

**THE MASONIC LADDER: OR, THE NINE STEPS
TO ANCIENT FREEMASONRY: BEING A
PRACTICAL EXHIBIT, IN PROSE AND VERSE OF
THE MORAL PRECEPTS, TRADITIONS,
SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTIONS AND ALLEGORIES
OF THE DEGREES OF ENTERED APPRENTICE,
FELLOW CRAFT, MASTER MASON**

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The Masonic Ladder: Or, the Nine Steps to Ancient Freemasonry: Being a Practical Exhibit, in Prose and Verse of the Moral Precepts, Traditions, Scriptural Instructions and Allegories of the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason by John Sherer

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JOHN SHERER

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ENTERED APPRENTICE, FELLOW CRAFT, MASTER MASON,

MARK MASTER, PAST MASTER, MOST EXCELLENT MASTER, ROYAL ARCH
MASON, ROYAL MASTER AND SELECT MASTER,

By JOHN SHERER,

Compiler of the "Masonic Carpets of Blue Lodge, Chapter and Council
Masonry," and other Masonic Publications.

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TO

The Great Masonic Brotherhood,

"A MULTITUDE, WHICH NO MAN CAN NUMBER, OF ALL NATIONS
AND KINDREDS AND PEOPLE AND TONGUES,"

WORSHIPING A COMMON DEITY; JOINING HANDS AROUND A COMMON ALTAR;
ENGAGED UPON LIKE DEEDS OF BENEFICENCE ON EARTH,
AND CASTING HOPE'S STRONG ANCHOR UPON
THE SAME HEAVENLY SHORE;

The Masonic Tadder,

ILLUSTRATING THE THREE GREAT SYSTEMS OF SYMBOLICAL,
CAPITULAR AND CRYPTIC MASONRY,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY AND FRATERNALLY

Dedicated,

BY JOHN SHERER.

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PREFACE.

IN presenting a new volume to the Masonic Fraternity, and soliciting their patronage for it, it is incumbent on the compiler to show wherein it differs from, and claims superiority over, other publications already in the market.

The great number of Masons do not sufficiently discriminate between the doctrines, covenants and aims of the different degrees. The Three, Seven, or Nine Degrees, conferred in the various Masonic bodies, are apt to be jumbled up in the minds of their recipients, as though they were only so many sections of the same Degree. The more striking parts of the ceremony are remembered, while the instructions, which give the rational explanations of the emblems, are forgotten. Something, then, is needed which the brother can take home with him and read, to refresh his mind upon what is, in reality, the only practical part of the Masonic institution. For this part the "Monitor" is used, and

so far as it goes it supplies that want. But the "Monitor" is not sufficiently diffuse. There is not sufficient latitude given to the historical branch of the subject; nor in the moral application of Masonry is the "Monitor" precise and distinct. Something more has been wanted by generations of Masons, and it is strange that none of the Masonic authors have attempted to supply that want.

"The Masonic Ladder" has been prepared with reference to this very want. It is so arranged that the brother may, by its perusal, recall the more striking parts of the Degrees he has taken; may judge of the extent of his covenants; may understand what bearings the history and geography of the Holy Land have upon the traditions that have been communicated to him; and may trace out to its full extent the excellent morality taught in each Degree. At the same time that "The Masonic Ladder" assists the brother to remount the steps he has taken, and enjoy over again the pleasant thoughts experienced when he first took them, they communicate no secrets to an outsider. Like the Bible itself, which is full of Masonic secrets to the

initiated, "*The Masonic Ladder*" can not open the way to the arcana of the Order save to those who have once penetrated to them.

The compiler has had able assistance in the preparation of this volume, and all the matter contained in it, whether original or selected, has been re-written and adapted to the plan upon which the book was prepared.

The compiler is so well known as the author and publisher of Sherer's "*Masonic Carpets*" and "*Masonic Degree-Books*," that he will be indulged in saying that "*The Masonic Ladder*" is prepared in strict accordance with those well-known and popular productions. The form of the Emblems, and the order of their arrangement, were guides in combining "*The Masonic Ladder*," so that the two may go together. Every Lodge that has heretofore purchased a Carpet, or may hereafter supply itself with a Degree-Book, can now have a volume explanatory of it. This is a desideratum long sought for by the Lodges.