The Level and the Square—Robinsons.

We meet upon the level, and we pass upon the square,—
What words of precious meaning are these which Robinsons have written?—
Come, let us contemplate them; they are worthy of a thought.

1 With the highest and the lowest, and the nearest; they are friends:
We meet upon the levels, though from every station came—
The King from and his palace and the poor man from his home;
For the one must leave his diadem without the Mason's sign.

2 And the other finds his true project upon the checkered floor.
We part upon the square, for the world must have its club;
We mingle with its multitude, a cold, unkindly crew;
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green.

3 And we long again the level to renew the happy scene.
Here's a world where all are equal,—We are hurrying towards it fast;
We shall meet upon the level, when the gates of death are past:
We shall stand before the Opient, and our Master will be there.

4 To try the blocks we offer by His own smearing square.
5 We shall meet upon the level there, but never thence depart;
There's a Mansion,--tis all ready for each zealous, faithful heart;
There's a Mansion and a welcome, and a multitude is there,
5 Who have met upon the level and been tried upon the square.
Let us meet upon the level, then, while laboring patient here,
Let us meet and let us labor, that the labor seem severe,
Already in the western sky the signs bid us prepare.

6 To gather up our working tools and part upon the square!
Hands round, ye faithful Shilohites, the bright, paternal chain;
We part upon the square below to meet in Heaven again.
Of what words of precious meaning those words Masonic are,
7 We met upon the level, and we part upon the square.

The above is the original form in which the poem was written--in August 1854.
The Level and the Square. – Rob. Morris.

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square, –
What words of precious meaning whose words Masonic are!
Come, let us contemplate them; they are worthy of a thought, –
With the highest and the lowest and the rarest they are fraught.

1
We meet upon the level, though from every elation came –
The King from out his palace and the poor man from his house;
For the one must leave his diadem without the Mason’s door –
And the other finds his true respect upon the checkered floor.

2
We part upon the square, for the world must have its due;
We mingle with its multitude, or cold, unfriendly crew;
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
And we long, upon the level, to renew the happy scene.

3
There’s a world where all are equal, – we are hurrying towards it fast, –
We shall meet upon the level there when the gates of death are past;
We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there,
To try the blocks we offer by His own unerring square.

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We shall meet upon the level there, but never thence depart;
There’s a mansion, – ‘tis all ready for each Zealous, faithful heart;
There’s a mansion and a welcome, and a multitude is there,
Who have met upon the level and been tried upon the square.

5
Let us meet upon the level, the, while laboring patient here, –
Let us meet and let us labor, tho’ the labor seem severe.
Already in the western sky the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our working tools and part upon the square!

6
Hands round, ye faithful Ghiblimites, the bright, fraternal chain; –
We part upon the square below to meet in Heaven again.
O what words of precious meaning those words Masonic are, –
We meet upon the level, and we part upon the square.

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