THE CABLE-TOW

The Builder, November 1915

Regarding the inquiry about the Cable-tow, it may interest the Brethren to know that it has no symbolic meaning in English Lodges where it is used only in the first degree, when its physical use only is explained.

- E.E. Murray, Montana.

Might the Cable-tow not be a symbol of that moral cable by which an apprentice is raised to the plane on which the Fellowcraft is supposed to stand? And in the Fellowcraft degree might it not be a symbol of re-inforcement - a buckler - an added strength, to assist the Craftsmen in making the rough ashier a perfect one? I would suggest that we make the Cable for ourselves, using honor truth, justice, chastity, charity for the links thereof; forging it true and strong, then welding this mystic Cable to our hearts let us anchor it firmly to God, Home, and Country. - J.H. Jones, Iowa.

But the Cable-tow is something already woven, by which we are brought into the Lodge, and by which we may be taken out if we be unworthy, or unwilling, to proceed. What is it in a man by which he is drawn into Masonry, and which, later, becomes the measure of his obligation when he vows to do certain things if within the reach of his cable-tow? Here is something very wonderful, if we think of it, and worthy of deep thought.