

Past and Present.

We take the following eloquent remarks from an address delivered by Bro. Henry Haight before the Grand Lodge of California:

"The tendency to venerate ancient institutions, is doubtless one of the chief attractions of Masonry. It is not a plant of yesterday, but a tree whose mossy trunk and giant growth speak to us of past ages. Kings have participated in its ceremonies, and men greater than kings have adorned its annals. If, however, its only merit was age, its destiny would be decay. Age alone contains no principle of immortality, and if Masonry had nothing but its ancient origin to recommend it, there would be no sound reason to expect that it would survive, much less that it would grow. Those are talismanic words implied to its organization—*Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*—terms often elsewhere grossly abused, but, in the Order of Free and Accepted Masons, full of real and practical significance, because one of its first lessons is resistance to despotism, both ecclesiastical and civil; and the instructive antagonism between Masonry and ecclesiasticism in the most emphatic testimony to the spirit of personal liberty which is one of the distinguishing traits of the Order. Equality—not by lowering, but by elevating to a common platform, where all meet on a level with equal rights and duties, and equal claims to mutual respect, if faithful to the obligations voluntarily assumed. Fraternity—in whose bonds the most ancient and inveterate prejudices are melted in the solvent of Brotherly intercourse, and the heirs of the most ancient civilization join hands with the missionaries of the youngest, and Hebrew and Gentile, Celt and Saxon, men of the most diverse origin and nationality, meet in the interchange of kindly offices and furnish some evidence of the possibility of the attainment of a true brotherhood of man.

"These are grand lessons—impressively taught by its origin and history, but they are not all. It teaches the force of associated action, the inestimable value of union in a good cause, the superiority of harmony over discord, and the power of combined benevolence. It furnishes a noble and inspiring lesson of the worth and dignity of labor, because in the toil of operative Masonry which reared in the middle ages some of the grandest edifices ever conceived by human genius, and in the migration of architects and builders from place to place, where such works were to be executed, the Order of Free and Accepted Masons had its growth and development, if not its origin, and the whole spirit of its precepts and ceremonies is to exalt and dignify that intelligent labor which has adorned all civilized lands with monuments of its skill only less majestic and enduring than the granite monuments reared in the beginning by the hand of the Great Architect and Father of all—devout reverence for whose being and filial trust in whose Providence is taught from first to last in every stage and degree of progress in the mysteries of the Craft.

"Like all human institutions, while it has these and other uses, it is not absolutely exempt from abuse. Its obligations do not release any man from his duties of citizenship, nor, if properly regarded, can they conflict with those duties to any extent whatever. A judge on the bench deciding causes—a juror in the jury box sworn to look only at the law and the evidence—a witness on the witness stand, pledged to tell the truth, the whole truth

and nothing but the truth—a voter bound upon his honor and his conscience to cast his ballot for the most worthy candidate for his suffrage—will find no embarrassment in the discharge of those high duties from any Masonic obligation; nor will any intelligent Mason of any creed find in Masonry a substitute for or ought antagonistic to religious faith. It is only in its perversion that these things could ever be found. Its true spirit is to incite greater fidelity in the discharge of every duty, religious, political and social, and thereby to aid in establishing upon more lasting foundations that noble edifice of civil and religious liberty, reared by the toil and sacrifices of our fathers, which it devolves upon us to preserve and transmit to our posterity."

The Bible—The Great Light of Masonry.

Dr. Dwight says: "The Bible is a window in this prison of hope, through which we look into eternity." It contains more true sublimity, more exquisite beauty, more pure morality, more important history, and finer strains of poetry and eloquence than can be collected from all other books, in whatever age or language they have been written. How thankful we ought to be for the Bible, Heaven's purest gift to mortals. It is the star of eternity, whose mild rays come twinkling to this nether sphere; erring man's guide to wisdom, virtue, and Heaven. The Bible is the book of books. In comparison Byron loses his fire, Milton his sorrows, Gray his beauties, and Homer his grandeur and figures; no tongue ever reasoned like sainted Job's; no poet ever sung like Israel's shepherd king, and God never made a man more wise than Solomon. The words of the Bible are pictures of immortality, Jews from the Tree of Knowledge, pearls from the River of Life, and gems of celestial thought. As the moaning shell whispers of the sea, so the Bible breathes of love in Heaven, the home of the angels, and joys too pure to die. Oh! that more of its precepts were bound about my heart, and I had wisdom to make them the mottoes of my life. The world may entertain its idea of a magnificent Deity, whose government is general, but let me believe in the Lord God of Elijah, whose providence is entire, ordering the minutest events in human life, and with a father's care arranging it for the greatest possible good.—*Freemason's Monthly Magazine.*

Revolutionary Incident.

When, during the year 1779, the Indians were annoying the frontier settlements by their raids upon the property of the settlers, Gen. Washington ordered Gen. Sullivan, a New Hampshire officer, and a very earnest Mason, to proceed into the Susquehanna, and check the ravages of the red skins. Gen. Sullivan took with him Colonel Proctor, also a zealous Mason, who had obtained a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to form a Military Lodge. Almost every night after the necessary details of military life were gone through with, and the officers and men at leisure, this lodge was opened. At the encampment of the expedition at Tioga Point, a large tent was procured for a lodge room, and on clearing away the rubbish, so as to procure a level foundation for the tent, a rusty iron square was found, which coincidence so pleased the brethren that they decided to adopt the instrument, and used it for Masonic purposes all through the campaign.—*N. Y. Hebrew Leader.*

To Think Over.

More than half of all the troubles of our Lodges come from the ambition of young men to wield the Master's gavel. More than half the Masters of Lodges, who are thus new to the situation, are utterly ignorant of the Constitution, the Landmarks, the Grand Lodge Edicts the customs and the modes of government of the institution. Hence when called upon to decide questions, they evolve conclusions from the depths of their own originality, not always too deep to be sounded, and the views of those who have had more experience are outraged. Sometimes young Masons make the best Masters, but such are only men of principle and students, and whose ambition is more the good of the institution than personal advancement.—[*Bro. Cushing, Texas.*]

The Crown Prince of Germany spoke as follows at the recent great Masonic festival at the Hague: "Nationalities have created frontiers; Freemasonry desires charity, tolerance, and liberty, without distinction of frontiers. I am happy, on this day which I shall never forget, to be able to raise my voice in Holland to testify my adhesion to the principles of the Order, and to express the hope that, in the struggle engaged in for the free developments of the peoples and the liberty of the human mind, the final victory will remain with the Order."

Discoveries at Jerusalem.

Recent accounts from Jerusalem speak of the rapid progress and important results of Lieut. Warren's explorations in the sacred city. More than fifty shafts have been sunk, revealing archways, galleries, buried halls, reservoirs and watercourses, thus getting glimpses of the city as it was. By one of these shafts the foundations of the old walls of the old Temple have been found ninety feet below the present surface. On some of these ancient foundation stones numerous mysterious characters have been found, some engraved on the stone, others merely painted red, but the key to their meaning has yet to be hit upon. The exploration of the Birket Israel, or Pool of Bethesda, has revealed a vast vaulted reservoir nearly one hundred feet in depth.



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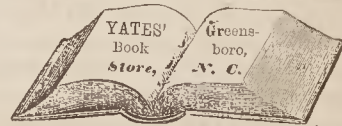
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