. But, brethren, we must all bear in mind that in Masonry as in other human affairs a state of prosperity has its peculiar dangers and its peculiar duties (hear, hear); and the two facts to which I have just adverted, namely, that lodges are rapidly increasing in numbers, and that the number of Masons is increasing also throughout the country, impose upon all of us very important duties. I feel it as a bounden duty, on my part, to tender to my Right Worshipful brethren, the P.G. Masters, throughout the country, my warm and hearty thanks for the zealous and able assistance which they have given me in the regulation and management of the Craft; and in respect to that question of the increase in the number of lodges in the the provinces, I must of course mainly be guided by the recommendations of the Provincial Grand Masters. I am sure that all of them who are here present will agree with me when I say that it behooves every one of us in our respective degrees—I do not say for one moment, to check the progress of the Craft—but to be very careful to investigate the circumstances of each new lodge that is established, to see that it is really required, that the desire for it springs from true Masonic motives; that it is not the result of party feeling or the want of Masonic harmony in the district in which it is proposed a new lodge should be es-

tablished, and that it may justly and satisfactorily be recommended to me, and moreover, that I shall be doing good to the Craft in granting a warrant for that lodge. There is a duty which lies upon every one of us, upon every one of you here present, and upon every brother throughout the country, and that is the duty of always recognizing the responsibility that rests upon us of proposing any person for initiation. (Hear, hear). So far as the condition of Masonry at the present time goes we have no want of an increase of the Order by those who are fit to be admitted; but we ought invariably to put the duty of maintaining the character and position of the Order above the feelings of private friendship, and especially above the feeling that is very disagreeable to have to say "No" to a person who may make application to us either in regard to Masonic or private affairs. Now, it is a responsibility which lies upon lodges that they do not admit unworthy brethren into the Craft. Some circumstances which have recently come to my knowledge make me afraid that there is a tendency sometimes to let in brethren who come from a distance, and about whom very little is known, without making enquiries of the Masons in the district from which they come. Now, nothing can be more unwise, nothing can be more un-masonic than that proceeding, because it often entails very serious responsibilities on the district in which the candidate habitually resides, and the inhabitants of which are the most fit judges of the brother's suitability to join the Craft. (Hear, hear). Brethren, I thought it right to make these observations, because this point involves the danger which attends upon a condition of prosperity, such as that in which the Craft now finds itself; and I am sure I may rely upon every brother in this Grand Lodge, and on every brother throughout the country to second me in my efforts—which it is my duty to make—constantly to uphold the character and position of this ancient institution. (Cheers.) Brethren, once more do I thank you most heartily for my re-election, and for the cordial reception which you have given me to-day. And now I shall proceed to the other business of the evening, the immediate portion of which is the appointment of the Grand Officers, the first of whom is the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, whom I re-appoint. You are aware, all of you, that he has been unable to attend Grand Lodge for some time, and many of you are aware that he has been in weak health during a large portion of last year. I am glad to say that his health is now very much improved, and I have every reason to hope, although he is not able to come among us this evening, we shall see him very shortly, in fact at the next Quarterly communication. (Cheers.)

A MASONIC LODGE IN ROME.—From the following notice which was clipped from the *Swiss Times*, dated Rome, February 15th, it will be seen that Freemasonry is obtaining a foothold in the Eternal City:

Masonic.—Brethren residing at Rome and being willing to co-operate in the formation of an English Lodge, are requested to forward their names to P. M., *Swiss Times* offices, 47I, Corso, Rome.

Recently, the foundation stone of an American Episcopal Church was laid within the walls of the City, and now an English Masonic Lodge is to be opened. Verily, the world moves on and old prejudices are giving way to more liberal and enlightened ideas.

ANCIENT VOYAGERS.

Monumental record of a visit of Phœnicians to Brazil five and a half Centuries before the Christian Era.

[Rio Janeiro Letter to the New York Herald.]

There are good grounds for the belief that a remarkable historical discovery has just been achieved in Brazil, no less than an engraved stone bearing a Phœnician inscription commemorating a visit to Brazil some five centuries before the birth of Christ. Visconde de Sapereahy, a member of the Emperor's Council of State, received three months ago a letter from Parahyba, inclosing a drawing of the inscription upon a stone which the writer's slaves had come upon during their agricultural labors on his farm, and which drawing had been made by the writer's son, a young man who could draw a little. This copy was turned over to the Historical Society of Rio, and by it to Senor Ladislao Netto, Director of the Rio Museum, for an examination. On examining it, he was surprised to find that the characters were pure Phœnician.

I will quote from the letter of this gentleman :

"After immense labor I have been able to interpret this inscription with such good fortune that only two or three words have proved beyond my powers.

"The inscription is of a commemorate stone—a rough monument erected by some Phœnicians of Sidonia, apparently exiles or refugees from their native land, between the ninth and tenth years of the reign of a King named Hiram. These rash or unfortunate Canaanites—the patronymic which they have used to denominate themselves—left the port of Aziongabar (now Akaba), a port upon the Red Sea, and sailed for twelve (?) novilunes (lunar months) along the land of Egypt—that is, Africa. The numbers of the males and females composing the adventurous expedition are all set forth, these particulars being placed intermediately between the invocation—one at the beginning and the other at the end of the inscription of the Alonim Valonuth—*i. e.*, gods and goddesses, *superos superasque*, as in the Latin translation by Gesenius of those well known Phœnician words. The inscription is in eight lines of most beautiful Phœnician characters, but without separation of the words, without the vowel points, and without quiescent letters—three great obstacles to the interpretation, for whose overcoming a mere knowledge of Biblical Hebrew is insufficient.

"A certain ararism, not slightly manifest in the emphatic termination in *aleph* and in the feminine one in *thau*, and more than this the forms of the letters *mem* and *shin*, induce me to believe that the reign of the second of the two Hiram was the epoch of the adventure. And that the voyage was, therefore, made in the years 541 and 542 B. C. ; that is twenty-six years after the siege of Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar and four years before Cyrus reigned.

"The inscription does not declare which of the two Phœnician monarchs is referred as the Hiram of the epoch. The first Hiram of the two historical ones was the Hiram the ally of Solomon, and he reigned in 980 to 947 B. C. The second was an obscure prince, who reigned in 558 to 552 B. C., under the pressure of Babylon and Egypt. But whichever the one, this inscription is one of the oldest and evidently the most notable record yet discovered in relation to the

heroic and enlightened people to whom, it would seem, the whole of the seas were known.

“Leaving apart trifling matters, I will proceed to treat of the crossing of the Phœnicians from Africa to Brazil. To explain this crossing, of which they themselves appeared to be unaware, I have resorted to the beautiful and classic studies of Maury on oceanic currents, and I gather that the same happened to our Sidonians as did to Pedro Alvarez Cabral, 2,000 years later, when knowing nothing of Brazil, he found himself unexpectedly off its shore. The only difference is that Cabral sailed from north to south while the Phœnician, voyaged from south to north. Like Cabral, in fleeing from the storms reiging from the Cape of Good Hope up to near Senegambia, they steered into the high sea, and seized by the famous equatorial current, which sometimes flows with extraordinary swiftness, they unexpectedly came upon the Brazilian shores.”

PARLIAMENTARY LAW, AS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF MASONIC BODIES.

—
BY ALBERT G. MACKAY, M. D.

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CHAPTER XXXIII.

—
OF FILLING BLANKS.
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A proposition is sometimes presented to a meeting and even adopted in an incomplete form ; as when, in a motion for an appropriation of money, the precise amount is not stated ; or when, in a proposition to do something at a future time, the exact day is left for subsequent consideration. In each of these cases a blank occurs, which must be filled up. It is usual to leave the filling up of the blank until the motion is adopted, because if it should be rejected, any further discussion on the subject would be unnecessary.

After the proposition has been adopted, the next question to be put by the chair is, “How shall the blank be filled.” And then as the motion to fill the blank is not considered in the light of an amendment to the original motion, but rather as an independent proposition, which is intended to give it completion, any number of these propositions may be made. But of course there must be an order in which they are to be considered.

In the early days of the British Parliament these blanks generally referred to the amount of taxes to be levied and to the time at which they should be collected. And as the object of the members was to reduce as much as possible the burdens of the people, the effort was always made to fill the blank for money with the smallest sum, and the blank for the day on which it was to be collected with the longest time. Hence sprang the rule, which still exists in Parliament, that in filling blanks the smallest sum and the longest time shall be first put.

But in this country a different rule prevails. Here the reason that governs is not to begin at that extreme which, being as Jefferson, citing Grey, says, within every man's wish, no one could negative it ; and yet, if he should vote in the affirmative, every question for more would be precluded ; but at the extreme he would unite few, and then to advance and recede until you get a number which will unite

a bare majority. Hence the rule in the Congress of the United States, which has been universally adopted in all public meetings, is to begin with the highest sum and the longest time; and therefore the presiding officer will continue putting the propositions for filling the blank in this order, until the assembly comes to one on which a majority of the members can agree.

Sometimes the sum or time will be inserted by the mover in the original motion, so that no blank occurs. Yet as the sum or time proposed may not be satisfactory to all, an effort may be made to change it. But this can only be done in the form of an amendment, by moving to strike out and insert, and here the rule of the largest sum or the longest time will not prevail, but the parliamentary law of amendment will be in force. One amendment only, and one amendment to it, is permissible, and the latter must be put to the question first. Thus the original motion may be "to appoint a committee of *three* persons." An amendment may be offered to strike out *three* and insert *five*; and this may again be amended by a motion to insert *seven* instead of *five*. The motion to *strike out and insert* may be divided. If the motion to *strike out* be lost, the motion to insert cannot be put, but a new motion may be made to *strike out three* and insert *nine*, or some number other than *five* or *seven*. If the motion to strike out be adopted, then the amendment to insert *seven* will be put in order; and, that being lost, then the question will recur on inserting *five*. If this also be lost, the proposition will remain incomplete, because *three* has been stricken out and nothing inserted in its place, and a new amendment must be offered for the insertion of some other number. And the proceedings will thus continue by the introduction of new figures, until the original proposition is perfected by the adoption of some number which will be satisfactory to the majority.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

OF CO-EXISTING QUESTIONS.

It is a principle of parliamentary law that two independent propositions cannot be at the same time before a meeting. But during the pendency of a main question, a privilege motion may be made and entertained, and then these two motions, the original and the privileged one, constitute what are called co-existing questions. Now, it may be asked what becomes of the original motion, if the privileged one be decided in the affirmative. The answer will depend on the nature of the privileged motion that has been adopted. The parliamentary law prescribes that when a motion for adjournment is made and carried during the pendency of a question, that question is suppressed, and cannot again at a subsequent meeting be revived except by a new motion. As the closing of the lodge is in Masonic usage equivalent to an adjournment, it is evident that the closing of the Lodge during the pendency of any question must have the same effect. But the inconvenience and oftentimes the injustice that would result from the rigid enforcement of such a rule has led to the adoption by Congress of a special regulation, by which such interrupted propositions are considered not as totally suppressed, but only as thrown into the class of unfinished business, to be taken up at the proper time, and such unfinished business would be in order. And although no such special regulation should be found in the rules of order of a Lodge, the spirit of comity and the dictates of

convenience will always prevail; and hence a question interrupted by the closing of the Lodge is only suppressed for the time, and will be renewed at the next meeting as unfinished business.

So, during the pendency of any discussion, if the hour for any special order has arrived and that order is taken up, the pending question is suppressed for the time, but will be *ipso facto* renewed when the special order has been disposed of.

The pending question is also affected by some other motions, which are to lay on the table, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a certain time, or to commit: all of which may co-exist with it, and must be taken up in the order of their precedence as privileged questions.

If all of these motions are rejected, the discussion of the original proposition of course goes on it. But if any one of them is adopted, the effect will be various. If the proposition is laid on the table, it is suppressed until called up again; if it be postponed indefinitely, it is permanently suppressed; if it be postponed to a certain time, it becomes a special order, and at that time takes precedence of all other motions; and if committed, it can only be renewed by the report of the committee to which it has been committed.

CHAPTER XXXV.

OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS.

Those rules which regulate and define the duties and privileges of a member in the Grand Lodge are called the *Constitution*, and in a Subordinate Lodge the *By-Laws*. An essential element of this instrument is its permanency, at least so far as that no change can be made without due notice, so that that the members may not be taken by surprise, and thus a member be led to the commission of an offence by the sudden enactment or repeal of a law.

Hence, in every constitution and code of by-laws there is a provision by which embarrassments are thrown in the way of change. A simple resolution may be passed or be rescinded by a bare majority vote; but to enact a new by-law, or to repeal one that has been already enacted, requires the affirmative vote of sometimes two-thirds and sometimes three-fourths of the members present, and that too only after a previous notice given one or two meetings before or and after two three readings.

Now, the provision for the mode of this repeal, alteration or amendment is a part of every constitution or code of by-laws, and by those provisions the Lodge and presiding officer are to be governed in the premises.

If the by-laws of a Lodge require that no alteration shall be made unless it be proposed in writing at a regular meeting laid over until the next regular meeting, then read a second time and adopted by the votes of two thirds of the members present, it is evident that the duty of the presiding officer is to see that these provisions are complied with, and they themselves supply the necessary instructions for his government. All that needs to be remarked is, that the amendment thus proposed takes the character of a special order, and as a privileged question has precedence of every other proposition when the time for action on it has arrived.

But it is necessary here to refer to one difficulty which is sometimes thrown in the way of a presiding officer, and which he should, by a

proper knowledge of parliamentary law, be prepared to meet. And to understand this, it is most convenient to supply a sample.

Let us suppose then, that with such a provision in the by-laws as that already cited, there is a clause which enacts that "the Lodge shall meet at 8 o'clock, p. m. on the first Monday of every month." Now, an alteration may be proposed to strike out "first Monday," and insert "second Wednesday." This being proposed in writing, read at a regular meeting, and recorded on the minutes, becomes a special order for the next regular meeting; and, being then read a second time, will be adopted, if two-thirds of the members present concur. But when the proposition is before the Lodge for final action, some member may propose, as an amendment to this amendment, to strike out "Wednesday" and insert "Thursday." And it has been contended, that such an amendment to the amendment could be submitted and be acted on; but such a doctrine is altogether erroneous. The original amendment was to change the time of meeting from the "first Monday" to the "second Wednesday," and this only can be before the Lodge for consideration, since it, only, has gone through the regular and prescribed form of two readings. The amendment to the amendment, which would make, if adopted, an alteration from the "first Monday" to the "second Thursday," has not been proposed at a previous meeting has not been laid over, and has not passed through a second reading. Not having come before the Lodge in accordance with the forms provided in the by-laws for alterations or amendments, it would be out of order for the presiding officer to entertain it.

In other words, it may be laid down as a rule that, no repeal, alteration, or amendment of the by-laws having been proposed, can, at any future time in the proceedings, be subjected to change or amendment. The proposed alteration must be presented for final action in the very words, and even letters, in which it was originally proposed. The proper time for offering the amendment to the amendment would be when the former was first proposed. Both the amendment and the rider to it would thus go through the regular course, and both would come up for a second reading, and for action at the subsequent meeting. It is scarcely necessary to say, that in that case the amendment to the amendment would be first in order of consideration.

It is admitted that no change in the by-laws of a Lodge can become operative until approved and confirmed by the Grand Lodge. But an inexperienced Master will sometimes permit a motion for the temporary suspension of a by-law, believing that such suspension may be made by unanimous consent; but such a proceeding is in violation of Masonic law. If a Lodge cannot repeal any one of its laws without the consent of the Grand Lodge, it is an evident consequence that it cannot suspend it; for this is, for all practical purposes, a repeal for a definite, although temporary, period. It is the duty, therefore, of the presiding officer to rule any proposition for a suspension of a by-law to be out of order, and therefore not admissible.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

OF NOMINATIONS TO OFFICE.

The subject of nominations to office is germane to a treatise on the Parliamentary Law of Masonry, because the propriety and legality of such nominations has been made a question in some quarters, and there-

fore it becomes the duty of the presiding officer, if such a nomination is made, to decide whether it is or is not in order.

If there be no special regulation in the Constitution of a Grand Lodge, or in the By-Laws of a Subordinate Lodge, which forbids nominations for office, then such nominations are in order; for nomination is the Masonic rule and usage, and the neglect of it the exception.

The oldest record, after the Revival, that we have, informs us that on June 24, 1717, "before dinner, the oldest Master Mason (now the Master of a Lodge) in the chair proposed a list of proper candidates; and the brethren by a majority of hands elected Mr. Anthony Sayre, gent., Grand Master of Masons."—*Anderson Const.*, 2nd edit., p. 109.

All the subsequent records of the Grand Lodge of England show an uninterrupted continuance of the custom, it being for a long time usual for the Acting Grand Master to nominate his successor. The present Constitution of the Grand Lodge requires that "the Grand Master shall, according to an ancient usage, be nominated at the quarterly communication in December." The custom of nomination is practiced in some of the English Lodges, but discontinued in others; and Dr. Oliver in his Jurisprudence, thinks it a practice that is open to objection, because they are, he says, few brethren who would be willing to incur the odium of voting against one who had been nominated. But while disapproving of a nomination on the ground of policy, he does not deny its legality.

If, therefore, there be no regulation of a Grand Lodge or of a Subordinate Lodge, which specifically prohibits nominations for office, such nominations will be in order, and must, when they are made, be entertained by the presiding officer.

CAPTER XXXVII.

OF THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.

The first thing in order, after the ritual ceremonies of opening have been performed, is the reading and confirmation of the Minutes, and the only question to be here considered is the limit that is to be made to proposed amendments or alterations of them; for it is the duty of the Master after the Minutes have been read for the information of the Lodge to inquire, first of the Wardens and then of the brethren, whether they have any alterations or amendments to suggest.

Now, it has sometimes been supposed that if any business has been transacted at the previous meeting of which the Minutes purport to be a record, which it is desired to rescind or repeal, the proper method will be to propose an alteration of the Minutes before confirmation, by which all reference to such business will be stricken out. But this evidently is an erroneous interpretation of the law, and arises from a misunderstanding of the true character of the Minutes.

The Minutes of a Lodge are supposed to be, and ought always to be, "a just and true record of all things proper to be written." They constitute the journal of the proceedings of the meeting to which they refer, as those proceedings actually occurred. If altered by the expurgation of any part, they cease to be a record.

It has occurred in the proceedings of the English Parliament and the American Congress that portions of the journal which contained the record of transactions which had become obnoxious, have been expunged by a vote taken subsequent to their confirmation; and these precedents

would authorize a Lodge to rescind or annul or even to expunge from its Minutes any particular portion.

But the question on so rescinding, annulling, or expunging must be made after the Minutes have been confirmed. The first question, and the only question in order, after the minutes have been read, is, "Shall the Minutes be confirmed? And this question is simply equivalent to this other one: "Is it the sense of the Lodge that the Secretary has kept a just and true record of the proceedings." And the alterations or amendments to be suggested before this question is put, are not to change the record of what has really occurred, but to make the record just and true.

The decision has been made in Congress that "when a member's vote is *incorrectly* recorded, it is his right on the next day, while the Journal is before the House for its approval, to have the Journal corrected accordingly. But it is not in order to change a *correct record* of a vote given under a misapprehension."

This enounces the true principle. The question on confirmation of the Minutes simply relates to the correctness of the record, and no motion or suggestion for an alteration can be made, except it be to correct a mistake or to supply an omission. The suggestion of any alteration which would affect the correctness of the record, by obliterating what what had been done or by inserting what had not, would be out of order, and could not be entertained by the presiding officer.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE IN THE VIENNA EXHIBITION.—Francis Langer, a sculptor of Kaaden, but born at Weipert, began to cut the model of lime-tree wood, according to the details given by the historian, Josephus Flavius. For thirty years he worked unceasingly at his laborious work, and at length died in 1850, at the age of seventy-two. His son continued the unfinished work until his death, in 1858. Two citizens of Kaaden then took the matter in hand, and, partly by working at it themselves, and partly by getting others to follow the plans and details left behind by Langer, succeeded in effecting it. The completed work takes up a space of three hundred and twenty-five square feet. The present owners applied to the directors of the Vienna Exhibition as to whether they might exhibit it, and after some little delay, received a reply that space should be reserved for it. This result of their labor during so many years requires twenty-eight cases to pack it in, and will now be forwarded to the exhibition in Vienna.—*Keystone*.

TREATMENT OF EAR-ACHE.—A French physician says that he has, in person found relief in severe ear-ache, after other means have been tried in vain, from the use of a mixture of equal parts of chloroform and laudanum, a little being introduced on a piece of cotton. The first effect produced is a sensation of cold; then there is numbness, followed by a scarcely perceptible pain and refreshing sleep.

When a girl falls in love with an unlucky Irishman, her heart goes pity-Pat.

Brother Alex. J. Stuart, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, died on the 8th March last, and Bro. John Lawrie has been appointed to fill his place.