

as revealed in the great open book of the starry-decked heavens—to the Christian, the God and Father of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

“It has been charged that had they (the Masons) courage of their convictions they would pluck the name of the Supreme Being out of their ritual. Nothing could be farther from the truth than such an assertion. To eliminate the name of the Deity from our ritual would leave it but an empty shell. Yes, there is room within our broad fold for those of all creeds and no creed, but our doors are not open to the atheist, nor is there room within our portals for him.”

When in 1877 the Grand Orient of France repealed the clause in the Constitution, affirming the belief in God as a fundamental principle, and our Grand Master withdrew the credentials of our representative, the action of Grand Lodge was unmistakable.

The Board of General Purposes reported, and the Grand Lodge adopted the following:

“The action of the M. W. the Grand Master, in withdrawing the credentials of our Representative from the Grand Orient of France, will be approved of by every member of Grand Lodge—the Grand Orient of France having erased from its Constitution those paragraphs which assert a belief in the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. Such action can only be received as an abandonment of the great landmark of Freemasonry upon which the principles of our Order are formed, and it is opposed to the traditions, practice, and precepts of all true Masons from the earliest period of our history. Such a departure calls for decisive action, and demands response with no uncertain sound from all true Masons. We therefore desire to accord our determination to hold no intercourse with any body which does not acknowledge the existence of the Supreme Being—the T. G. A. O. T. U.,—and that

we cannot continue to recognize the Grand Orient of France as a Masonic body.”

My brethren, Masonry seriously requires no more than a belief in one great powerful God, the great architect of the universe, its Father and Preserver, who has revealed his will to man, and who will punish vice, and reward virtue, but it requires that, and nothing less will be accepted. The man who denies the existence of a God is already excluded; practical atheism should also be excluded, in the person of those who only admit, that there possibly may be a God, there may be a future life, where men will be rewarded or punished for the deeds done in the body. How can such an one be a Mason? The volume of the sacred law, given to rule and govern our faith, and placed on our altars, has for him no symbolic meaning. His answer that he puts his trust in God is untrue, to him the philosophy of Masonry is meaningless.

#### QUEBEC.

The Grand Master of Quebec has issued a proclamation declaring all lodges in that Province working under any foreign Grand Lodge to be illegal and irregularly existing, and prohibiting all brethren acknowledging his authority from holding Masonic intercourse with any members of such lodges in so far as Ancient Craft Masonry is concerned.

After the passing of the British North American Act in 1867, the brethren of Quebec in 1869 claimed that the political changes made, by that act, entitled them to form a Grand Lodge for that Province, and accordingly they met at Montreal and established the Grand Lodge at Quebec. The Grand Lodge refused recognition, and not until 1874 did it cede to the new Grand Lodge all the rights and privileges previously claimed in that territory, and welcomed and recognized it as a sister Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of England ex-