

THE MAINE CHARITY FUND amounts to over \$28,000.

The East is Masonically styled the place of light, a figure that is too obvious to require illustration. It is in the East that "the golden doors of sunrise" open. Thence the god of day comes forth to banish the silence, coldness and darkness of night. The benighted wanderer, chilled with night dews, and melancholy with its ghostly stillness, turns his eyes longingly towards the East, and impatiently anticipates the dawn. So with those who feel the intellectual loneliness and darkness of their nature; they turn wishfully to the moral East, the heavenly East, the source of mental illumination.—*Morris.*

FANATICISM is one of those peculiar outbreaks of ill-regulated minds which seems periodically to affect humanity. It has marked human nature curiously enough from the first, and has even disgraced religion. Of course, to some, religion itself is fanaticism; but we are speaking of that hopeless, and excited, and intolerant spirit which denies to another the right of private judgment, which sees nothing good in any, who happen, religiously or politically, to differ from it, and which bans instead of blessing, and hinders instead of advancing, the progress of religious toleration, and of the liberty of belief. Freemasonry has suffered much from fanaticism and fanatics, in past times and at the present hour, but knows nothing of it itself, disavows it, and condemns it. Freemasonry avows toleration for all, and wishes ever to lay down the great, though sometimes forgotten truth, that the world is wide enough for all religious bodies, and that instead of fighting with one another, and cursing one another, they had better join in one common crusade against evil, ignorance, suffering, sorrow, want, and wretchedness, lying like Lazarus, at their very doors.

"ORDER IS HEAVEN'S FIRST LAW," said Pope. Certainly order is one of the first essentials to the successful administration of lodge affairs. Everything ought to be arranged and systematized in a way to avoid friction. In the work of a lodge, let the demands of time and place be recognized, so that a regular course of procedure may be followed from first to last. Thus will the best effects be produced and the most comfort succeed. But fussiness is not necessary to the maintenance of good order. The manifestations of preparation—of restraint and direction—should be as few as possible. If the mechanism is concealed all the greater will be the effect. Let as much spontaneity as possible attend the rule of order that should have prevailing force in every Masonic body.

THE CRAFT TEACHING TRUTH.—Let us remember that hid in all signs and symbols are indestructible truths. The rainbow, after the summer shower, is the promise that the earth shall no more be destroyed. In the dying grain on the ground is the vitality which lives again, life out of death, or immortality under the sign of the seed. These signs are lessons. They are warnings. Read them. Seek the subjective truths veiled in their objective forms. Learn from them that perils ever abound. Be wise and know; to prevent is easier than to cure. Build up the waste places in our temple. Guard its portals. Challenge intruders. Stop the way of innovation. Reject appeals to any sentiment, or emotion, or weakness, which may impair the integrity of Masonic usages, customs, and landmarks. Steadfastness and security are co-relative. The strength, beauty, and majesty of Freemasonry lie in its unchangeableness. Antiquity is the seal which attests its title. Let us preserve it. This age holds it only in trust for the coming time.—*Bro. Hon. Richard Vaux.*