

are as sacred as the spot where his body lies buried in the dreamless sleep of death. The old family Bible, all scarred and torn, is treasured all the more because of its soars, its age, and its history. Thus it is with Free Masonry. We revere it, because it is the oldest secret society on the globe ; and its age, if nothing else, should make it honorable.

"Further: *I observe that there is something magnificent and ennobling in its purposes.* Its object is to elevate and better the condition of men. In short, it is founded upon a broad and glorious philanthropy. Through all the years of its existence, it has labored to make men better ; to place all of them on the same footing in the world ; and to judge them, and weigh them by their characters, their merits and their worth. Besides, it offers relief to the distressed, and help to those who cannot help themselves. It teaches men not only the uncertainty of life, but it teaches them that health and wealth are evanescent also ; that there is nothing permanent and enduring but God and His laws, and that while we are in health and prosperity we should provide means of relief for the dark days that must ultimately come to so many of our race. It teaches us that the wealthy and strong of to-day may be the beggar and invalid of to-morrow, and warns us to provide for these emergencies ; and it teaches us also that the pale horse and its rider may call for us, we know not when, and that we should always be ready for the summons, and willing to respond to the authority of our Supreme Grand Master, who doeth all things well.

"Further: *Masonry has a grand record in that, that it has triumphed over all its foes, and survived every opposition which king, priest or potentate could bring to bear against it.* The battering ram of ignorance has been beating against the walls of our Institution for centuries, but only to reveal the feebleness of its efforts when directed against a society that is founded upon truth."

* * * * *

"Decay and death are written upon every thing in Nature. Nations, Thrones and Kingdoms are yielding to this law. Already darkness is closing over the land of Solon and Lycurgus. The hills that echoed the eloquence of Pericles are almost unknown to men. The groves in which Plato and Socrates prepared their philosophy have been razed to earth. The grand cities, temples and obelisks of antiquity, which were intended to immortalize the names of their builders, have nearly all crumbled into dust, but our glorious temple of Free Masonry grows stronger and brighter with the roll of the years."

* * * * *

"Further: *It is entitled to our confidence and consideration, because of the long list of illustrious persons who have belonged to it as members.* Almost every great and good man of every age and nation has been a patron of this Order. From Solomon, who built the first temple at Jerusalem, down the sweep of the ages, taking in its catalogue of members, the two Saints John the scholars of antiquity, the greatest minds of Europe, England's proudest