

Paris, Jan. 13.

The Secret of the Order of Free-Masons, and the Ceremonies observed at the Reception of Members into it.

First of all the Person must be proposed in one of the Lodges by a Brother of the Society, as a good Subject; and when the latter obtains his Request, the Recipientary is conducted by the Proposer, who becomes his Godfather, into one of the Chambers of the Lodge, where there is no Light, and there they ask him whether he has a Calling to be received: He answers *Yes*. After which they ask him his Name, Sirname and Quality; take from him all Metals or Jewels which he may have about him, as Buckles, Buttons, Rings, Boxes, &c. his Right Knee is uncovered, he wears his Left Shoe as a Slipper, then they blindfold him, and keep him in that Condition about an Hour, delivered up to his Reflections; after this, the Godfather goes and knocks three times at the Door of the Reception-Room, in which the venerable Grand-Master of the Lodge is, who answers by three Knocks from within, and orders the Door to be opened; then the Godfather says, that a Gentleman by Name—presents himself in order to be received. (Note, That both on the Outside and within this Chamber several Brothers stand with their Swords drawn, in order to keep off profane People.) The Grand-Master, who has about his Neck a blue Ribband cut in a Triangle, says, *Ask him whether he has the Calling?* The Godfather puts him the Question, and the Recipientary having answered in the Affirmative, the Grand-Master orders him to be brought in: Then they introduce him, and make him take three Turns in the Room, round a sort of Ring on the Floor, in which they draw with a Pencil upon two Columns a sort of Representation of the Ruins of Solomon's Temple, on each Side of that Space they also make with the Pencil a great *I* and a great *B*, which they don't explain till after the Reception. In the Middle there are three lighted Wax-Candles laid in a Triangle, upon which they throw Gunpowder and Rosin at the Novice's Arrival, in order to frighten him by the Effect of those Matters. The three Turns being made, the Recipientary is brought into the Middle of the Writing abovementioned in three Pauses over-against the Grand-Master, who is at the upper End behind an Arm-Chair, on which is the Book of St John's Gospel, and asks him, *Do you feel the Calling?* Upon his answering *Yes*, the Grand-Master says, *Show him the Light, he has long enough deprived of it.* In that

Instant they take off the Cloth from before his Eyes, and all the Brothers standing in a Circle draw their Swords; they cause the Recipientary to advance in three Pauses up to a Stool which is at the Foot of the Arm-Chair; the Brother Orator addresses him in these Terms, *You are going to embrace a respectable Order, which is more serious than you imagine: There is nothing in it against the Law, against Religion, against the State, against the King, nor against Manners: The venerable Grand-Master will tell you the rest.* At the same time they make him kneel on the Stool with his Right Knee, which is bare, and hold the Left Foot in the Air: Then the Grand-Master says to him, *You promise never to trace, write, or reveal the Secrets of the Free-Masons or Free-Masonry, but to a Brother in the Lodge, and in the Grand-Master's Presence.* Then they uncover his Breast to see if he is not a Woman, and put a Pair of Compasses on his Left Pap, which he holds himself; he puts his Right Hand on the Gospel, and pronounces his Oath in these Terms, *I consent that my Tongue may be pulled out, my Heart torn to Pieces, my Body burnt, and my Ashes scatter'd, that there may be no more mention made of me amongst Mankind.* if, &c. after which he kisses the Book. Then the Grand-Master makes him stand by him; they give him the *Free-Mason's* Apron, which is a white Skin, a Pair of Mens Gloves for himself, and a Pair of Womens Gloves for the Person of that Sex for whom he has the most Esteem. They also explain to him the *I* and the *B* traced on the Floor, which are the Type of the Sign by which the Brothers know one another. The *I* signifies *Jabkin*, and the *B* *Boiaes*. In the Signs which the *Free-Masons* make among one another they represent those two Words, by putting the Right Hand to the Left Side of the Chin, from whence they draw it back upon the same Line to the Right Side; then they strike the Skirt of their Coat on the Right Side and also, stretch out their Hands to each other, laying the Right Thumb upon the great Joint of his Comrade's first Finger, which is accompanied with the Word *Jabkin*; they strike their Breasts with the Right Hand, and take each other by the Hand again, by reciprocally touching with the Right Thumb the first and great Joint of the middle Finger, which is accompanied with the Word *Boiaes*. This Ceremony being performed and explained, the Recipientary is called Brother; after which they sit down, and, with the Grand-Master's Leave, drink the new Brother's Health:

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