

"MORE LIGHT."

In England special or commemorative Lodge jewels cannot now be legally worn without the express sanction of the Grand Master. It seems that the wearing of these signs of distinction had grown to such an extent as to threaten to bring the Fraternity into disrepute because of overmuch display. Hence this edict of prohibition has been issued.

In Masonic trials the acuser of a Mason must himself be a Master Mason in good standing. It is not necessary that he be sworn. It is deemed that his obligation is sufficient guarantee that he will not wilfully wrong a worthy brother. When others than Masons are introduced as witnesses they may be sworn, but as we have no power to compel a witness to testify under oath his simple affirmation may be taken. The character of the witness for truthfulness should always be considered. Testimony should never be taken in open Lodge, but always before a committee appointed for the purpose. Neither of the three Masonic penalties—reprimand, suspension or expulsion—should be inflicted without written charges, specifications, notice and due trial. Action on charges must be begun at a regular communication, but special communications for the prosecution of and final action on the case may be designated at a regular meeting, of which all the members in the Lodge's jurisdiction must have due and timely notice, that they may govern themselves accordingly.

Lack of Sociality.

American home life is too gloomy. We take no time to entertain and amuse each other. Not seldom does it happen in some houses that a meal progresses in dead silence, except when it is necessary to speak about the dishes, or to help some one to potatoes or pie. This is almost as bad as rudeness or quarrelling. There ought to be bright, genial, sparkling talk, in which the children should be allowed to join. There is no sense whatever in compelling an intelligent child to sit like a deaf mute at the table; though, on the other hand, children should not monopolize the conversation, nor be allowed to ask strings of irrelevant questions. When the family meet at table, there should be free and unrestrained intercourse between its members. Every one should prepare for the table by some simple process of dressing. The hair should be smooth, the hands washed, the general appearance of each individual inviting, and each should try to be as agreeable as possible to each other. It is quite wonderful how a little freshening of the toilet freshens up the soul as well as the face. So far, we ought to be luxurious. If the mother sees to it that her school-boy sons always come to dinner with clean hands and nails, and that her daughters never dawdle into the room in tawdry finery or soiled wrappers, she will do more than she dreams of in the work of making them grow into real gentlemen and ladies. The table itself ought to have a festive look. Flowers have a special grace on the breakfast board. A dish of fruit, nicely arranged, pleases the eye as well as the palate at dinner. Clean linen, eye though coarse, and whole plates and cups, with bright glass and silver, help the appetite along. A few well-cooked dishes, however plain, nicely served, will promote health and happiness better than a great variety ruined in the preparation.

Prof. C. A. Pape, aged 45, was yesterday found dead in Baltimore. He was a Professor of music and languages. Papers showed he was a member of Eagle Lodge, Hillsboro, N. C. A letter from his wife in his pockets was dated Tuggle's Tanks, no State given.

How to Calculate Interest.

The following rules are so simple and so true, according to all business usages, that they should be posted up for reference. There being no such thing as a fraction in it, there is scarcely any liability to error or mistake. By no other arithmetical process can the desired information be obtained by so few figures:

Six per cent—Multiply any giving number of dollars by the number of days of interest desired; separate the right hand figure and divide by six, the result is the true interest on such sum for such number of days at six per cent.

Eight per cent—Multiply any given amount for the number of days upon which it is desired to ascertain the interest of such sum for the time required, at eight per cent and divide the whole by 45.

Ten per cent—Multiply the same as above, and divide by thirty six, and the result will be the amount of interest at ten per cent.

The Archæology of the Craft.

Although it has been customary, in tracing the history of Masonry to date its first corporate beginnings from the period when the Temple of Solomon was reared in majestic silence upon the mystic mount of Moriah, yet it is undoubted that the Craft may claim an antiquity higher far than this. The Masonic art is of course as ancient as civilization. Man was a builder long before he had learned to live peacefully and in social intercourse with his fellows, and the rude hut of the savage is the parent of those majestic structures which in every age have upheld the dignity of the human intellect. How many ages elapsed before mankind ventured to forsake their rude edifices of timber for those of stone or baked earth, or what daring spirit first thought of poising stones in the air in the enduring form of an arch, it would be to idle conjecture. From central Asia, which may be regarded as the cradle of the human race, came the first Masons, whose works have existed to the present day. The cavern temples of India are probably among the oldest examples of the work of the sculptor, and it would appear that man first burrowed in the rock before he thought of piling stones in the clouds. The researches of Champollion, Sir Gardner Wilkinson and other eminent Egyptologists, have thrown a flood of light upon this once obscure subject, and when the history of Masonry is really written the historian will probably be inclined to regard the pyramids as the proper point of departure, rather than the fair building which Solomon raised in honor of the Great Jehovah. Egypt, in truth, may be regarded as the ancient university of science and art. The caste of the artificers included the masons as among its most important members, and these congregated in vast cities like Memphis and Thebes, acquired a knowledge of the Craft which has never been surpassed by any architects either ancient or modern. Herodotus, who flourished 408, B. C. tells us that Thebes possessed a hundred gates and palaces and temples innumerable. The priests who received the illustrious Greek traveler, were able to point to a history, carefully recorded, stretching back for ages in the remote past; to a monarchy of many dynasties, which was preceded by a theocracy probably coeval with Egyptian civilization.—*Ex*,

When a boy has been off all day, contrary to the expressed wish of his mother, and on approaching the homestead at night, with an anxious and cautious tread, finds company at tea, the expression of confidence and rectitude which suddenly lights up his face, cannot be reproduced on canvass.

The Lodge and its Lessons.

The great increase of Masonic Lodges proves two things, we think, incontestably. The one is, that Freemasonry is, in itself, a want for the age in which we live. It is a remarkable fact that, in this prying and bustling age, in which everything seems to be sacrificed to the dust and dirt and turmoil of public life, an institution so peculiar and unobtrusive, so much averse to open recognition, and so difficult of access, should be so popular with all classes of society. And yet the secret of such a want, such appreciation, is, we think, not hard to find. Freemasonry may have its frailties and defects, like everything else that is earthly or human, but Freemasonry has this recommendation—it is a neutral ground for us all—an open platform on which the most differing and the most distant may happily meet together in peace and good will, a little green oasis in this arid wilderness of toil and strife, in which the genial and friendly, and the tolerant and the true, and the scholar and the statesman, may find alike rest for their bodies and refreshment for their minds. Many of us who day by day are toiling at "the form" or in the counting house, in the Senate or in the camp, or are laboring as bread-winners, by the energy of our bodies and brains, to cheer and sustain those nearest and dearest to us, can find in Freemasonry many an hour of intellectual improvement, many a season of faithful work, many a pleasant moment of social relaxation.

Each new Lodge, then, that we find to-day is meant to be a centre of light, friendship, toleration and charity to its members. From it, we trust, some ray of brightness may fall on our fellow men. —And if, alas! it be true that all things here are at the best but ephemeral and transitory, that fade like the dying flower and pass like some pageant of the day, yet let us hope that, from the crumbling fragment of many an earthly lodge, there may emanate a spirit of truth and benevolence, which shall outlive both the material fabric and the earthly members, and be perpetuated in a happier scene of perfect knowledge, of undimmed light and of eternal love.—*Deekertown Independent*.

Dr. Glass, living near Granby, who is clearing up a new farm, has been troubled with a large number of big oak stumps. He had heard that salt petre was good for stumps. Accordingly he sprinkled on the top of each stump about a tablespoonful of pulverized salt petre. A few days ago he set fire to the stumps, and says they commenced and continued to burn until every stump was totally consumed, roots and all, so that he was able to plow without the least difficulty over the very ground formerly occupied by the same stumps. He says some of the stumps burned four or five days.

One of the most pleasing features of the Grand Knight Templar and Masonic parade on Thursday last was the appearance in the procession of Captain Edward L. Young, one of our oldest citizens, and probably the oldest Mason in the State. He is ninety four years old, joined Norfolk Lodge, No. 1, in 1814, and has belonged to it ever since, being now an honorary member. He was out in a carriage provided for him by Mr. Isaac Moritz, the Master of the Lodge, and wore the apron and gloves in which he was initiated sixty-one years ago. Although blind, Captain Young is still hale and hearty, and there is every indication that he will live to become a centenarian.—*Norfolk Virginian*.

Mr. Thomas O. Watson, of Monumental Masonic Lodge, No. 96, has presented to the Grand Lodge of Masons of Maryland, through Grand Master, J. H. B. Latrobe, a sandstone plumb bob of great antiquity, which he stated was found in the ruins of the Temple of Coum Oumbus, in Egypt, by Mr. James E. Tyson, a merchant and gentleman of Baltimore, whose word is reliable. Mr. Tyson is not a member of the Masonic Order, though he desired the presentation to be made to this Grand Body. Egypt is considered the birthplace of Masonry, and it is believed this implement of the craft was used in the erection of the famous temple where it was found, and which was built more than four thousand years, in the lifetime of Abraham, and about four hundred years before the birth of Moses. The gift was accepted with an appropriate vote of thanks to Mr. Tyson, and will be treasured as an ancient relic of operative Masonry.—*[Baltimore Sun]*.

News Gleanings.

You'll build the fires or I'll be a widow," is the way the Fat Contributor's wife talks.

Vice President Wilson and W. B. Axtor are dead.

A daughter of Singer, the sewing machine man, has made her debut as a burlesque actress in San Francisco.

The South Carolina Methodist Conference meets at Orangeburg Dec. 15th. Bishop Keener will preside.

The 44th Congress of the United States meets in Washington next Monday the 6th inst.

It has been discovered that the average life of a flea is eight months, and when you see a man scratching his back against the edge of a woodshed door just tell him that he is wasting time.—*Detroit Free Press*.

Quebec, Nov. 26.—Ex-Alderman Clement was arrested for complicity in the murder of Miss Gilmore, for causing whose death by abortion. Dr. Davis and wife are sentenced to death.

On Wednesday, the 17th instant, was the one hundred and twenty-second anniversary of the arrival of the Pioneer Moravians in the Wachovia tract, settling at Old Town, 6 miles above this place.—*Salem Press*.

Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island Nov. 28th.—Two thousand feet of road near St. Peter's was carried away by the sea during the late storm, leaving nothing to show that a railway was ever there.

From the report of the Second Auditor of Virginia it appears that the debt of that State on the 30th of September, exclusive of the bonds and certificates held by the literary and sinking fund, was \$29,514,426.88, West Virginia's portion of this debt is \$15,229,370.74.

Galveston, Tex., November 14.—The remains of Captain Thomas Wolfe, pilot of the City of Waco were taken charge of by the Masonic fraternity this morning and conveyed on board the steamship State of Texas to proceed to Mystic, Connecticut, his former home, for interment.

AN ARCTIC BORN BOY—There is now living in Ottawa county, Kansas, a boy of 13 years of age, who was born further North than any other child born of civilized parents on earth. He was born at the northern extremity of the most northern fishing settlement on the coast of Norway.

The Post office Department estimates an \$77,415 in excess of last year's appropriations. Expenditures last year for transporting mail was to 871 railroad routes 9 1/2 millions; 88 steamboat routes \$ millions; 7,323 other routes designated as star routes, aggregating 192,000 miles length, 5 1/2 millions; the total cost of inland transportation this year is estimated at 16 1/2 millions.

In the U. S. Circuit Court at Richmond Saturday, Judge Bond presiding, a motion was made by Hon. Wm. M. Everts, of New York, counsel for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, for the dismissal of the proceedings appointing a Receiver for the road looking to an early sale of the same. Judge Bond declined to hear the motion at present, and set the 20th of December to hear it at Alexandria. Chief Justice Waite to be present at that time.

DON'T MENTION IT.—A St. Louis letter says: "I ventured to suggest to a widow a few weeks ago, as we stood by the deceased Nicodemus, that I thought the amount of colicium he had taken for the gout had been the removing cause. 'Don't mention it,' sobbed the widow; 'it may be so, but those life insurance men snatch at anything to get out of paying their premiums. They might make it out suicide, and I wouldn't get a penny'."

Washington, Nov. 29.—The commission to examine various surveys for a ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien have submitted a report to the President. They are of opinion, after a full investigation, that the Nicaragua route is the best. They estimate a canal from the harbor of Brito on the Pacific, to Greytown on the Atlantic, can be constructed at a cost not to exceed 66 millions. Objections of almost an insurmountable nature are all but the Panama and Nicaragua route, notwithstanding the greater length, 186 miles, they give preference to it. Lake Nicaragua is on this route.