

*The Form observed at the Installment of a Master and
the other Officers on St. John's Day.*

THE Year being expired, a proper Person is fixed on by the Members of every Lodge to preside over and govern the different Societies in the Capacity of Master. The Qualifications for this Office are, *1st*, That he must be regularly and lawfully raised: *2dly*, He ought to be a Man of a good Character, and irreproachable in his private Conduct: *3dly*, He must be well versed in the Laws and Constitutions of the Order, and ought to be temperate, cool, and quite perfect in going through the before-mentioned Lectures, as all the Questions are put by him, and he is often obliged to assist the Brethren in making the proper Answers*; for every Mason sitting round the Table answers in his Turn, in the same Manner as Boys at Church saying the Catechism. This is termed *Working*. For Instance, Suppose a Brother meets another, and asks him if he was at his Lodge last Night? he says Yes. Well, replies the other, *Did you work?* that is, did you go through the several Questions and Answers in any of the Lectures?—If any Member cannot, or does not chuse to *work*, when the Question is put, and it comes to his Turn, he gets up, and clapping his Hand on his Breast, ad-

* I have been in a Lodge, where the Master was quite ignorant of the common Rules of Pronunciation and Grammar; frequently making such egregious Blunders that the Brethren could scarce refrain from bursting into Laughter, and often embellishing his Questions with, "Brethren, you have *let a Body know-as how you cannot be raised but by the Five Points of Fellowship, &c. telhus wibich they be.*" How ridiculous must this appear in the Person of the President of a Lodge, where the greatest Part of the Members are Men of a liberal Education, and endowed with good natural Abilities!

dresses

dresses himself to the Master, and begs to be excused ; then the Left-Hand Man answers in his Room.

The Brethren having chose a proper Man for this Office, and he being approved of by the Grand Master, they proceed to the Installing him as follows : He kneels down in the South Part of the Lodge, and the late Master gives him the following Obligation, before he resigns the Chair, which he repeats.

“ I—A. B. of my own free Will and Consent, in
 “ the Presence of Almighty God and this Right
 “ Worshipful Lodge, dedicated to St. *John*, do
 “ most solemnly and sincerely swear, that I will
 “ not deliver the Word and Grip belonging to
 “ the Chair whilst I am Master, or at any Time
 “ hereafter, except it be to a Master in the Chair,
 “ or a past Master, him or them whom I shall find
 “ to be such after due Trial and Examination.—I
 “ also swear, that I will act as Master of this
 “ Lodge till next St. *John*'s Day, and fill the
 “ Chair every Lodge Night, if I am within the
 “ Length of my Cable Tow.—I likewise further
 “ promise that I will not wrong this Lodge ; but
 “ act in every Respect for the Good of Masonry,
 “ by behaving myself agreeable to the rest of the
 “ Brethren ; and mantaining good Order and Re-
 “ gularity in this Lodge, as far as lies in my Po-
 “ wer. All this I swear, with a firm and stedfast
 “ Resolution to perform the same, under no less
 “ than the Four following Penalties, my Throat
 “ cut a-cross, my Tongue torn out, my Heart
 “ torn from my Left-Breast, and my Body seve-
 H “ red

“ red in two. So help me God, and assist me in
 “ this my Obligation belonging to the Chair.”

[*Kisses the Book.*]

The past Master raises him up, and takes off the Jewel and Ribbon from his own Neck, and puts it on the new Master, taking him at the same Time by the Master's Grip, and whispering in his Ear the Word CHIBBELUM *; after which he slips his Hand from the Master's Grip to the Elbow, and presses his Nails in, as is done in the Grip of the Master under the Wrist.

The Senior and Junior Warden, Secretary, &c. receive the same Obligation as the Master, except the Grip and Word; there being none peculiar to them.

Having now gone through the several Degrees and Lectures belonging to the Entered Apprentice, Fellow-craft, Master, and the Manner of Instalment, I shall close the Work with a few general Directions for the Reader's Benefit, dividing them under the following Heads.

I. A Description of the Ornaments worn by the different Officers, when assembled in the Lodge, and their proper Places of sitting.

The MASTER, who sits in the East of the Lodge, has the Rule and Compass, and Square hanging to

* CHIBBELUM signifies a worthy Mason. The Origin of the Words and Signs among Free-Masons, was on this Account. *Hiram*, the chief Architect of the Temple, had so great a Number of Workmen to pay, that he could not possibly know them all; he therefore gave each Degree or Class a particular Sign and Word, by which he could distinguish them more readily, in order to pay them their different Salaries.

a Rib-

a Ribbon round his Neck, and a black Rod in his Hand, when he opens the Lodge, near Seven Foot high.

The SENIOR WARDEN sits in the West, with the Level about his Neck, and a Column placed on the Table, about 20 Inches long.

The JUNIOR WARDEN's Place is in the South, with the Plumb-Rule about his Neck, and a Column in his Hand.

The SECRETARY wears the Cross-Pens.

The Senior and Junior DEACONS have each a black Rod, with the Compass hanging round their Necks; the Senior sits at the Back of the Master, or at his Right-Hand; the Junior at the Senior Warden's Right-Hand.

The PASS-MASTER has the Compasse's and Sun, with a Line of Cords about his Neck.

II. *The Manner of giving the Signs of each Degree, and the Word belonging to it, with the Fellow Craft and Master's Clap.*

The Master's Sign, Grip and Word, &c.

The Sign. Draw the Right Hand edgeways across your Belly, which is the Penalty of the Obligation.

The Grip. Take Hold of the Right Hand of your Brother with your Right Hand, and press the four Finger Nails hard under the Wrist of his Right Hand; put your Right Foot to his Right Foot, your Right Knee to his Right Knee; and his Right Breast to your's, with your Left Hand supporting his Back.

The Word is MAHHABONE; or in some Lodges MAC-BENACH.

The Pass-Word is TUBAL-CAIN.

The Master's Clap, is by holding both your Hands above your Head, and striking them down at once upon your Apron, both Feet keeping Time. They assign two Reasons for this Sign, viz. When the twelve Fellow-Crafts saw their Master lie dead, they lifted up their Hands in Surprize, and said, *O Lord our God!* and that when *Solomon* dedicated the Temple to the Lord, he stood up, and lifting up both his Hands, exclaimed, *O Lord my God, great art thou above all Gods.*

The Fellow-Craft's Sign, Grip, Word and Clap.

Sign. Put your Right Hand to your Left Breast, keeping your Thumb square, and your Left Hand upright, forming a Square.

The Pass-Grip, is by putting the Thumb-Nail of your Right Hand between the first and second Joint of a Brother's Right Hand.

The Pass-Word, is SHIBBOLETH.

The Grip is the same as the Pass Grip, except pressing your Thumb Nail on the *second* Joint, instead of between the first and second.

The Word is JACHIN.

The Fellow Craft's Clap, is by forming the Sign of a Craft, as above, holding your Left Hand square and upright; then clap your Right and Left Hand together; and afterwards strike your Left Breast with your Right Hand, and from thence give a Slap on your Apron, your Right Foot going at the same Time.

The Entered Apprentice's Sign, Grip, and Word.

The Sign. Draw your Hand across your Throat edgeways. The Penalty of the Obligation being this,

this, that an Apprentice would sooner have his Throat cut, than discover the Secrets of Masonry.

The Grip. Take a Brother with your Right Hand, and press hard with your Thumb Nail upon the first Joint of the Fore Finger of his Right Hand.

The Word. Whisper in his Ear, **BOAZ.**

The Master kneels upon both Knees in the Ceremony of making.

The Craft kneels with the Right Knee.

The Apprentice with the Left Knee.

III. *The Form observed in Drinking.*

The Table being plentifully stored with Wine and Punch, &c. every Man has a Glass set before him, and fills it with what he chuses, and as often as he pleases. But he must drink his Glass in turn, or at least keep the Motion with the rest. When therefore a public Health is given, the Master fills first, and desires the Brethren to charge their Glasses; and when this is supposed to be done, the Master says, *Brethren, are you all charged?* The Senior and Junior Wardens answer, *We are all charged in the South and West.* Then they all stand up, and observing the Master's Motion (like the Soldier his Right Hand Man) drink their Glasses off; and if the Master proposes the Health or Toast with *three Times three Claps*, they throw the Glasses with the Right Hand at full Length, bringing them across their Throats three Times, and making three Motions to put them down on the Table; at the third they are set down, (though perhaps fifty in Number) as if it was but one; then raising their Hands Breast-high, they clap nine Times against the Right, divided into three Divisions,

fions, which is termed *Drinking with three times three*; and at the End they give a Huzza.

Having at length gone through my Plan, I have nothing further to add, than this, that the following is the best Method for a Stranger to gain Admittance, being what I have often tried in many Places, in order to be fully satisfied.

As soon as you come to the Door of the Lodge, you will find a Man on the Outside, with a drawn Sword in his Hand, and a white Apron on. You must put on the Appearance of Carelessness, or rather Ease in your Behaviour. Ask him if there is a full Lodge, and tell him you should be glad of Admittance as a visiting Member; taking care to provide yourself with a white leather Apron, which you may shew him as if by Accident. He will, perhaps, ask you what Degree you are of, and desire a Sign, which you must shew him with great Readiness, and likewise inform him what Lodge you belong to.

It being contrary to the Rules of the Society that the Tyler should admit a Stranger, he will go in, and acquaint the Master, that such a Person, (mentioning your Name, and the Lodge you told him you belonged to) craves Admittance. On which one of the Wardens will come out to examine you. Draw you Right-Hand across your Throat edgeways, and he will say, "What's that?" Your Answer must be, "The due Guard of an Apprentice." Then he will take you by the first Joint of your Right-Hand, and press it hard with the Thumb Nail of his Right-Hand, and ask, "What that is?"—You must immediately answer, "The Grip of an Entered Apprentice."—If he is not fully satisfied with this, he will go farther on in this Manner:

Ques.

Ques. Has it got a Name?—You must answer, “It has.” Then he will ask you to give it him.

Ans. I’ll half it with’ you.—Begin, says he.—

Ans. B O. *Maf.* A Z. *Ans.* B O A Z.

Ques. Will you be off or from. *Ans.* From.

Ques. From what? *Ans.* From an Entered Apprentice to a Fellow-Craft: He will then shift his Thumb from the Apprentice’s Grip towards the Fellow-Craft’s, and ask, What’s this? *Ans.* The Pass-Word of a Fellow-Craft: Give it me, says he. Whisper in his Ear, SHIBBOLETH. On this he will put his Thumb to the second Joint, and say, What’s this? *Ans.* The Grip of a Fellow-Craft. Has it a Name, says he? *Ans.* It has.—Pray give it me. *Ans.* I will letter it, or half it with you. *Mason.* I’ll letter it with you.—

Ans. Begin. *Mason.* No, you begin. *Ans.* J.—

Maf. A. *Ans.* C. *Maf.* H. *Ans.* I. *Maf.* N.

Ans. J A C H I N.

What I have here offered being more than sufficient, you will be admitted, and you must put your Apron on, and take your Seat. If there should be a Making that Night, you will be perfect in the first Principles, and know more than one in ten who have been made many Years, and have never read this Book.

If you should after this chuse to go to a Lodge of Masters, the Ceremony is the same as above; but you are interrogated as to the Grip, Pass-grip and Word of a Master, which you cannot fail of answering by reading the Master’s Part before mentioned. In all this you must take Care not to betray any Fear, but put on an Air of Assurance.

This

[56]

This is the Whole of Masonry, in all its Branches; and I hereby defy any Mason to prove the contrary, being ready to answer any Question proposed, which must be carefully sealed up, and directed for R. S. to be left with my Publisher, mentioning the Name and Residence of every Person desiring any farther Information. And as to any anonymous Letters or Threatenings on Account of this Publication, they will be treated with Contempt, let them come from what Quarter they will. I also declare, that I will always attend and visit at the Lodges mentioned in the Introduction, as I have for some Years past.

The E N D

