

is a MORAL RENEGADE too foul for the atmosphere of honor, he is the Judas of friendship and the ASSASSIN of character.

Nor never need an honest open-hearted Mason fear that the better part of creation will urge against his Order to its detriment the circumstance that the ladies are not admitted into the membership among Free and Accepted Masons. Let him tell what is the fact that *Minerva*, the goddess of Wisdom, presides in the Mason's Lodge, in which she would have indeed but a divided empire if the goddess of Beauty were admitted along with her. We surely would not trust Venus and Minerva together in our Lodges, lest we should become too much distracted with the blandishments of Beauty to hear all the severer teachings of Wisdom. But it will be high time to attempt a labored defence of this Masonic usage when a lady shall complain of it, or when she shall refuse making a secret-keeping Mason the lord of her affections; pilloving on her pure heart, both the unlocked casket and the secret which it contains. Ah, could she make him a renegade to honor, how would she loathe him. How unsafe in such hands and in such keeping would she consider her own fame and those gems of affection which woman never gives save to the trusty, the brave, the unconquerable, the inflexible in purpose.

There is a sublime secret connected with every thing that is valuable. Says the great light of Mesonry, the Bible, "the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him." There is a secret in each profession of life, in every science, in every beautiful art. There is a secret in Love, an outspoken language that sometimes glances from the eye, but which is oftener hid by virgin modesty until the heart becomes an urn of suffering in which the fires of hidden attachment crimson the incense of the affections. There is a secret in haste, whispered only to the moon as its pale cold eyes gleams on the assassin's dagger. There are secrets everywhere in nature, from the pedestal to the capital of the pillar of the Universe, over which the mysterious eye of Omniscience burns with its secret meaning.—*Masonic Record, Jubbulpore, Western India.*

## ALONG THE HIGHWAY OF MASONRY.

Among the many organizations in the world that have been instituted among men, there is not one in which the line of conduct of the members is more clearly defined than in the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons. There is none in which the member is bound by stronger obligations to pursue a steady course in the discharge of his duties as such, and to practice the precepts so prominently set up to teach him the way wherein he should walk. The highway of Masonry is not obscured with devious windings, a trail that can be followed only by carefully watching the marks left by those who have gone that way before, but a broad open road, through an open country, which may be easily followed by any one when once fairly started on his mystic journey. At every turn and cross road has been placed a finger post, upon which, in language intelligible to every well-informed Mason, he finds all needed instructions to enable him to travel in confidence, and in the full enjoyment of all his rights and privileges among his fellow travellers.

With a line of conduct so clearly defined, with obligations so strong to discharge every known duty, and with an open road before them so plain that none need go astray, it might be expected that there would be unanimity of thought and action among all Masons in their intercourse with each other, and especially that all would unite in preserving the Landmarks, and in upholding the principles and teachings of Masonry. It is, however, a fact much to be regretted that such is not the case. Instead of being thus united as one man, we find Masons often divided in opinions and in their course of action. If all were actuated by an earnest desire to promote the best interests of the Order, such would not be the case, for then we would find them acting more in harmony with each other.

While we believe that a very large proportion of Masons are honest in all that they do, it is evident that some are not, and that they are only seeking to promote their own individual interests in remaining members of the Order. They travel along in the good company of their worthy brethren, with a feigned zeal well calculated to mislead them in regard to their true character; and for a time, perhaps, succeed in pulling the wool over their eyes to the extent of securing for themselves the advantage of high official positions, which place them before the world as recognized, honored, leaders, enjoying the full confidence of the Fraternity. Not having the true spirit of Masonry in them, we often find them opposed to measures that would be of undoubted benefit to the Craft, or advocating others that would work to its injury; when the one would interfere with some pet scheme of their own, or the other gratify the longings of a selfish