



# FREE MASONRY



# ODDFELLOWSHIP

Continued From last week.

How true it is that God taught David before he called him from earth to the Grand Lodge above, just how he wanted the first Grand Lodge on earth constructed, after he had planted the garden of Eden, and also informed him, who he should place in the Grand Master's chair, and the charge that David should give him, and also informed him that it should be his son Solomon, as we have already shown in our last issue, both from a Masonic standpoint and a Biblical standpoint. And as we have said, here is where Masonry basks out into a broader plain than ever before. And now right here we wish to say to our readers, that as we have in our possession Masonic books which men have been kind enough to loan to us. And as they are needing them, and want them at home, and as there are many things we need in our work, in them, we shall quote them in succession in our next issues until we have what we want from them, that we have not yet got, so that we may have them to refer to when necessary. Stopping then with Biblical facts, at the beginning of the Building of Solomon's Temple, we shall quote the following:

**TEMPLE.** The Temple of Solomon was only a small building, and very inferior in point of size to some of our churches, its dimensions being only one hundred and five feet broad and one hundred and fifty feet long. Its splendour and superiority lay in the richness of its materials, and ornaments; and the cloisters and other buildings with which it was surrounded. It was built of white marble, so excellently put together, that the joints could not be distinguished, and the whole building looked as though it had been cut out of one entire stone. The timber was cedar and olive wood covered with plates of gold, and studded with precious stones of many hues." (HISTORY and CYCLOPEDIA of FREEMASONRY by MACOY OLIVER, Page 682.)

**KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.** All the most valued associations of ancient craft Masonry are connected with the Temple of King Solomon. It was upon the occasion of the erection of that magnificent and costly edifice that our ancient operative brethren were organized with such admirable method and wisdom, that although more than one hundred thousand workmen were employed therein during seven years, yet there was neither dis-

order, confusion, nor delay in their operations. Many interesting events have been associated with

**ITS SITE.**

The Temple was built on one of the eminences of Mount Moriah. It was to that sacred spot that the steps of the Patriarch Abraham, and of the unsuspecting Isaac were directed by God, when he would put the strength of his servant's faith to the severest test, by requiring of him the immolation of his only son upon the altar, which was built on an elevated point of that holy mountain. That spot was subsequently the scene of the crucifixion of our blessed Lord; Time has changed the features of the place, but time will never obliterate from the mind of man the scenes which have transpired on Calvary.

It was there that King David built an altar on the threshing floor of Ornon the Jebusite, and stayed the hand of the destroying angel whose sword was bathed in heaven for the destruction of the people.

The traditions of the craft also associate with that spot tales of defection and treachery, whereby the virtuous and the noble perished.

It was there that the followers of the false prophet placed the Mosque of Omar which Daniel, the prophet, calls "the abomination that maketh desolate." The combined powers of Europe were not able to remove that abomination; seeing that the Great Architect would reserve that sacred site for some future glorious effort, when his own hand shall clear away the Moslem rubbish; and craftsmen shall again be called from the rising of the sun, even to the going down thereof, to participate in the erection of another Temple for the worship of the great King.

**THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE** was commenced three years subsequent to the death of King David, in the fourth year of the reign of Solomon, and about three thousand years from the creation of the world, and four hundred and eighty from the Exode.

The ground was broken, and the craft were summoned to their work on the second day of the second month of the Jewish year, which was called Zif, and began at the next full moon after the Passover, which is better known in Christian countries by the name of Good Friday." (The Freemason's Manual by K. J. Stewart. Page 136.)

**TETRAGRAMMATON.**

The Jews are quite aware that the true pronunciation of the Word is lost, and regard it as one of the mysteries to be revealed in the days of the Messiah. They hold, however, that the knowledge of the Name of God does exist on earth, and he by whom the secret is acquired, has, by virtue of it, the powers of the world at his command; and they account for the miracles of Jesus, by telling us that he had not possession of the Ineffable Name, Rightly understood, they seem to mean that he who calls upon God rightly, by this His true name, cannot fail to be heard by him. In short this word forms the famous tetragrammaton, or quadrilateral name, of which every one has heard.

**THEORY.** The theory of Masonry contains something of the whole of science; the operative part of Masonry is the practice of all the virtues, of all the sciences. Therefore, to be initiated into the theory of Masonry, is at least to be in the way of learning well and if we follow on to exercise the practice of Masonry it will as assuredly lead us into the way of doing well, and both to learn and to do well, is the whole of our religion, whether as men, as Christians, or as Masons.

**THIRD DEGREE.** In the ceremonial of the Third Degree, the last grand mystery is attempted to be illustrated in a forcible and peculiar manner, showing by striking analogy, that the Master Mason cannot be deemed perfect in the glorious science, till by the cultivation of his intellectual powers, he has gained such moral government of his passions, such serenity of mind, that in synonymous opposition with Mastership in operative art, his thoughts, like his actions, have become as useful as human intelligence will permit; and that having passed through the trials of life with fortitude and faith, he is fitted for that grand, solemn, and mysterious consummation, by which alone he can become acquainted with the great secret of eternity.

**THREAD OF LIFE.** By which the masonic key is suspended.

**THREE.** A sacred number in Freemasonry, with which all labour is commenced and finished. This number reminds us of the three great lights, the three kingdoms of nature, the Holy Trinity, or of the words of Christ: "Where two or three are assembled in my name, there will I be in the midst of you." We may also consider ourselves as the third party in unity and love, whose duty is to exercise those two cardinal virtues. The Christian can also take the number three as the grand distinguishing doctrine of his faith. There are three principal parts in a man, body, soul, and spirit. Faith, love, and hope, support and adorn life.

**THREE GRAND OFFERINGS.**

These were all performed on the sacred mountain of Moriah. First, the offering of Isaac, when it pleased the Lord to substitute a more agreeable victim in his stead. The second consisted of the many pious prayers and ejaculations of King David, which appeased the wrath of God, and

put a stop to the pestilence which raged among his people, owing to his inadvertently having had them numbered. And the third, of the many thanksgivings, oblations, burnt sacrifices, and costly offerings, which King Solomon made at the dedication and consecration of the Temple." (History and Cyclopaedia of Freemasonry by Macoy Oliver Page 684.)

The Curtain Falls.  
(To Be Continued.)

**Marginal Readings.**

**WHAT THEY ARE, AND HOW THEY APPEAR.**

Our attention has been called so many times, to the marginal readings of the Bible therefore we think it is necessary to the rightful understanding of them. To give a few facts and citations for the benefit of our readers.

For the readers of the CRESSET, may know; that our attention has been drawn to this point, time and again, by our opponents, in their rejoinders, to our affirmatives upon Creation and Formation; the two great works of God. We first state, as we have heretofore said, they are the works of man; And too without questioning their scholarship in Greek, Hebrew, or Latin. The first impression, then that we want to press upon the minds, of our readers is this; that the Mosiac account of Creation is Divine, original; direct from the Originator; God himself. He being perfect, His words are perfect; then it becomes necessary that His account are correct and perfect: They need no interpreter and belong to no private interpretation. (2nd. Peter 1:16.)

For all scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable, for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished into all good works. (Eph. 6:17.)

The problem is solved. Just teach it, that is what the man of God must do, God was intelligent enough to tell us just what he meant that the man of God should be furnished with. He has told us just how to teach and left His word on record for that purpose; so that marginal readings are not of him. Just a few evidences, that they are the works of man; and oftentimes would lead you a stray, if it were not for the inspired word. In Isaiah Twenty Seventh chapter and first verse, you read this language. "In that day the Lord with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish Leviathan the piercing serpent."

Marginal readings is: "† or crossing like a bar." The marginal readings makes out Leviathan the piercing serpent a crossing like a bar. Then again, upon the same word in (Job, 41-1.) You will see the same wise men, scholarly men, say to you in their marginal reading. "That is a whale or a whirlpool." In Isaiah they had it, a crossing like a bar, in Job they have the same thing a whale or a whirlpool, and these three things are so much different that Leviathan the piercing serpent could not be all three. No! Positively No! But God has told you, dear readers, who Leviathan the piercing serpent is.

A king over all the children of pride. Not a whale! Not a whirlpool! Not a crossing like a bar! But a king over all the children of pride. (See Job 41-34.)

Dear readers do not be deceived any longer by men; such as teach you that the marginal readings are the word of God, they are wolves in sheep clothing, and do not care for the flock but the fleece only having mens persons in admiration. If I stand any thing in parenthesis, take it for just what it is worth if I use the words of God for it, then it is not marginal readings, if I substitute something, then it is not the word of God. Hoping that those few remarks may be beneficial to the readers of the CRESSET, we leave the subject for the future.

**WASHINGTON LETTER**

(From Our Regular Correspondent)

The most important result of the Postoffice investigation was announced today. It consists of the adoption of a new policy in the administration of the rural free delivery service whereby congressional districts will be hereafter ignored and the service installed only as conditions warrant it. It is explained that heretofore there has been the most insistent pressure brought by members of Congress regarding the establishment of rural routes in their districts as essential to their political success and in many instances such routes have been established, regardless of the warrant for so doing. So serious had this condition become that Postmaster General Payne regarded it as a serious menace to the businesslike administration of the Postoffice Department and as threatening the saddle the Department with a deficit as large or larger than occasioned by former abuses of the second class privilege.

Under the administration of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow, all this is to be changed. Hereafter the only relation which members of Congress will sustain to the free delivery service will be in the presentation to the Department of petition from their constituents asking the rural routes be established. The clamor of insistent congressmen that the routes in their district be first inspected will prove unavailing, the inspector going into a state will take up the petition in the order in which they have been filed and will report without prejudice the advantages and disadvantage of the proposed routes. Those routes which will serve the greatest number of patron will be first established whether the districts be republican or democratic and, moreover, the rule that every route must be approximately 25 miles long and serve at least 100 persons will be adhered to. It is appreciated that the new policy will meet with the most vigorous opposition from congressmen who desire to strengthen their political fences by means of the free delivery service but Mr. Bristow has the assurance of the Postmaster General that he will

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