

A CURIOUS FLOORCLOTH

At the Lodge No. 209, holden at the Plume of Feathers, Bridge Street, Chester, we inspected a curious floorcloth, which had been painted only a short time previous, and contained some reference to the Masonic innovations of France and Germany. It consisted of a Mosaic pavement, accessible by three steps, marked AUDI, VIDE, TACE, with the five-pointed blazing star in a circle occupying the centre, flanked by two Corinthian pillars, on the summit of which were placed the sun and moon. The plinth of the sinister column was charged with a diagram, representing, probably, the Mark key-stone, while that on the dexter-side of the pavement was occupied by a ladder in clouds. Each of these pillars was attended or guarded by a naked sword, the one pointed, and the other flaming, to represent Justice and Mercy, together with a Level and Plumb. Over the pavement, and resting on the pillars, was an arch inscribed SIT LUX ET LUX FUIT, with a double key-stone supporting a sphere, and upon it the head of the Redeemer, as T. G. A. O. T. U., surrounded by a nimbus ; beneath which was an altar supporting the Holy Bible, placed on a cushion, flanked by Masonic emblems. Amongst the clouds above the arch, there appears a radiated triangle, with the word : H I H ' At the base of the floorcloth are three objects ; the one an oblong square chest or lodge, with an endless serpent on its lid, and the word ABPAEAS in front ; the centre, a cube, with the three Masonic colours, and the word A L I A (AGLA), one of the cabalistic names of the Deity ; and the other, a tumulus, with the sprig of Cassia. Above them, the following inscription, $\text{\Theta EON \Sigma EBOY \Xi ENOY \Sigma \Xi E N I Z E}$. I remember this floorcloth distinctly, for it underwent a very particular examination ;*

* This floor-cloth is now in the Cestrian Lodge at Chester; of which my friend, Bro. Willoughby, of Birkenhead, has kindly favoured me with a sketch.

The Rev, G. Oliver, *The Revelations of a Square; exhibiting a Graphic Display of Eminent Free and Accepted Masons....* London : Richard Spencer, 1855. pp. 119-20.