

Design in the Atmosphere.

The wisdom of God is clearly manifested in the adaptations of the vast expanse of atmospheric air which surrounds this globe and envelopes all that it contains.

While the sun is the great source of light, yet the co-operation of the atmosphere to diffuse that light is essential to the proper illumination of the earth. To the atmosphere we are to ascribe the sweet glories of the day, the delicious blue of the heavens, and the soft and soothing shada of the landscape. Without it the sky would be black as ebony, and out of it the sun would shine like a red hot ball; and his beams, like a ray passing through an aperture into a dark room, would reveal only the objects on which they fell, or those from which they were directly reflected. Without atmosphere there would be no twilight, morning, or evening; the sun at the commencement of the day, would, at one bound, burst from the bosom of night in all its unbearable brilliancy; and at the close of day, would suddenly plunge out of view, and leave us at once in utter darkness. To the atmosphere we owe all the glories of the setting sun, when heaven puts on her most gorgeous robes, and for all the loveliness of the softening twilight that succeeds.

By means of the atmosphere birds wing their way through space, and insects flit from flower to flower. Without it the busy bee could never gather and lay up her nectar store, nor the morning lark ascend on high to pour forth her early song. Without it even the eagle and the condor would flap their wings in vain; flight would be impossible.

The atmosphere is also the vehicle of smell, by which we are warned of what is unwholesome, offensive, and attracted to what is desirable and pleasing. Without it we should never be regaled with the perfume of incense, or the sweet orders of flowers from garden or field.

The atmosphere is likewise the medium of sound. In its absence eternal silence must have reigned; conversation could have been carried on by signs only, while music would have remained an impossibility—that is, supposing that, under such circumstances men could have existed to converse or sing. The vibrations of the air, like speedy messengers, are what convey our thoughts to others, and those of others to us. The air is the channel through which man holds communion with his fellows, and receives the indescribable pleasures that spring from the worlds of friendship, the voice of love, and all the soothing charms of melody.

Thus in the air as in other portions of the universe, we see the wisdom, the design, and the goodness of that Creator who "saw everything he had made, and behold it was very good."—Science and the Bible.

Religious Questions.

The religious question is sometimes introduced into Masonry to that extent that neither the laws or spirit of the institution will warrant. I have known of cases where the applicant has been rejected because he was a Jew, and others upon the plea that they were infidels, because not members of an Orthodox Church. Every man knows his religious belief bet-

ter than any other man can, and while a candidate expresses his belief in Deity we have no right to ask any further questions. All other tests must be excluded if we are to unite in bonds of Brotherhood the different sects and religions of the world. We know that men cannot be made to think alike while they differ phrenologically, temperamentally and educationally. History is full of failures by gibbet, stake, rack, thumbscrew, and other powerful agencies, to make men think alike. It is often said by some zealous Brother that Masonry is a good enough religion, while others as stoutly deny that it is any religion at all and claim that the Church is the panacea for all human ills. It seems to me that in such cases Brethren are overstepping the line, and assuming authority where they have none. Let us be careful how we sit in judgement in any matter where the individual conscience alone must decide.—Ex.

The Right Time.

Reproof must be administered gently, if at all. If you are annoyed or vexed at people, just remember it is not the right time to speak. Close your mouth, shut your teeth together firmly, and it will save you many a useless and unavailing regret and many a bitter enemy. If you happen to feel a little cross—and who among us does not at some time or other?—do not select that season for reproving your noisy household flock. One word spoken in passion will make a scar that a summer of smiles can scarcely heal over. If you are a wife, never tease your husband when he comes home, weary from his day's business. It is not the right time. Do not ask him for expensive outlays when he has been talking about hard times; it is most assuredly the wrong time. If he has entered upon any undertaking against your advice, do not seize on the moment of its failure to say, "I told you so!" In fact, it is never the right time for those four monosyllables. Oh! if people only knew enough to discriminate between the right time and the wrong, there would be less domestic unhappiness, less silent sorrow, and less estrangement of heart.—Odd Fellows Banner.

Editorial Duty—A Sensible and Christian View.

Those who are anxious that the faults and weaknesses of their neighbors shall form the staple information communicated to them by the daily paper will find little in a well conducted journal to pander to a morbid and dangerous appetite. It is not the duty of any newspaper to reproduce in its columns the abolished public stocks that stood once in the market place, to set up small criminals to the public gaze. It is not appointed to any editor to search the closeted griefs of families, to throw the blaze of noonday into the sad, tearful corners, where mothers, and sisters, and wives, and little ones are realizing the sad consequences of misdoings not their own. Nor does any public need require of any editor that he pile up incumbrances in the way of a culprit's return to the confidence and esteem of his fellows. If a man have in him the elements of character that shall enable him to rise from self inflicted abasement, it serves no public purpose to make such return impossible.—Alexandria Gazette.

Short Speeches.

Short phrases have ever been the most powerful and beautiful mediums of conveying thought. They are simplicity itself—and simplicity is beauty. Easily understood no study is required to grasp their meaning. A prophetic politician makes a declaration respecting government, and the people soon catch the spirit and confirm the declaration. Results from such phrases may not be immediate; but the words go sounding on until their work is accomplished. Short phrases are comprehensive, and sometimes contain whole volumes. Caesar's 'Veni, vidi, vici,' gave the history of a whole campaign. And the last words of the dying Tom Paine—'I take a leap in the dark'—a confession of judgement stranger than the infidelity of a lifetime. When the remains of Napoleon Bonaparte were brought to Paris by Prince de Joinville the entire speechmaking was this: 'Sir! I present to you the ashes of Napoleon.' And Louis Phillippe answered, 'I receive them in the name of France.' Such was the brief response of a people to the presence of a dead Emperor. Sometimes in a single sentence, the life and character of some great man stands out strangely revealed and individualized. No biography could depict the character of Enoch more clearly than the simple words: 'Enoch walked with God, and was not—for God took him.' The first chapter of Genesis is a symbol of the power which a few words can embody.

Preserved on Ice.

About 40,000 pounds of fossil ivory—that is to say, the trunks of at least 100 mammoths—are bartered for every year in New Siberia. As many as ten tusks have been found lying together in the "Tundra" weighing from 150 to 300 lbs. each. Notwithstanding the large amount already carried away, the stores of fossil ivory do not appear to diminish. In many places near the mouths of the great rivers flowing into the Arctic Ocean, the bones and trunks of these antediluvian pachyderms lie scattered about like the relics of a plowed up battle field. Entire mammoths have occasionally been discovered, not only with the skin—which was protected with a double covering of hair and wool—entire, but with the fleshy portions of the body in such a state of preservation that they have afforded food to dogs and wild beasts. The mammoths appear to have been suddenly enveloped in ice, or to have sunk into mud which was on the point of congealing, and which, before the process of decay could commence, froze around the bodies and preserved them in the condition in which they perished. It is thus that they are occasionally found when a landslip occurs in the frozen soil of the Siberian coast, which never thaws even during the greatest heat of summer, to a depth of more than two feet; and in this way, within a period of a century and a half, five or six of these curious corpses have come to light from their icy graves. A very perfect specimen of the mammoth in this state was discovered in the autumn of 1865 near the mouth of the Jednissi.

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