

**MASONRY A RELIGION.**

We are taught that Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion. This is true in a limited sense only. It is true that what are commonly known as sectarian differences have no place in the lodge; yet it is none the less true that Masonry is a religion. Many worthy, zealous Masons, in opposing anything like sectarian exclusiveness, rush to the other extreme, and, let us hope, without due reflection say, "Let us banish religion, from the lodge room." What! banish religion from an Institution which, at its very portals, requires a belief and a trust in God? Banish religion from an Institution which teaches that no one should enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity? Banish religion from the sacred precincts where we are taught our duty to God, in never mentioning his name but with that reverential awe which is due from the creature to his Creator; to implore his aid in all our laudable undertakings, and to esteem Him as the chief good? Banish religion from around that sacred altar, where we are taught that the Holy Bible is given as a rule and guide for our conduct? Religion is defined to be, "Any system of faithful worship." The religion of Masonry is a trust in, and the worship of, Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe, who controls the destinies of all created beings. This much being accepted, we have nothing to do with particular creeds and dogmas. Let each individual Mason hold his own views as to what beliefs and actions are necessary to his eternal salvation. A living faith in God, a full sense of individual responsibility to Him, and a life of virtue and morality, is what Masonry requires of its votaries. All else is left to the individual consciences of the brethren. That is the religion of Masonry; and he who does not subscribe to it casts aside the teachings and ground-work of the Institution. We need more the one All-Father, and the direct personal responsibility of each one of His creatures. When that spirit is attained and controlled, let the individual seek his home in that Church or belief that is best adapted to his mind and commends itself to his judgment; with his action in that regard Masonry has nothing to do, so long, as the teachings and practices of that faith or institution are not subversive of the principles of virtue and morality, and are not inconsistent with a due obedience to legally constituted authorities and a proper subordination to the laws of the country in which we live. Actuated by these sentiments, and united by the bonds of fraternal love, we can heartily exclaim with the poet:—

"Maker and High Priest,  
I ask Thee not my joys to multiply,  
Only to make me worthier of those I have."

—G.M. of Utah, in the *Voice of Masonry*.

**A CURIOUS CEREMONY.**

A correspondent of the *N. Y. Corner Stone* gives the following account of a ceremony which is new to us:—

Sunday, May 6th, was set apart by Rockland Lodge, 723, to strew flowers upon the graves of deceased brethren, buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, at Nyack. The lodge assembled at their rooms at one o'clock, when a procession was formed under the direction of Wor. General Jas. H. Blauvelt, Master, and Bro. Robbins, as Marshal, R.W. Bro. Dickey, D.D.G.M., 10th District, being assigned the post of honor in the march to the grounds. On arriving at the entrance to Oak Hill, Col. Ehlers, 2nd Vice-President, in the absence of Wor.