

But as it often happens, that the Time will not permit for the Fellow Craft's Lecture, they close the Lodge, which is done much in the same Method as that of Opening. The Senior Warden declares it in the following Words, "It is our Master's Will and Pleasure that this Lodge stand closed till the First or Third Wednesday in next Month," according to the Night the Lodge is held. Then the Master, Wardens, Deacons, Secretary, &c. take off the Ensigns and Ornaments from their Necks, and every one is at Liberty to depart or stay longer, as they think proper; every Thing of Masonry is excluded; they talk of what they please, and sing various Songs, for the Amusement of each other.

I shall now proceed to the Second Degree of Masons, called *the Fellow-Crafts*; that is, one who has served his Time justly and lawfully as an Entered Apprentice, and desires to become more perfect in Masonry, by being admitted a Fellow-Craft. But in most Lodges at this Time, they are made Entered Apprentices and Fellow-Crafts the same Evening. The Ceremony is the same, though they have different Lectures, Pass-Word and Grip belonging to each.

*The Fellow Craft's Lecture.*

*Mas.* **B**ROTHER, are you a Fellow Craft?

*Ans.* I am. Try me, prove me.

*Mas.* Where was you made a Fellow Craft?

*Ans.* In a just and lawful Lodge.

*Mas.* How was you prepared to be made a Fellow Craft?

*Ans.* I was neither naked, nor cloathed, bare-foot, nor shod; in a halting moving Posture: deprived of all Metal, I was led to the Door of the Lodge by the Hand of a Brother.

*Mas.*

*Maf.* How got you Admittance?

*Ans.* By Three distinct Knocks.

*Maf.* What was said to you within?

*Ans.* Who comes there?

*Maf.* Your Answer, Brother?

*Ans.* One who hath served his Time justly and awfully as an Entered Apprentice, and now begs to become more perfect in Mafonry, by being admitted a Fellow Craft.

*Maf.* How do you expect to attain to this Degree?

*Ans.* By the Benefit of a Pafs-Word.

*Maf.* Have you got that Pafs-Word?

*Ans.* I have.

*Maf.* Give it me, Brother.

*Ans.* SHIBBOLETH\*.

*Maf.* What did he then say to you?

*Ans.* Pafs, *Sbibboleth*.

*Maf.* What became of you then?

*Ans.* I was led twice round the Lodge.

*Maf.* Where did you meet with the first Opposition?

*Ans.* At the Back of the Senior Warden, where I made the same Repetition as at the Door.

*Maf.* Where did you meet with the second Opposition?

*Ans.* At the Back of the Master, where I repeated the same as before.

*Maf.* What did he do with you?

*Ans.* He ordered me back to the Senior Warden, to receive Instructions.

*Maf.* What Instructions did he give you?

*Ans.* He taught me to shew the Master my due Guard, and to take two Steps upon the second Step

\* SHIBBOLETH, the Pafs-Word of a Fellow Craft, signifies *Plenty*. See the 12th Chapter of the Book of Judges.

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of a Right angled oblong Square, with my Right Knee bent bare, my Left Foot forming a Square, my Body upright, my Right Hand on the Holy Bible, my Left Arm supported by the Point of the Compasses, forming a Square; where I took the Obligation of a Fellow Craft.

*Maf.* Have you got that Obligation, Brother?

*Ans.* I have, Right Worshipful.

*Maf.* Can you repeat it?

*Ans.* I'll do my Endeavour, Right Worshipful, with your Assistance.

*Maf.* Pray stand up, and let the Brethren hear it.

*The Obligation of a Fellow Craft.*

“ I — A. B. of my own Free Will and Accord,  
“ and in the Presence of Almighty God, and this  
“ Right Worshipful Lodge, dedicated to St.  
“ *John*, do hereby swear, that I will always hale,  
“ conceal, and never reveal that Part of a Fel-  
“ low Craft to an Entered Apprentice, or either  
“ of them, except it be in a true and lawful  
“ Lodge of Crafts, him or them whom I shall  
“ find to be such, after just Trial and Examina-  
“ tion.—I do furthermore swear, that I will an-  
“ swer all Signs and Summonses, sent to me from  
“ a Lodge of Crafts, within the Length of a Ca-  
“ ble-Tow\*.—I also swear, that I will not wrong  
“ a Brother, nor see him wronged, but give him  
“ timely Notice of all approaching Dangers  
“ whatsoever, as far as in me is. I will also  
“ serve a Brother as much as lies in my Power,  
“ without being detrimental to myself or Family;  
“ and I will keep all my Brother's Secrets as my  
“ own, that shall be delivered to me as such, Mur-

\* A Cable-Tow is Three Miles in Length; so that if a Fellow Craft is that Distance from his Lodge, he is not culpable on Account of Non-Attendance.

“ der

“ der and Treason excepted.—All this I swear  
 “ with a firm and steady Resolution to perform  
 “ the same, without any Equivocation or He-  
 “ sitation in me whatsoever, under no less Penal-  
 “ ty than to have my Heart torn from my naked  
 “ Left Breast, and given to the Vultures of the  
 “ Air as a Prey. So help me God, and keep me  
 “ stedfast in this my Fellow Craft’s Obligation.”

[*Kisses the Book.*]

*Mas.* Thank you, Brother.—After you received this Obligation, pray what was shewn to you?

*Ans.* The Sign of a Fellow-Craft.

*Mas.* Pray give it me.

*Ans.* I will, Right Worshipful.

[He stands up, and puts his Right-Hand to his Left Breast, keeping his Thumb square; and his Left Hand raised up, so as to form a Square.]

*Mas.* What was the next Thing done to you?

*Ans.* He took me by the Right Hand, and gave me the Grip and Word of a Fellow-Craft, and the Pass-Grip\*.

*Mas.* What did he then do to you?

*Ans.* He took me by the Right-Hand, and said, Rise, Brother *Yachin*.

*Mas.* What followed after that, Brother?

*Ans.* He ordered me back, when every Thing I had been divested of was restored, and I was brought in again in order to return Thanks †.

\* The Pass-Grip is thus performed: You must put your Thumb-Nail between the First and Second Joint of the Right-Hand, and whisper the Word SHIBBOLETH. The Grip of a Fellow-Craft is by putting the Thumb-Nail on the Second Joint of the Right-Hand, and the Word is JAKIN.

† The Ceremony of returning Thanks is the same as the Entered Apprentice’s, excepting this, for admitting me a Fellow Craft.

*Maf.* Being thus admitted, Brother, did you ever work as a Craft ?

*Ans.* Yes, Right Worshipful, in building the Temple.

*Maf.* Where did you receive your Wages ?

*Ans.* In the Middle Chamber.

*Maf.* When you came to the Door of the Middle Chamber, pray who did you see ?

*Ans.* A Warden.

*Maf.* What did he demand of you ?

*Ans.* The Pass-Word of a Fellow-Craft.

*Maf.* Did you give it him ?

*Ans.* I did, Right Worshipful.

*Maf.* Pray, what is it ?

*Ans.* SHIBBOLETH.

*Maf.* How got you to the Middle Chamber ?

*Ans.* Through the Porch.

*Maf.* Did you see any Thing worth your Notice ?

*Ans.* I did, Right Worshipful.

*Maf.* What was it ?

*Ans.* Two fine Brass Pillars.

*Maf.* What are their Names ?

*Ans.* JACHIN and BOAZ.

*Maf.* How high were these Pillars ?

*Ans.* Thirty-five Cubits, with a Chapter Five Cubits\*, which made it Forty in the whole.

[This is described more clearly in the 3d Chapter of the Second Book of Chronicles, Verse 15th.]

The Reader is here to understand, that there are Three Sorts of Cubits ; the King's Cubit, Three English Feet ; the Holy Cubit, One Foot Six inches ; and the common Cubit, Twenty-one Inches. The Cubit mentioned in the Old Testament is the Holy Cubit, which is One Foot Six Inches.

*Maf.*

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*Mas.* What were they ornamented with, Brother?

*Ans.* Two Chapiters, each Five Cubits in Height.

*Mas.* What were they adorned with besides?

*Ans.* Lilly-work, Net-work, and Pomegranates.

*Mas.* Were they hollow, Brother?

*Ans.* Yes, Right Worshipful.

*Mas.* How thick was the outside Coat?

*Ans.* Four Inches.

*Mas.* Where were they cast?

*Ans.* On the plain of *Jordan*, between *Succoth* and *Zartba*, in Clay Ground, where all *Solomon's* Holy Vessels were cast.

*Mas.* Who cast them, Brother?

*Ans.* *Hiram Abiff*, the Widow's Son.

This generally finishes the Fellow Craft's Lecture, and very few Lodges go so far in their Questions and Answers; therefore, in order to enliven the Company, the Master asks some good Singer to favour them with the following Song, which I have heard sung with great Energy and Rapture throughout the Lodge, every Brother bearing a Part in the Chorus.

#### THE FELLOW-CRAFT'S SONG.

**H**AIL, Masonry! thou Craft divine!  
Glory of Earth, from Heaven reveal'd,  
Which dost with Jewels precious shine,  
From all but Masons Eyes conceal'd.

#### CHORUS.

Thy Praises due who can rehearse,  
In nervous Prose, or flowing Verse?

**E e**

**As**

As Men from Brutes distinguish'd are,  
 A Mason other Men excels,  
 For what's in Knowledge choice or rare  
 But in his Breast securely dwells !

CHORUS.

His silent Breast and faithful Heart  
 Preserve the Secrets of the Art.

From scorching Heat, and piercing Cold,  
 From Beasts, whose Roar the Forest rends ;  
 From the Assaults of Warriors bold,  
 The Masons Art Mankind defends.

CHORUS.

Be to this Art due Honour paid,  
 From which Mankind receives such Aid.

Ensigns of State, that feed our Pride,  
 Distinctions troublesome and vain,  
 By Masons true are laid aside :  
 Arts free-born Sons such Toys disdain,

CHORUS.

Ennobled by the Name they bear,  
 Distinguish'd by the Badge \* they wear.

Sweet Fellowship, from Envy free,  
 Friendly converse of Brotherhood !  
 The Lodge's lasting Cement be,  
 Which lasts for Ages firmly stood.

CHORUS.

A Lodge, thus built, for Ages past,  
 Has lasted, and will for ever last.

\* Here the whole Lodge strike their Right Hands all at once  
 on their Aprons, keeping as regular Time as the Soldiers at  
 St. James's Park, when they strike their Cartouch-Boxes.

Then

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Then in our Songs be Justice done  
 To those who have enrich'd the Art,  
 From *Jabal* down to *Burlington*\*;  
 And let each Brother bear a Part.

CHORUS.

Let noble Masons Healths go round,  
 Their Praise in lofty Lodge resound.

In Company, the Fellow-Craft takes the Pot or Glass, and draws it across his Left Breast, and touches it; the Penalty being this, that he would sooner have his Heart torn from his Left Breast, and given to the Fowls of the Air, than discover the Secrets of Masonry. Sometimes this is done with the Right Hand only, as it is less taken Notice of by Strangers.

Having given the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft's Part, I now proceed to the third and last Degree of Masonry, which is termed *the Master's Part*, it being performed in the same Manner as the other two, viz. by Way of Question and Answer, and is as follows:

*Master.* **B**ROTHER, where have you been?

*Ans.* In the West.

*Mas.* And where are you going?

*Ans.* To the East.

*Mas.* Why do you leave the West and go to the East?

*Ans.* Because the Light of the Gospel was first shewn in the East.

*Mas.* What are you going to do in the East?

*Ans.* To seek for a Lodge of Masters.

\* *Burlington* was the late Grand Master; at present Lord *Aberdour* fills the Station; and they make Use of his Name accordingly.

*Mas.*