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In a live, progressive paper, that has age, character, circulation, influence and the respect of its readers, comes nearer producing results than any other method. It is worth your while to consider the GOLD LEAF
When You Want Results.

THAD R. MANNING, Publisher.

VOL. XV.



Mrs. J. P. Bell, Ossawatimie, Kan.
In a live, progressive paper, that has age, character, circulation, influence and the respect of its readers, comes nearer producing results than any other method. It is worth your while to consider the GOLD LEAF
When You Want Results.

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure
Restores Health
FRANCIS A. MACON,
Surgeon Dentist,
HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA

J. H. BRIDGES,
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Parker's Remedies.
Try them and be convinced of their Excellence.

Parker's Headline.
Cure for Headache, Neuralgia, &c.

Parker's Coughsine.
Relieves Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds, &c.

Parker's Liver Pills.
Safe, Mild and Effective.

Parker's Healing Salve.
For Cuts, Burns, Bruises, Old Sores, &c.

Tobaccos.
28 different brands in stock. Also choice line of Cigars.

W. W. PARKER,
Wholesale and Retail Druggist,
HENDERSON, N. C.

GET THE BEST.
That's the Kind I Keep.

WHISKIES BRANDIES, WINES, TOBACCO, CIGARS, &c., &c.
Nothing but PURE GOODS allowed to come in my house. My

PURE OLD CORN WHISKEY
S. S. WHITTEN,
HENDERSON, N. C.

GOLD LEAF

"CAROLINA, CAROLINA, HEAVEN'S BLESSINGS ATTEND HER."

HENDERSON, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1896.

A Clean, Attractive Paper

That is read all over our business for those who see its advertising columns. Such a paper is the Henderson GOLD LEAF. The proof of the claim is in the test thereof. Columns open to both believer and skeptic.

Are You One of Them?

Subscription \$1.00 Cash.

NO. 8.

PROSPEROUS MEXICO.

AN INTERESTING ARTICLE BY JUDGE WALTER CLARK.

He Discusses the Silver Question and Draws a Contrast Favorable to the Republic of Mexico—Says the Country is Prosperous and Going Forward by Leaps and Bounds.

[Correspondence News and Observer.]

I am gratified at receiving the *News and Observer* regularly, being thus able to keep up with the movements of life at home. I have travelled pretty thoroughly through the Northern States of Mexico, meeting people of all ranks as well as countless numbers of our countrymen. The latter are everywhere, and in everything, and steadily increasing in number, attracted by the great prosperity here, which is in painful contrast with the long continued depression in the United States.

I leave to-day to travel through the Southern States of Mexico, and on my return thence, will leave for home to be present at the opening of our spring term.

The climate is nearly perfect. Strawberries are ripe, and flowers of all kinds bring ten cents a basket. They say it is no warmer here in summer, and never sultry, as these table lands, embracing 500,000 square miles—two thirds of Mexico—average 7,000 feet above sea level, over three times as high as Asheville, and the snow on the taller mountains never melts.

This country is developing more rapidly, probably, than any other on the planet, and could not help being prosperous as matters stand. The dollar is exactly the same value it was ten or fifteen years ago, not having been artificially doubled in value by legislation, as has been the case with us. Consequently cotton is still 13 cents per pound and wheat 81¢ per bushel, while fixed charges, as taxes, passenger and freight rates, public and private debts, etc., remain actually (as well as nominally) the same. With us in the United States, by virtue of the legislation in favor of the bond-holders, these fixed charges, while nominally the same are, in fact, doubled, as it takes twice the amount of cotton, corn, wheat, etc., to pay them. One does not get a full idea of the enormity of this transaction till he gets here and sees the prosperity of this country and the very capitalists, who by securing this legislation, have doubled the value of their United States bonds, investing the principal and interest of their enhanced value in this country at old prices, thus securing \$2 of property here for \$1 loaned the United States Government—that is, they sell \$1,000 United States bonds for gold, buy \$2,000 of silver, which remains at the old value, and invest in \$2,000 of property here.

The looting of Rome by Genseric and the Vandals of India by Hastings and Clive, of this very Mexico by Cortez and the Spaniards, or of Peru by Pizarro, all pale into insignificance, compared with the magnitude and injustice of robbery practiced upon the seventy-five millions of the American people in the interest and by the procurement of the half million of millionaires and their agents and dependents through the simple device of so controlling legislation that every dollar of National, State, city and individual indebtedness is doubled by doubling the value of the dollar. Genseric, Clive, Cortez, Pizarro risked their lives and had brave men behind them, and they at least pillaged foreign nations. But this crime has been the manipulation of the tools of the bond holders; there has been nothing heroic and the only greatness in it has been in the magnitude of the plunder, which surpassed all that has ever yet fallen to a conquering army in the wealthiest country.

There was no excuse for it, since silver, when demounted, was worth more than gold, and there has been nothing since to depreciate it. That silver, in fact, has not depreciated in the least may be seen right here in Mexico, and throughout the 50,000,000 of people living on this hemisphere, south of the Rio Grande, in all which countries the silver dollar will pay for as much taxes, as much railroad freight and passenger fare, as much public and private indebtedness as formerly—and farm products and land bring as much as ever. Neither has silver depreciated with us, but it is the gold dollar which has been doubled in value; hence debts, public and private, railroad rates, etc., are actually though not nominally doubled, while the produce has to be sold at half price to pay them. Every farmer who sold a pound of cotton in the United States last year was in effect taxed 6 cents a pound, or \$30 a bale, and 50 cents in the bushel on wheat. The robbery perpetuated on the farmers of the South by this legislation procured by the machinations of the combined capital of London and New York, on the cotton crop alone, of 7,000,000 bales at \$30 per bale, is \$210,000,000 for the one year of 1895 alone. The profits reaped by the capitalists by the legislation which has doubled the value of their claims against the public, and individuals, is practically beyond computation. It fatigues the indignation to consider it. The wonder is not that there is widespread and incurable depression, but that we can continue to exist under such a state of things. Were we not the wealthiest and most energetic and most patient people on the face of the globe, we would sink under it.

It is by no means certain we shall continue always to be the most patient. Those who have thus pillaged us, and who, elated with their success so far, threaten to still further contract the currency by retiring the greenbacks and thus still more increase the value of the dollar, may learn a lesson right here in Mexico. The Catholic church, by three centuries and a half of a policy as deliberate and as carefully planned as that of the monopolies and the money power in the United States to-day, came to own absolutely one-third of all the property in this country, and controlled the balance. The masses were kept in ignorance and the leaders and the intelligence of the country were intimidated or bought. But there comes an end to such things. In 1857 the property of the church was confiscated. The church party called in the English, the Spanish and the French, and the latter gave them an Emperor. But the French have been driven out, the Emperor has been shot and to-day throughout this great country, four times as large as France or Germany, the Catholic church does not own a foot of soil or a dollar of money. The very church buildings, hoary, some of them, with nearly four centuries of use, belong to the government, and services are conducted in them only by permission of the authorities elected by the people. Not a priest can walk the streets in his official robes. Mexico remains Roman Catholic in her religion, but when the alternative was presented, whether the church should own the country or the country own the church, Mexico, in spite of centuries of veneration for religious authority and the influence of consolidated wealth and the ignorance and poverty of her masses, was able to vindicate the rights of her people. What this priestly monopoly was to Mexico, the money power is to the United States. The multi-millionaires, the bond holders, the trusts and monopolies already own over one-third of the property of our country and are reaching out for the rest. Many leaders they nominate and elect to office, others they bribe and corrupt. But people, while patient are not ignorant, and if the course of the monopolies and combinations continues unchecked, they will wake up some morning to find, as the Catholic church did here, that the sovereign people own the country and all that in it is. The Catholics here venerated the church fully as much as we ever did the rights of individual ownership of any species of property, but the welfare of the people is the highest law, and when that becomes imperiled as it was in Mexico by the money power in the shape of the church, and as it is in the United States by the same deadly enemy in the guise of multi-millionaires and monopolies, the manhood and the brains and the honesty of the people will assert themselves and we shall not go down under the same enemy that destroyed Rome, and so many other nations in the past. The world is older and wiser.

The gold dollar in the United States may well be called a mythical dollar. Not one man in a hundred ever sees one. It is not used to buy corn, or wheat, or flour, or railroad tickets, or dry goods. It is only for the sacred use of the idle rich when they wish to measure by a high standard doubled in value, the principal and interest of bonds, which, on their face, by the contract, are payable in coin—i. e., in either gold or silver.

In drawing these lessons from the past experience and the present prosperity of Mexico, there are those who will say Mexico is inferior to the United States in education, in civilization, and in many other respects. And so it is—and so much the worse for the objectors. For if Mexico, notwithstanding all these disadvantages, is prosperous and going forward by leaps and bounds by keeping her standard of values at the same level, so much the greater is the condemnation of the men who, in spite of our great and manifest superiority, have brought the curse and blight of a long enduring depression upon us by robbing the wealth producers in the interest of the wealth consumers, through the device of doubling, by crooked legislation, the value of the dollar. And if Mexico, with 350 years of priestly rule, 300 of which were also under a foreign yoke, and 500 more passed amid international discussions, could assert themselves and throttle the gigantic money power which oppressed them, what cannot, and what will not, 75 millions of the foremost people of the earth be able to do when satisfied that they owe it to themselves and their posterity to break the yoke which galls them.

Much more might be said, and more forcibly. WALTER CLARK,
City of Mexico, Jan. 15, 1896.

Woman a Conundrum?
Woman is a conundrum most decidedly. Still we do not propose to give her up. Let a woman have her health and spirits and she is the sunshine of the house. But suppose she is sick, what then? Why then there is a shadow over all the house. Happily in thousands of homes, such shadows have been removed. Thanks to Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, the diseases and weaknesses incident to their sex have been removed, and with health restored, their bright spirits have come back, and the household has passed from the winter of its discontent to a glad summer of comfort. O, suffering women, for your own sakes, and for the sakes of those about you, use these simple means and be healed. The only remedy so effective in nervous and general prostration, "Female Weakness," periodical pains, irregularities and kindred ailments, that it increases in sale every year.

The swear-off is already wearing off.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

A Valuable and Instructive Treatise on the Subject by an Expert.

The First Stages of the Crop—The Preparation and Sowing of the Plant Beds—A Paper of Interest to the New Beginner.

The following extract is taken from a treatise on tobacco culture written by the late Maj. R. L. Ragland, of Halifax county, Va. It will be of interest and value to tobacco growers generally, and especially to new beginners. In future issues we will publish other articles, following the subject up in regular order through the various stages of the crop as it progresses from the plant bed to the curing barn:

There are two modes for raising plants, in hot bed or cold frame, one or the other of which has preference according to locality—the former being more practiced north of forty degrees latitude, while the latter is preferred south of that line. We will here give both, that planters may choose for themselves:

PREPARING THE PLANT BED.
For a hot bed, select a southern or southeastern exposure, sheltered on the north, dig and shovel out a space five by twelve feet or any required length, to the depth of eighteen inches. Place straw to the depth of three or four inches in the bottom of this trench, and cover with fresh rotted manure from the stable to the depth of six or eight inches; then cover the manure with soil (woods mould is best) five inches deep. How to cover the bed with canvas will be presently described.

Tobacco seed is sown on the bed thus prepared at the rate of two teaspoonfuls to a bed five by twelve feet. To sow regularly, mix the seed with a fertilizer, ashes, or plaster, and sow in drills three inches apart. When the plants have pretty well covered the surface of the bed, remove the canvas during the day, and only replace it when there is danger of frost, or to keep off the fleas-bugs. There is the advantage of having earlier plants by this mode and perfect security against the flea-bug, which will repay for the additional cost of raising at least a portion of the plants needed for the crop by this safe mode.

But there is no question that open air beds are cheapest. And where this mode of raising plants is practicable it is greatly to be preferred for the main supply of plants. It is well established opinion that plants raised in open air stand transplanting better and usually grow off quicker than plants raised in hot bed or cold frame.

On the selection of a proper locality for a plant bed, and its preparation largely depends the timely supply of strong, healthy plants, without which it is impossible to raise a crop of fine grade. The planter, therefore, cannot be too careful in choosing a sheltered spot, neither too wet nor too dry, as rich naturally as can be found, and located so as to possess different degrees of moisture.

Go into the woods—original forest, if possible—and select a spot near a branch or stream of water, embracing both hill-side and flat, and having a southern or southeastern exposure, protected by woods on the North. Burn over the plat intended for plants, either by the old or new method. The first consists in placing down a bed of wood on small skids three to four feet apart on the ground well cleared and raked. Then fire this bed of wood and permit it to remain burning long enough to cook the soil brown for half an inch deep. With hooks, or old hoops fastened to long poles, pull the burning mass of brands a distance of four and one-half or five feet, throw on brush and wood, and continue burning and moving the fire until the bed is burned over. Never burn when the bed is wet. It will require from one and one-half to two hours to cook the soil.

Or, better still: Rake over nicely the plat to be burned, then place down poles from two to four inches in diameter, three and one-half to four feet apart, over the entire surface to be burned. Then place brush, thick over the plat and weight down with wood, over which throw leaves, trash or other combustible material; upon this sprinkle kerosene oil, and set the whole on fire and burn at one operation.

But any mode of burning the plat will suffice, provided that it is effectually done. After the plat has been burned and has cooled, rake off the large coals and brands, but let the ashes remain, as they are essentially a first class manure. Then scatter over the plat deep, or break with grub-hoes, and make fine the soil by repeated chopping and raking, observing not to bring the subsoil to the surface, and remove all roots and tufts. Manure from the stable, hog-pen or poultry house, or some reliable commercial fertilizer, should be chopped into and thoroughly incorporated with the soil while preparing the bed to be sown. Experience has demonstrated that it is better to use both.

A good tobacco fertilizer mixed with equal quantity of poultry-house dirt or peat and thoroughly incorporated, makes a most excellent manure for plants, and so does a compost made

MASONIC ADDRESS.

GRAND ORATOR W. H. SUMMERELL'S ELOQUENT SPEECH

Before the Recent Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina—He Traces Masonry from its Origin and Fully Portrays its High Mission of the Noble Order.

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Bearing in remembrance those truly Masonic virtues, "Silence and Circumspection" I shall claim your indulgence for as short a time as evening as the origin and achievements of Freemasonry will permit:

Almost all men know that Freemasonry is a great school, which has taught for ages the great truths, the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of man and the immortality of the soul. But these doctrines are dogmas we hold in common with all civilized people. Says Senator Chandler: "Without debating dogmas we all hope, we all believe, that somehow, somewhere, sorrow and sighing shall flee away; that we shall be saved, and permanent happiness shall be the lot of the children of men." * * * Mr. Dickens made the poor, idiotic Barnaby and the coarse, strong Hugh of the Maypole Inn, hold conversations about the wonders of the visible heavens, and they inquired of each other, "whence comes the light of the immortal stars that dot the sky?" When they are both under sentence of death and just before the dawn of day were across the prison yard to the place of execution, Barnaby, looking upward toward the myriad lights of night, exclaims: "Hugh, we shall know what makes the stars shine, but all the wonders of the Universe shall be opened to our search."

The origin of Masonry is shrouded in mystery, and is traced by different antiquarians to different sources, each with equal amount of contentions. Some writer in the Encyclopaedia Britannica asserts with the usual positiveness of a "Profane" that the order was born in the Year of our Lord 1717; but had you in 1717 asked the oldest Arab in the East, he would have answered that his father taught him and if asked where his father learned it, he would have said from his father. And so it came in an unbroken line from father to son from away back in the days of Solomon dispersed thru Masonic light and knowledge to all the East, while the inhabitants of England were savages in the woods. Brother Alfred, of Louisiana, claims that we are descended from the Egyptian, being the offspring of the Ancient Mysteries of Isis and Osiris. Brother Coleman, of Kentucky, following the teachings of the great Robert Morris, traces the genealogy of the Order to the Phoenicians, and proves his case to the satisfaction of all who have had the privilege of hearing him, or the pleasure of reading his books about the Masonic inscriptions, and inscribed wall built by King Solomon around the base of Mount Moriah. In prehistoric times, judging from inscriptions upon obelisks and pyramids, Masonry existed in Egypt. The priests of Isis and Osiris initiated into the Order, men "worthy of the name of Western Europe, and their rites became debased by the admission of the vicious and depraved, the immortality of the soul. The Greeks and Tyrians trading into Egypt brought thence some knowledge of these mysteries and founded in their respective countries, societies which became the source from which flowed light and knowledge which still continues to bless and ennoble the human race. In Greece was founded the Order of the Eleusinian mysteries, which was a most potent agency in disseminating throughout Western Europe a knowledge and appreciation of Grecian civilization, to which we are at this day indebted for most that makes an intellectual better than an ignorant man. The Tyrians carried with them a knowledge of the practical side of the lessons taught by the Egyptians, and became skilled to work in gold and purple and blue, and to engrave with the engraver's chisel. They founded the Order of Sidonian Architects and placed at their head the great Huram Abirah, and no man was permitted to become an artisan in Tyre until duly licensed by the heads of this Order. Their manner of work was as follows: The Master drew his designs in red chalk, in which the coasts of the country still abound, upon a trestle-board. The presence of any given number of operatives wore a plain apron without flap or lip; and upon it copied from the trestle-board his section of work for the day, and the Fellow Craft or ordinary workman, wearing an apron with a pocket at the top for carrying small tools, came and looked upon the overseer's apron and executed his task in obedience to the designs therein delineated. There were also assistant to these, bearers of burdens who wore a plain apron extending from throat to knee, and fastened at the shoulder.

Thirty thousand of these men being set by King Hiram to prepare timber in the forests of Lebanon for the temple at Jerusalem, were lost; where, or how, or why, neither tradition nor history informs us, and to supply their place King Solomon incorporated a like number of Jews into the Order, gave it the symbolism of Masonry as it stands this day and ingranted upon it the worship of one true God. Solomon was especially fitted to send orthodox Masonry forth upon its great mission to the sons of men. He was pre-eminently a man of peace, and he lived in that era when every son of Israel lived at peace and in security "under his own vine and fig tree." It was a most fitting time to found an order of peace and good works on earth that was to teach forever faith in Jehovah's existence, and a belief that he would graciously this "pleasing hope, this fond desire, this longing after immortality of all his children." We are more in-

debited to the Jews than most men are willing to admit, but the fact remains nevertheless, that we owe to them our knowledge of the True, the Beautiful and the Good, and this must needs have been so, when we consider the fact that they have always sought peace, and are from remotest times sprung from peacefully inclined ancestors. There was a light on Jewish Mountains that never shone, on Mount Olympus. The streams of Parnassus to them were not so clear and full as Siloa's Brook that flowed fast by the Oracle of God. Far up the ages, before Greece founded Athens, it gushed forth and flowed in its appointed place at the command of God. On the plains of the East under the spreading Terebinth, sits Abraham in his tent, calm, sequestered, reverent. Far hence be the scenes of desolation. We hear a hero sing, and from remotest times announces his coming is drowned in the shrieks of orphans. "The laurel wreath of which he boasts was nourished in enurpled plains of carnage, or snatched from the field of the dead."

"But the father of the Faithful, taught by the God of Nature, the Revelation, surrounded himself with his different scenes." "We listen to the music of the grove; we trace the windings of the rivulet, we read the name of God in the starry heavens, and we follow the old hero through a checkered life to a City that hath habitations." The hill of Zion where God dwelleth, the type of the joy of the whole world, while Athens, to the rest of the world, was the symbol of tyranny. And Masonry, built upon the teachings of God's chosen people, has blessed and ennobled its millions without one single act of injustice or oppression. There have been many religions and many brotherhoods. From the earliest dawn of history men have banded themselves together for mutual protection and benefit; and have committed crimes in behalf of their respective creeds from the contemplation of which even cruelty itself would almost turn away with shuddering and horror. The ancient Greek, with all his refinement and culture, and with all his avowed horror of slavery for himself, sold his captives. The Egyptian sacrificed his first born upon the walls of the city, when besieged by his enemies. The Assyrian made his children pass through the fire to Moloch. The Mohammedan spreads his faith with fire and sword, and with a fiendish debauchery worse than death itself. The Roman Catholic burns the Protestant and the Protestant burns the Romanist. The Calvinist murders the Armenian and the Armenian slays the Calvinist alive, and all this and more in the service of God, and in behalf of mankind.

But Masonry of conscience has preserved the purity of a belief in God the Father when the fires of the inquisition were burning day and night. In the silent watches of the night, "on high hills and in low dales," Masonry has ever offered prayer and praise, and well-ordered prayers, sent up upon its "generous, persecutors and slanders."

I once heard a distinguished brother say that were it not for our work in connection with the Oxford Infirmary Asylum, he would take his dimly illuminated life. If Masonry in only its forms and ceremonies, its meetings and lectures, and its ritual, it would be as silly as the antics of a baboon, and as tiresome as the iteration of a spoiled child. But the ceremonial law is merely the garment that clothes a form as well rounded as the Venus de Medici, a living, active principle that when men first ceased to be savages, locked hands with Montheistic civilization and marched with earnest tread down the track of ages. On that track day when Charles Martel turned back the tide of Turkish dominion, and saved the Anglo-Saxon, Teutonic and Gallic races from Turkish lust, it was by his side. It tramped with Napoleon's suffering legions on the terrible dark march from Moscow, sharing its last crumb with the sufferers. In the days of the Southern Confederacy it was at Andersonville and Johnson's Island. At Salisbury and Point Lookout pushing its way where even Miss Barton's noble band could scarcely gain admittance, doing all in its power to alleviate the sufferings of brotherhood prisoner to brother.

The work at Oxford is one in which I honestly believe—and I speak with reverence—the very angels of God would rejoice to participate; but as grand, and as holy, and as beneficent as it is, Masonry has done greater things for the good of humanity than this. The claim has been made that the happy issue of the English Revolution of 1688, which deprived the worst tyrant of modern times of his throne, and gave civil and religious liberty to the English-speaking world, was due in no small measure to the well-matured and carefully concealed plans of the Masons of Holland. In the person of General Washington it fought the battles of the American Revolution, and helped to establish in this country an order of men, devoted to the English-speaking world, gave it the symbolism of Masonry as it stands this day and ingranted upon it the worship of one true God. Solomon was especially fitted to send orthodox Masonry forth upon its great mission to the sons of men. He was pre-eminently a man of peace, and he lived in that era when every son of Israel lived at peace and in security "under his own vine and fig tree." It was a most fitting time to found an order of peace and good works on earth that was to teach forever faith in Jehovah's existence, and a belief that he would graciously this "pleasing hope, this fond desire, this longing after immortality of all his children." We are more in-

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The work at Oxford is one in which I honestly believe—and I speak with reverence—the very angels of God would rejoice to participate; but as grand, and as holy, and as beneficent as it is, Masonry has done greater things for the good of humanity than this. The claim has been made that the happy issue of the English Revolution of 1688, which deprived the worst tyrant of modern times of his throne, and gave civil and religious liberty to the English-speaking world, was due in no small measure to the well-matured and carefully concealed plans of the Masons of Holland. In the person of General Washington it fought the battles of the American Revolution, and helped to establish in this country an order of men, devoted to the English-speaking world, gave it the symbolism of Masonry as it stands this day and ingranted upon it the worship of one true God. Solomon was especially fitted to send orthodox Masonry forth upon its great mission to the sons of men. He was pre-eminently a man of peace, and he lived in that era when every son of Israel lived at peace and in security "under his own vine and fig tree." It was a most fitting time to found an order of peace and good works on earth that was to teach forever faith in Jehovah's existence, and a belief that he would graciously this "pleasing hope, this fond desire, this longing after immortality of all his children." We are more in-

debited to the Jews than most men are willing to admit, but the fact remains nevertheless, that we owe to them our knowledge of the True, the Beautiful and the Good, and this must needs have been so, when we consider the fact that they have always sought peace, and are from remotest times sprung from peacefully inclined ancestors. There was a light on Jewish Mountains that never shone, on Mount Olympus. The streams of Parnassus to them were not so clear and full as Siloa's Brook that flowed fast by the Oracle of God. Far up the ages, before Greece founded Athens, it gushed forth and flowed in its appointed place at the command of God. On the plains of the East under the spreading Terebinth, sits Abraham in his tent, calm, sequestered, reverent. Far hence be the scenes of desolation. We hear a hero sing, and from remotest times announces his coming is drowned in the shrieks of orphans. "The laurel wreath of which he boasts was nourished in enurpled plains of carnage, or snatched from the field of the dead."

"But the father of the Faithful, taught by the God of Nature, the Revelation, surrounded himself with his different scenes." "We listen to the music of the grove; we trace the windings of the rivulet, we read the name of God in the starry heavens, and we follow the old hero through a checkered life to a City that hath habitations." The hill of Zion where God dwelleth, the type of the joy of the whole world, while Athens, to the rest of the world, was the symbol of tyranny. And Masonry, built upon the teachings of God's chosen people, has blessed and ennobled its millions without one single act of injustice or oppression. There have been many religions and many brotherhoods. From the earliest dawn of history men have banded themselves together for mutual protection and benefit; and have committed crimes in behalf of their respective creeds from the contemplation of which even cruelty itself would almost turn away with shuddering and horror. The ancient Greek, with all his refinement and culture, and with all his avowed horror of slavery for himself, sold his captives. The Egyptian sacrificed his first born upon the walls of the city, when besieged by his enemies. The Assyrian made his children pass through the fire to Moloch. The Mohammedan spreads his faith with fire and sword, and with a fiendish debauchery worse than death itself. The Roman Catholic burns the Protestant and the Protestant burns the Romanist. The Calvinist murders the Armenian and the Armenian slays the Calvinist alive, and all this and more in the service of God, and in behalf of mankind.

But Masonry of conscience has preserved the purity of a belief in God the Father when the fires of the inquisition were burning day and night. In the silent watches of the night, "on high hills and in low dales," Masonry has ever offered prayer and praise, and well-ordered prayers, sent up upon its "generous, persecutors and slanders."

I once heard a distinguished brother say that were it not for our work in connection with the Oxford Infirmary Asylum, he would take his dimly illuminated life. If Masonry in only its forms and ceremonies, its meetings and lectures, and its ritual, it would be as silly as the antics of a baboon, and as tiresome as the iteration of a spoiled child. But the ceremonial law is merely the garment that clothes a form as well rounded as the Venus de Medici, a living, active principle that when men first ceased to be savages, locked hands with Montheistic civilization and marched with earnest tread down the track of ages. On that track day when Charles Martel turned back the tide of Turkish dominion, and saved the Anglo-Saxon, Teutonic and Gallic races from Turkish lust, it was by his side. It tramped with Napoleon's suffering legions on the terrible dark march from Moscow, sharing its last crumb with the sufferers. In the days of the Southern Confederacy it was at Andersonville and Johnson's Island. At Salisbury and Point Lookout pushing its way where even Miss Barton's noble band could scarcely gain admittance, doing all in its power to alleviate the sufferings of brotherhood prisoner to brother.

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